

public celebration of her life this week, her family described her as being “perfectly imperfect,” but to the millions of us moved by her music and her life story, she was and will always be “nuestra Jenni,” La Diva de la Banda. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this beautiful guerrera, a guerrera of life and of music.

COMMENDING SENIOR AIRMAN  
VERONICA COX ON HER EFFORTS  
FOLLOWING THE 2011 EARTH-  
QUAKE IN JAPAN

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Airman Veronica Cox of Lorton, Virginia, for demonstrating exceptional personal and moral courage during humanitarian assistance after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that hit northeast Japan on March 11th, 2011.

Airman Cox volunteered for humanitarian assistance duty and was part of the advanced command element in the town of Sanriku-cho as an intelligence analyst. Being able to communicate fluently in Japanese, she was able to greatly assist in integrating the Japanese-U.S. response within the crucial first 24 hours as well as the days that followed. She met with the village elder and clearly communicated necessary medical and survival instructions. She flew with nine search and rescue teams and directly enabled the delivery of 3,000 pounds of food, water and medical supplies.

Three days after the earthquake, Airman Cox was able to recognize the Japanese characters asking for help spelled out by rocks on the roof of a senior-care facility. A further investigation led to the discovery of 200 Japanese civilians within the rubble of the building.

For her service during the crisis, Airman Cox and the aircrew received recognition from the Emperor of Japan. She received the Air Force Commendation Medal and was selected as a linguist for the 5th Air Force Vice Command during U.S. and Japanese Ministry of Defense-level meetings. She also received recognition and awards from the Japan Self-Defense forces and civilian organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senior Airman Veronica Cox for her tremendous service to our nation and her valiant humanitarian assistance to the people of Japan.

FINAL REFLECTION

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I close my 24 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives—it has been a rare honor to serve the people of north east Florida and I'm humbled by this responsibility. In reflecting on my tenure, I'm very proud of my record of accomplishments.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve on

the Veterans Affairs Committee and to work on behalf my fellow veterans. Through these efforts, we established new VA outpatient clinics in the district, including a state of the art facility in South Marion County. In addition, we succeeded in building support for the new patient bed center at the Gainesville VA Medical Center. And, after over a decade of work, we saw my language to create a new veterans cemetery in north east Florida signed into law.

Furthermore, two measures I offered in the VA became law: the Veterans Millennium Health Care & Benefits Act improving veterans' access to long-term care; and the VA Health Care Personnel Act to increase pay for VA health care professionals.

Working with members on both sides of the aisle, one of my first achievements was gaining enactment of S. 2740 / H.R. 4237 to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. This measure deauthorized the Cross-Florida Barge Canal, and allowed the State of Florida to preserve this canal corridor as a greenway spanning the state.

Then there is the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Computers, the Internet, and other innovations transformed the national economy, making our laws and regulations outdated and burdensome. As a House conferee on this legislation, I worked with my colleagues in developing a response providing greater competition, less regulation, better service, and lower prices. And once again, Congress should work to remove the current obstacles to greater innovation that will bring more products, services, and jobs.

Most recently, my selection to lead the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations provided the chance to make our government more transparent and responsive. Through our oversight, we discouraged the implementation of overly rigorous rules and regulations that hamper economic growth and job creation.

We also discovered the waste and abuse in the Department of Energy's loan guarantee program. This risky scheme to create so-called green jobs cost taxpayers billions of dollars while yielding a few jobs. This is best exemplified by Solyndra, which received \$535 million from the taxpayers only to declare bankruptcy and becoming the target of a criminal investigation by the FBI.

In recognition of our \$16 trillion debt, I take great satisfaction in my record on fiscal responsibility. It is a distinct honor to be one of only 53 House and Senate members to receive an “A” rating from the National Taxpayers Union. In addition, my record on jobs and the economy earned recognition by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Against Government Waste, and Americans for Tax Reform.

I also owe many thanks—to so many of my colleagues, and especially to the people of Florida's Sixth District. I also thank my staff for their help in serving my constituents, my Chief of Staff Jack Seum and Paul Flusche here in Washington, and Shawna Williams, Sherrie Porter, and Jean Clough (Cluff) in the District.

Again, it has been an honor and an experience of a lifetime to serve in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2012 BUSINESS HONOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate those members who are being honored for their contributions to the business and local communities.

The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce (NVBCC) is a vibrant organization dedicated to the growth and development of African-American owned businesses in the City of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William. The Chamber provides leadership, strategic information, technical assistance, networking opportunities, and other support to more than 120 member partners, helping to ensure the growth and success of their businesses. In addition, the NVBCC actively supports area non-profits in efforts to increase the financial literacy and leadership capability of school-aged children in our area.

Each year, the NVBCC recognizes its members for their extraordinary success and contributions to the Chamber and our community. It is my honor to enter the names of the following 2012 Business Honor Award recipients into the Congressional Record:

Outstanding Emerging Business: Nationwide Insurance—The Brad Ryant Insurance Agency  
Business of the Year: Valley Green Landscaping

Outstanding Corporate Partner: Intelligent Office of Alexandria

Outstanding Community Partner: Alexandria-Fairfax County Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

Member of the Year: Kim de Peiza, Key Concepts Knowledgebase, LLC

Member of the Year: Isaac Lewis, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

Outstanding Public Partner: Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2012 Business Honor Award recipients and in thanking each of them for their efforts to strengthen our local business economy and for their commitment to building a stronger community.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR OF 1812 AND THE BENJAMIN HARRISON SOCIETY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and the Benjamin Harrison Society's work in bringing attention to the little known involvement of the District of Columbia in the war.

