

Vietnam War and to reflect upon their courage, strength, and love for the United States of America.

March 29, 2012 has been proclaimed Vietnam Veterans' Day in the State of New York, but it is important that we recognize our Veterans of the Vietnam War not only today but every day.

During the Vietnam War, of the more than 3.4 million Americans that were deployed, over 58,000 were killed, 153,000 were wounded, and over 2,000 remain missing in action.

It is important that we remind our Vietnam Veterans and their families that we are a grateful nation. Our country recognizes and appreciates the bravery and steadfastness of every American soldier. These are the men and women who risked their lives so our country remains free. It is because of their service that the United States of America remains the greatest nation in the history of the world.

The men and women who served our country in the Vietnam War are shining examples of patriotism, strength, courage, and decency. It is with great pride and honor that I pause and reflect upon their sacrifice and thank our Vietnam Veterans for their dedicated service to the United States of America.

GRAND OPENING OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD HEALTH FACILITY IN OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the occasion of the grand opening of a new Oakland County, Michigan facility for Planned Parenthood, an organization that I stand with proudly in spirit, purpose and commitment.

Never before in recent history have we witnessed such feverish and brazen attacks on the reproductive and health care rights of women. Planned Parenthood, in particular, has been unfairly targeted in this war on women.

More than ever, our communities and families need organizations like Planned Parenthood. In fact, 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are basic, preventive health care, like annual exams, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing and counseling, and procedures to address pre-cancerous conditions of the cervix. Seventy-five percent of Planned Parenthood Midland and South-Michigan patients are women between the ages of 20 and 40, many of whom struggle without health insurance. Planned Parenthood is there for them.

I especially applaud the opening of this facility because for more than five years there has been no Title X family planning provider in Oakland County that serves everyone, regardless of ability to pay. In 2010, Planned Parenthood served 5,420 Oakland County patients who had to travel to other counties to receive basic and preventive health care. This means critical federal dollars were not being spent in Oakland County, an area of significant need. It is time for Oakland County to get its fair share of federal dollars, and for its citizens to receive much-needed reproductive health services in their own community.

In conclusion, we need to stop playing politics with women's health care. We need to get

our struggling families the services they need. This facility is a first step in the right direction for women and families in our region.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE JACKSON WASHINGTON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mrs. Christine Jackson Washington, who died last week. She was the wife of the deceased Father Paul Washington, the long time, much revered rector of the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, and an internationally recognized peace and rights activist.

But, Mrs. Washington was also a community change agent. She founded the non-profit Advocate Community Development Corporation, a neighborhood-based community development corporation that provided affordable housing and social services to the residents of North Philadelphia. The bedrock of her family, Mrs. Washington sang on the choir, taught Sunday school, and helped out at the church's food kitchen that fed more for more than 350 people daily.

However, beyond all of these responsibilities and accomplishments Mrs. Washington is remembered for his kindness, gentleness, and graciousness. We were all blessed to have known her and we cherish her memory.

HONORING UTE AND PATRICK GOGGINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Ute and Patrick Goggins, longtime friends and constituents in Mill Valley, California. Ute and Patrick have been dedicated and conscientious members of our community since the late 1960s, and their joint passion for social justice and community service has made their active presence in the San Francisco Bay Area a true blessing.

Ute and Patrick were married March 27, 1962, in a lunchtime civil ceremony at San Francisco City Hall. The setting was appropriate for a couple who have always had a natural partnership. In the years since, Ute and Patrick have become important voices in the peace movement not only in the Bay Area, but worldwide. The Gogginses were at the forefront of opposition to the war in Vietnam, and eventually they were joined by their children in more recent demonstrations against war in Iraq.

Ute and Patrick have also contributed to a richer cultural environment, and to the idea that a stronger sense of community is a precursor to peace and justice. Patrick has spearheaded a number of local Irish cultural and historical associations, including the Irish-Mexican Association and the Irish Forum. Ute has long been a recognized local artist, and taught art at San Domenico School for over three decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Ute and Patrick Goggins. We wish them many more years of happiness, collaboration, and companionship.

IN HONOR OF FRANCINE BLOCK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francine Block, who is receiving the Bucks County Women's History Month Award today. Since 1982, the award has been presented every year to a woman in the county who "has made the biggest difference." Candidates are active volunteers, role models and social advocates.

For 25 years Francine has worked eagerly in the fields of education and college admissions. Currently, she is the President of the American College Admissions Consultants. Formerly, Francine served as President of the Pennsylvania Association for College Admissions Counseling. Previously a high school English teacher in the United States and the United Kingdom, Francine has gone on to work with college applicants from all over the world. She has contributed to numerous books and has been interviewed by CNN, CNBC, NBC, the Wall Street Journal and Time Magazine.

Francine Block has also held many other critical posts in the field of education throughout her lifetime. She is the National Assembly Delegate to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and previously was a member of the Admissions Advisory Board of Penn State University. Locally, she serves on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Bucks County and the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. I had the honor to serve as Francine's Solicitor while she served as Chairman of the Board of the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce.

Francine Block has devoted her life to promoting higher education and making certain that parents and students have the best available resources to apply to colleges and universities. She is an inspiration to all of us, and it is my pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE DISABLED MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2012

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Disabled Military Child Protection Act of 2012. To put it simply, this bill will permit military retirees the ability to place their self funded Survivor Benefit Plan into a Special Needs Trust to ensure their surviving dependent child's future.

This is an equity and fairness issue. Civilian children are allowed to create a Special Needs Trust for their permanently disabled children to ensure they receive care beyond the guardian's death but under current law, military personnel with severely disabled children are legally prohibited from establishing a Special

Needs Trust to ensure their surviving dependent child's future care.

