

work into this position as he has his family's business. I am honored to help celebrate my friend Chuck's appointment as chair, and Joan and I wish him the very best as he leads the National Lumber and Building Material Dealer Association to great things.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP JAMES  
CLINE

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, alongside my colleague, Congressman DEVIN NUNES, we rise today to honor Phillip James Cline, District Attorney of Tulare County, on the occasion of his retirement.

Mr. Cline is a Tulare County native, having graduated from Exeter Union High School, College of the Sequoias, California State University Fresno, and San Joaquin College of Law. He also served in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant.

After joining the bar and working briefly in private practice, Mr. Cline joined the District Attorney's Office in 1978. He served as a prosecutor for more than 30 years, specializing in homicide cases and winning numerous high-profile death penalty cases.

In 1992, Mr. Cline began serving as District Attorney. Re-elected three times, he initiated programs to address workers' compensation and automobile insurance fraud, domestic violence, major narcotics, sexual assault and child abuse, welfare fraud, auto theft, gang violence and child abduction, among others. He created the state's first Rural Crime Program, designed to protect the agricultural industry, and developed other programs addressing consumer fraud, career criminal prosecution, victim's services, elder abuse prosecution and the safe neighborhoods program. Mr. Cline and his staff also implemented programs designed to strike at the root causes of crime. These included a program to reduce teen pregnancy, which received statewide recognition, as well as a Veterans' Court to address the needs of combat veterans.

Mr. Cline is a member of many professional and philanthropic organizations. He is past president of the Tulare County Bar Association and is an active member of the California and National District Attorney's Associations. He is the only District Attorney ever elected president of the Tulare County Police Chiefs' Association. Mr. Cline has also served on the boards of the HEART after-school program and the Tulare County Library Foundation, among others. He has been active in Pro Youth Walk Run, the Justice Run and the annual Victims of Homicide Memorial Quilt Ceremony.

Please join Congressman NUNES and me in congratulating Mr. Phillip James Cline on his retirement from his position as District Attorney of Tulare County.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HAR-  
LEM'S COMMUNITY LEADER  
DOROTHY MAE SKINNER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Harlem's community leader Dorothy Mae Skinner, who passed away on Monday, November 26, 2012. I first met Dorothy in my early years in the U.S. House of Representatives in her role as a community activist, concerned resident, and devoted parent.

Dorothy was very engaged in the war on drugs in the 1970's and 1980's and became active with the New York City Police Department 30th and 32nd Precincts and community councils. Dorothy was both friend and foe of the neighborhood drug dealers, for they all loved her but knew she was leading the fight against them, a fight she handily won. As President of the Block Association, she organized block parties, jazz mobiles, Halloween parties in Hamilton Park, and coordinated activities with the Police Athletic League (PAL).

Dorothy Mae Skinner joined the Board of Directors of the West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc., one of Harlem's oldest and largest community based development organizations, which was established more than 30 years ago to revitalize the under-invested West and Central Harlem communities—riddled with dilapidated and abandoned buildings.

Dorothy served as Chairperson of West Harlem Group Assistance Board of Directors for over 20 years and served as the Secretary until her passing. She helped guide the vision of WHGA to recreate a community in which all responsible residents, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders are mobilized and firmly committed to working together willingly and cooperatively. This ensured that Harlem was positioned to enter the 21st century as a safe, socially stable, healthy, economically sound, well-educated and informed, and politically strong community.

Dorothy Mae Skinner was born on June 22, 1926, to the late Herman and Gladys Harris. She was the eldest of 12 children born to that union. With that size family, Dorothy grew up with a great sense of family values, which continued with her own family. Dorothy met and married Robert Skinner on December 24, 1946. They were married for 34 years and were blessed with 6 children: (Butch) Robert, (D.G.) Dorian, Roberta, Rene, Diane, and Cheryl, whom she nurtured and cherished. She is pre-deceased by her eleven siblings and her husband, Robert.

Dorothy loved to travel and it did not matter if it was local or long distance. She continued to preach and teach family values, as she believed in family outings. Every weekend during the summer she would either take her children away, or send her children to the movies or penny arcade. Most people reserve a hotel room when going on vacation, but Dorothy would rent an apartment for a week to accommodate her children and their friends. She also organized yearly dude ranch trips during the summer and Ski trips during the winter.