In the summer of 1814, British troops invaded our nation's capital. The poorly planned

campaign ended in the wounding of Joshua Barney and the burning of the capital city—most major public buildings were burned, including the United States Capitol and the White House. However, a brave navy commodore, Joshua Barney and flotilla of men, militia and marines, stood in the Rives' Farm of Washington, D.C., with two 18 pound cannons and three 12 pound cannons defending the nation's capital until their ammunition was depleted and the wounding of Commodore Barney. In 2009, the Benjamin Harrison Society's lead historian, Acquetta Anderson, asked volunteer archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institution to conduct the archaeological excavation of U.S. Reservation 520 to confirm Barney's artillery position during the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814, using historic descriptions, archaeological prospecting, mapping and excavation. The significance of the site, besides providing insight into an example of mid-19th century architecture, was that the Rives' barns provided a reference point for determining the position of Barney's battery during the battle. Barney's two 18 pound cannons and three 12 pound cannons were described as being within several yards of this location. The excavation of the median in Bladensburg Road by the D.C. Department of Transportation in September 2011 added to the investigation. The original turnpike level could be distinguished approximately 23.6 inches below the present road surface and spring water was observed still running across the road opposite Barney's Spring. Brick fragments, presumably emanating from the second Rives' barn, were also found in the median trench, further strengthening Ms. Anderson's theory that the Battle of Bladensburg occurred both in Maryland and Washington, D.C. in Ward 5 on August 24, 1814.

The Benjamin Harrison Society should be commended for their dedication to the research of the history of Washington, D.C. and the War of 1812, Battle of Bladensburg. Their research revealed that Barney, and his flotilla of men, militia, and marines battled the British in Washington, D.C. during the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814. The archaeological knowledge gained from this project can assist the National Park Service in cultural resource management, as well as the Benjamin Harrison Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Benjamin Harrison Chapter, and the Washington, D.C. War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission with site interpretation of both the Battle of Bladensburg and the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in Washington, D.C. It will help to finalize the Commission's plans for the commemoration of the Battle of Bladensburg and the War of 1812, beginning in 2012.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the Benjamin Harrison Society and their involvement in research and commemorating the War of 1812.

RECOGNIZING DR. WYNFRED JOSHUA AS A 2012 DIA TORCH BEARERS AWARD RECIPIENT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wynfred Joshua, one of the 2012 recipients of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Torch Bearers Award. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant and lasting contribution to defense intelligence and whose performance also embodies the agency's core values and principles.

One of the first defense intelligence officers at DIA, Dr. Joshua retired in February of 1998 after 24 years of dedicated service. An expert on the Soviet Union and strategic nuclear capabilities, Dr. Joshua was a guiding force for DIA analytic teams throughout the Cold War era. Dr. Joshua was known throughout the intelligence community as a person of immense honesty, intelligence, and reliability.

Dr. Joshua's leadership and teaching ability also helped conserve our Nation's precious public resources. She developed and implemented a successful program to improve DIA's role in supporting the National Defense University. Her contributions not only enhanced the DIA's status within the Intelligence Community, but also provided the critical intelligence assessments that shaped our national military strategy. Dr. Joshua's dedication to DIA, the Intelligence Community, and the United States is a testament to her integrity, unwavering professionalism, and commitment to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Wynfred Joshua and thanking her for her 24 years of service and selfless dedication to the defense of our country. Her distinguished service has greatly contributed to the advancement and prestige of our Nation's intelligence capabilities.

### SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act which contains a very special provision, the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act.

I first introduced this bill in the 110th Congress in honor of my dear friend, Ambassador Richard Sklar, who was a victim of pancreatic cancer, a devastating disease. Pancreatic cancer is essentially a death sentence, with very few surviving. It is only because of the families, friends, neighbors, doctors, and co-workers who have advocated for better research and treatments, that we've made it to the "finish line" legislatively after a five-year effort.

Sadly, the outcomes for those with pancreatic cancer have remained relatively unchanged since the passage of the National Cancer Act more than 40 years ago. Only 6 percent of people diagnosed with the disease live longer than 5 years, and 75 percent die

within a year of diagnosis. Pancreatic cancer remains one of the most lethal types of cancers, even as survival rates for other cancers have increased.

The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which I introduced with my colleague, Representative LEONARD LANCE, directs the National Cancer Institute to develop a long-term strategic plan for addressing recalcitrant cancers beginning with pancreatic and lung cancers. The plan will bring together the finest minds in our country with the best expertise in this area. The plans will be used by the Agency as a roadmap for navigating the best way forward in research for early detection, new diagnostic tools, treatment therapies, and even cures.

While pancreatic cancer is one of the most devastating of all "recalcitrant cancers," or those with a high mortality rate and few treatments, it is certainly not the only one that needs increased attention. I have worked closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to expand our legislation to include all recalcitrant cancers so that we can make progress in other areas, too.

I am exceedingly proud that this legislation enjoyed the bipartisan cosponsorship of 294 Members of the House and more than half the U.S. Senate with 58 bipartisan cosponsors. Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE championed the legislation with his steadfast leadership, and without him, this effort would not have ultimately been successful.

I thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work in moving the bill forward. I'm very proud of the efforts of the pancreatic cancer advocates who had the courage to share their stories with their representatives, educating them about the importance of this legislation.

I look forward to seeing the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act so we can finally bring a renewed effort to finding cures for all recalcitrant cancers.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 655. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." While I support freezing pay for members of Congress, that was achieved by passage of H.R. 8, and I do not believe that it is appropriate to freeze pay for Federal employees for another year, given the sacrifices that they have already made.

RECOGNIZING ILENE GILLISPIE AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ilene Gillispie, of the Alexandria