Public Schools teachers who recently received certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The National Board is an independent nonprofit organization governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

These teachers have met the standards established by the National Board and have undergone a rigorous application process that required they demonstrate the knowledge, skills and accomplishments that comprise teaching excellence. A Board Certified teacher supports a vision of teaching based on the following five core principles:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning;
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

I extend my personal congratulations to the recent class of National Board Certified Teachers:

Ms. Laura Deering—Battlefield High School;
Ms. Susan Dommer—Stonewall Middle School;
Ms. Michelle Esmacher—Lake Ridge Middle School;
Ms. Amanda Esteban—Battlefield High School;
Ms. Crystal Figueroa—Triangle Elementary School;
Mr. Jason Fox—Hylton High School;
Mr. Mark Groom—Swans Creek Elementary School;
Ms. Erica Ippoliti—Rosa Parks Elementary School;
Ms. Michelle Marrero—Freedom High School;
Ms. Megan Martin—Henderson Elementary School;
Ms. Kristin McKitrick-Rojas—Benton Middle School;
Ms. Catherine Naujoks—Coles Elementary School;
Ms. Diana Pool—Battlefield High School;
Ms. Kelly Pratte—Rosa Parks Elementary School;
Ms. Ann Reighard—Rosa Parks Elementary School;
Mr. Mark Rendell—T. Clay Wood Elementary School;
Ms. Ramona Richardson—Coles Elementary School;
Ms. Karen Roth—Antietam Elementary School;
Ms. Amanda Shaw—Signal Hill Elementary School;
Ms. Amanda Taylor—Gainesville Middle School; and
Ms. Jacquelynn Zanghi—Ellis Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education and professional development. Prince William County Public Schools delivers a world class education due to the tireless efforts of teachers who make excellence the standard.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH McCANTS RAVENELL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an everyday hero, whose abiding faith led her to a remarkable life of Christian service. Deaconess Elizabeth McCants Ravenell passed from this life on February 12, 2012, but her legacy lives on in everyone she touched.

Elizabeth McCants Ravenell was born on November 25, 1922 in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. She attended the public schools of Charleston County, but her calling was a Christian education. She earned certificates from the House of God Academy and Bible College and a degree from the Moody Bible Institute.

Mrs. Ravenell was a devout Christian, and devoted her life to her family and her faith. She first joined the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in North Charleston in 1943. Two years later, she and her husband joined the House of God—Keith Dominion, when their oldest child, Mary Elizabeth was just one year old.

As a member of the House of God, Mrs. Ravenell served in many capacities. She was a part of the National Complex committee, Deacons Union, Chief Overseer's Anniversary Committee, and the International Missionary Outreach Society.

She sailed the Mediterranean Sea, ministering in Madrid, Spain as a guest of a community church her daughter, Margaret Catherine, organized. She represented the Piedmont Diocese of South Carolina in Mississippi. Mrs. Ravenell also took many visitors to the church's General Assembly in Nashville,. Tennessee, and provided food, clothes and shelter for many of them.

She met her husband, James L. Ravenell in Charleston, South Carolina. The couple had six children, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Mrs. Ravenell was also ''mother'' to all of the children of the church. Children gave her the greatest joy in life, and she doted on all of them. I met Ms. Ravenell soon after marrying into the McCants family over 50 years ago. We became fast friends and remained so until her death.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating an abundant life well lived. Elizabeth Ravenell was a dear friend of the family and light to all who knew her. She radiated her Christian faith and spent her life doing good works. While her presence will be missed, she has left the world a better place because of her devotion and service to others.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL COMPETITION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Oratorical Competition hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its Education Foundation.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left an indelible mark on our nation in his pursuit of civil rights through civil dialogue. Despite the violence perpetrated against Dr. King and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King responded with reverent oratory and nonviolent resistance to condemn the injustice of social inequality. His legacy is one of tolerance and steadfast commitment to principled and peaceful communication.

Contestants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy with their ability to exercise the strength of the spoken word. This skill will serve them well as they seize future leadership opportunities and forge the personal relationships necessary for effective community engagement and organizing.

I congratulate and applaud the following contestants of the 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Competition:

Middle School Contestants

Jonathan Adrien—Porter School;
Jacob Gonzalez—Parkside Middle School;
Nicolas Smith—Benton Middle School.

High School Contestants

Sadiyah Faruk—Gar-Field High School;
Ebonee Johnson—Manassas Park High School;
Seth Opoku-Yeboah—Osbourn Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for recognizing the benefit that Dr. King's teachings bring to the development of our youth. We lay the foundations of a more tolerant society when we nurture the ability to engage and communicate with one another in a way that respects our common humanity.