Educated in the NYC public schools, Dorothy was a determined young woman who received her GED at age 35 and continued her

education and attended City College of New York. She truly believed in education and was employed by the NYC Department of Education for a number of years, nurturing and caring for many young lives, until her retirement at age 65. Many years later, as she would often sit on her stoop, former students, now grown, would stop by and chat with her.

Dorothy was very involved in the Mt Pisgah Baptist Church where she served for several years as Deaconess. She was known to many as Mrs. Skinner, Dorothy, Grandma, or Grandma Dee. Dorothy enjoyed scratchoff and sometimes made a pretty penny too, which kept her scratching.

Mr. Speaker, great women like our beloved Dorothy are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance, contributions and accomplishments are far remembered and everlasting. I ask you, my colleagues, to join me in celebrating the life of Dorothy Mae Skinner.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD  
D. RUPPERT, MD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable human being, Dr. Richard Ruppert. Dr. Ruppert unexpectedly passed from this life on October 22, 2012. Dr. Ruppert was a friend and advisor to many, including me, and we were indeed privileged to have known him.

Born in Rural Ohio 81 years ago, Richard Ruppert worked in the family farm for five years after he graduated from high school. He then went on to Ohio State University, where he received his undergraduate and medical degrees. While at Ohio State University, he met and married his wife, Elizabeth Ruppert, MD.

Following his residency, Dr. Ruppert returned to OSU, where he was professor of gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine for nine years. He was named assistant dean of the College of Medicine in 1970, adding medical director for patient services two years later. He was named vice chancellor for health affairs at the Ohio Board of Regents in 1974, and in 1977 Dr. Ruppert became the third president of the Medical College of Ohio. During his 16 year term, the Medical College of Ohio saw unprecedented growth, was established as a leader in medicine, and came into its own as a premier institution. Dr. Ruppert's able guidance directed the Medical College of Ohio through an illustrious time and his leadership is unparalleled. As one colleague described it, "Much of MCO's success can be credited to Richard D. Ruppert. From a new college on a divided campus—one part farmland and the other a deteriorating county hospital complex—he provided guidance and the political skills to develop the new campus to its present ten structures . . . The school has emerged from its early growing pains to achieve an identity as a quality medical institution during Dr. Ruppert's tenure, with a large credit due to his leadership and vision."

Even as he presided at the helm of the medical college, Dr. Ruppert gave himself to civic affairs. He served a decade on the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority Board, four

as chair. He was a Rotarian, serving one term as president. He chaired the United Way of Greater Toledo campaign, was a member and president of the Ohio Historical Society Board and member of the Hayes Presidential Center. He served a decade as trustee, campaign chair, and president of the Fort Meigs Historical Society and was president of the Torch Club.

In all things: family, work, and community, Dr. Richard Ruppert gave all. He leaves a legacy few could match. His brilliance, humor, grace, kindness and insatiable curiosity and love of life were true gifts. He and his wife Libby have been a team unmatched, a gift that keeps giving to us all—our community, advanced medicines, academic excellence, friends and colleagues, loyalty to community, persevering leadership. Dr. Richard Ruppert made a difference for humanity and we are eternally grateful for his life and service to America.

HONORING THE EU FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 10, 2012, Nobel Committee Chairman Thorbjørn Jagland presented European Leaders with the Nobel Peace Prize. The European Union (EU) received the distinguished award for its promotion of peace and human rights. Since the end of World War II, Europe has seen six decades without wars, turning a continent historically known for conflicts into a continent of peace.

Since the formation of the European Union's initial organizations, there has not been a single hostile incident between the member states now known as the European Union. While there has been violence and war on the edges of the EU, such as the Balkan Wars, these did not happen between EU members, and now with the goal of full EU membership the nations of the Balkans are beginning to look forward to the future.