This bill will provide veterans with the ability to direct their Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments to a Special Needs Trust. The creation of an SNT will ensure that a dependent, disabled child will continue to qualify for means-tested benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicaid. Assets placed into a Special Needs Trust are not generally counted as income or assets, allowing dependent children to remain eligible for these benefits throughout their lifetime.

This bill would impact approximately 1,065 military dependents who are incapacitated beneficiaries under Survivor Benefit Plan and with individual care costs for a disabled child exceeding \$100,000 a year, this additional benefit will increase their quality of life significantly.

For those who believe this bill may contribute to abuse, it must be noted that a Special Needs Trust is administered under both federal and state law. Appointed fiduciaries are subject to auditing and are responsible for managing a benefit for a specific group. Annuities are also placed in Special Needs Trusts that are subject to income tax. Therefore, beneficiaries are shielded from abuse considering each trust has significant oversight.

Finally, I am proud that this bill has 4 esteemed public servants as original co-sponsors: Congressmen CAPPS, POLIS, RANGEL, and ROTHMAN. This bill is also supported by the Military Officers Association of America.

TRIBUTE TO VERNON VALENZUELA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of longtime Kern County veterans' advocate and Vietnam veteran, Vernon Valenzuela, who recently passed away due to cancer at the age of 63.

Vernon began his career in service to our country during the Vietnam war where he was wounded in 1968. Upon returning home, he attended Bakersfield College and became president of the Associated Veterans Student Club, where he developed his passion for helping his fellow veterans and their families in Bakersfield and around Kern County.

Vernon cared deeply about the well being of veterans, and he eventually became a Marriage and Family Therapist specializing in helping veterans with Post Traumatic Stress transition into civilian life after experiencing combat. In 2008, after advocating for a Vet Center to be built in Kern County, Vernon was hired as the Team Leader for the Bakersfield Vet Center where he was further able to help veterans transition and re-enter civilian life.

His most recent legacy is the establishment of the Veterans Justice Program in Kern County, which helps provide veterans—some of whom may have mental or other combat-related illnesses—who get in trouble with the law a second chance by ensuring they receive access to mental health and substance abuse programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. While many doubted such a jus-

tice program could be formed and much less work, Vernon made it happen by bringing everyone together on behalf of all the local veterans returning from war and in need of help.

Vernon's work has touched the lives and benefited thousands of local veterans and their families. The loss of Vernon will surely be felt in our communities, and we express our deepest condolences to his wife Lise, his son Robert, and his daughters Alison and Katherine. His selflessness, perseverance, and service-minded dedication will continue to serve as an inspiration in our community and remain a constant reminder we must all continue to have of our commitment to the men and women in the Armed Forces who bravely serve our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. BONIFACE HARDIN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to honor the life of Reverend Boniface Hardin, a luminary of the civil rights movement and a pioneer in higher education from Indiana's Seventh Congressional District who passed away this past Saturday.

Reverend Hardin became a Benedictine monk in 1953 at the young age of twenty, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1959, and received a master of divinity degree in 1960. While serving as an associate pastor at the Holy Angels Catholic Church in Indianapolis, he became a vocal advocate for racial and socio-economic equality during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

His spiritual commitment and dedication to self-improvement led him to found the Martin Center in 1969 and later the Indianapolis Sickle Cell Center in 1977. Under his leadership, the Martin Center College became Martin University, a fully accredited institution offering undergraduate and graduate degrees to low-income and minority adult learners.

Recognizing his limitless compassion and unceasing commitment to education, Reverend Hardin was named a "Living Legend" in 2002 by the Indiana Historical Society for the indelible mark he made on the City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana.

It is with a heavy heart and profound sense of sadness that I express my condolences to the family and friends of Reverend Hardin. But it is with gratitude and admiration that I remember his life and contributions to our community. We were all truly lucky to have had such a caring, giving servant in our midst.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,580,211,803,539.46. We've added \$4,953,334,754,626.38 to our debt in 3

years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF LISA REED

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Lisa Reed for her accomplished career in public service to the State of New Jersey. Lisa began her career in law enforcement with the Plainfield Police Department. She later joined the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office where she specialized in sexual assault and child abuse investigations.

Her distinguished work prompted her promotion to Detective Sergeant and supervisor of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit. She was a tremendous asset and valued member of the Prosecutor's Office and her portfolio expanded to homicides and narcotics. Lisa was later assigned to the Somerset County Police Academy as the Continuing Education Coordinator. There she shared her expertise with young officers until her retirement in 2005.

Lisa developed a small business with her talents, Lisa S. Reed Investigations of Flemington, New Jersey. Lisa's most noted accomplishment is her vital role in the arrest of Roger Day, a fugitive who led an international conspiracy to defraud the military. This criminal was named a member of "America's Most Wanted" and Lisa's work was part of a three-year effort that brought Roger Day to justice.

Lisa Reed is an outstanding public servant who has continually demonstrated bravery in the critical area of public safety. I congratulate her on this long and distinguished career.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) HEWITT FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Oregonian and leader for his extraordinary service in United States Coast Guard. Rear Admiral (RADM) Ronald T. Hewitt served his country for 34 years in the Coast Guard and on April 6th, RADM Hewitt will retire as the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources at Coast Guard Headquarters, a position he has held since May 2009. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to service and to our country.

His efforts were pivotal to improving the Service's readiness while providing advancement, professional development and quality of life enhancements for all Coast Guard personnel. He established a comprehensive strategy to enhance diversity within the Coast Guard, developing and leveraging important partnerships with Congress, the Administration, academic institutions, and key outreach and affinity organizations, setting new heights