Membership in the EU requires a nation to have a fully operating democratic government, protection of civil liberties for a broad variety of minorities, recognition of private property and a fully functioning free enterprise economy. EU membership is a demand for democracy and free enterprise which brings peace and security to every country that has joined. The growth from six western European countries to an organization of 27 member states that represent over 500 million people with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$17.6 trillion is a transatlantic accomplishment worth noting for generations to come. The U.S. can take pride in the support and cooperation it has provided the EU over the years, with both our economies representing 54% of world GDP and is responsible for 14 million "on shored" jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr. Speaker, peace is not simply an era without war, but a common goal we share and are committed to maintaining. Both our constituencies are faced with terrorism, climate change, and recovering economies. These problems know not of party lines or of national

borders. We are encouraged by the EU's achievements as a community of nations that have overcome so much in the pursuit of peace. Where there was war, now is peace. As we continue to work closer with our allies in the EU, I am confident that where there is now peace, peace shall remain.

Both the EU and the U.S. face a recovering economy. Towards that end, we are encouraged to hear of preliminary discussions regarding a comprehensive trade agreement with the EU and the impact it will have on jobs and economic growth for our economies. While the reduction of spending by nations is required, our efforts should also support a special emphasis on job creation. With the EU and the U.S. as the largest trade partners for each other, reduction in tariff and non-tariff barriers will help facilitate a job creating environment providing hope for the citizens we represent.

HONORING ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUSSLYNN ALI

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank a tireless advocate for all of America's children, Russlynn Ali, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education. Ms. Ali has recently transitioned from the Department into a new role and I would like to take the opportunity to share with this body the impressive accomplishments of the Office for Civil Rights under her leadership.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Ms. Ali for all that she has done to see the Equity and Excellence Commission draft a final report. I am confident that this document will provide a useful framework for policymakers, advocates and families at every level to create a more equitable and excellent system of public education that draws on the skills and talents of every American child. The Commission's success is because of the hard work of Russlynn Ali.

While revitalizing an underutilized federal office, Ms. Ali has led the Office for Civil Rights in an impressive direction, supporting states, school districts and schools in providing the equal access to education every child deserves. During her tenure, the Office launched over 100 compliance reviews many of which addressed first-of-their-kind issues and all of which were innovative in their comprehensiveness, scope, and approach. They entered into hundreds of robust resolution agreements that, with aggressive monitoring, will truly eradicate discrimination at its roots. They revamped technical assistance—conducting an average of 315 activities a year over the last four years, up from about 185 in 2008. They released 10 comprehensive Dear Colleagues and guidance documents, all dealing with urgent issues, and revamped them to include detailed application sections—guidances that advocates, superintendents and college presidents have referred to as "landmark" and "historic." The Office for Civil Rights made the opportunity gap data come alive with the transformed Civil Rights Data Collection. Now the CRDC site gets about 9,900 visits every month.

I ask this body to join me in thanking Russlynn Ali for all that she has done for America's young people and wishing her well on her next endeavor.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAUL OPSOMMER

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to State Representative Paul E. Opsommer in recognition of his faithful service as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives. His fulfillment of three terms as State Representative concludes the most recent phase of what has been a remarkable career in public service, and he leaves behind a dedicated legacy in Lansing.

Before being elected to the 93rd district of Michigan in 2006, Paul had a career in business and local government. He served as Director and later Vice President of Action Management Corporation in Flint, and prior to that as a City Councilman and Mayor of DeWitt. His extensive experience serving on local government agencies and boards, including the DeWitt Schools Strategic Planning Board and the DeWitt Downtown Development Association, among others, also gave him a wide-ranging knowledge of issues important to the region.

In the Michigan House, Paul served on the Energy and Technology, Regulatory Reform, Insurance, and Health Policy Committees, and most recently as Chairman of the Transportation Committee and Associate Speaker Pro Tempore. As a legislator, Paul was dedicated to the passage of sound public policy, and his insights and experience brought a fresh perspective to the House.

Paul is an esteemed Michigan citizen and it is with great pride that I dedicate these remarks to his life and career. I wish him and his family the best as he closes this chapter of his life and begins his next endeavor.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE MICHIGAN LOTTERY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an important milestone in the history of the Michigan Lottery as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary. Over the last four decades the Michigan Lottery has been focused on fulfilling its mission to supplement state education programs through lottery revenues and provide Michigan residents and visitors with fun and entertaining games of chance, while doing so with a commitment to total integrity.

Since November 1972, when the Lottery offered its first game, a 50-cent green game ticket with weekly drawings, the Lottery has generated over \$50 billion in sales. In 1981, Governor Milliken took an important step to help Michigan residents further realize the