

distinguished police officer and was recognized by his peers as the Police Officer of the Year in 1991 and 1998.

Commander Douglas began his career in law enforcement with the Town of Los Gatos as a Police Cadet. He was promoted to the position of Community Service Officer in 1981. He was hired as police officer by the Newark Police Department on November 16, 1983. During his time as an officer, Commander Douglas served as a Field Training Officer, Property Crimes/Fraud Detective, Reserve Officer Coordinator, Citizen Police Academy Instructor, PR-24 Baton Instructor, and Defensive Tactics Instructor.

Commander Douglas was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on February 25, 2001. As a Sergeant, he was assigned to the Patrol Division and served two terms as the Detective Sergeant. For two years, he was in charge of the Newark Police Department's Field Training Program for new officers. Commander Douglas received the Winter 2002 Police Department Employee of the Quarter Award and was City of Newark Pride Awardee in 2006.

On August 26, he graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute. Commander Douglas was promoted to Police Lieutenant on November 1, 2008 and served in that capacity as the Administrative Lieutenant. On January 1, 2009, the Lieutenant position was reclassified to the rank of Police Commander. As the Administrative Lieutenant and Commander, he has been in charge of the Training Division, Internal Affairs, Property/Evidence, Red Light Photo Enforcement, as well as serving as the Newark Police Department's Public Information Officer.

Commander Douglas received the Chiefs Challenge Coin of Special Recognition for his outstanding work, loyalty to the organization, and tireless efforts in the development and promotion of the department's mission, vision, and values.

I join Commander Douglas' colleagues and the community in thanking him for his exemplary service and commitment, and wish him well on his retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
MARY HARNEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Honorable Mary Harney, a former dignitary in Ireland, who will be visiting Cleveland, Ohio on St. Patrick's Day.

Ms. Harney was born in Ballinasloe, County Galway in 1953. She attended Trinity College, Dublin where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Studies. During her college career, Ms. Harney became the first female auditor of the College Historical Society. After graduating, she worked as a mathematics and economics teacher at Castleknock College in Dublin for a year.

In 1977, at the age of 24, Ms. Harney was appointed to Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). At the time of her appointment, she was the youngest person to ever be a member of the Seanad. Following several years of dedicated service, Ms. Harney was elected to the Teachta Dála (Irish

Parliament) in the 1981. She served continuously until her retirement in 2011. During her service in the Teachta Dála, Ms. Harney served as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) from 1997 through 2006. She also served as Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for seven years and as Minister for Health and Children from 2004 until 2011. Ms. Harney was also the Leader of the Progressive Democrats between 1993 and 2006 and again in 2007 and 2008.

Throughout her career, Ms. Harney has been recognized for her dedicated service to the Republic of Ireland. She was named the Irish Independent Woman of the Year in 1996 and Irish Tatler Woman of the Year in 2005.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in welcoming the Honorable Mary Harney to the City of Cleveland on St. Patrick's Day.

BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA, ONE OF
THE 20 BEST SMALL TOWNS IN
AMERICA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's premiere collection of American culture, the Smithsonian Institution has spoken. My hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, is among the Smithsonian's list of "The 20 Best Small Towns in America."

The master curators of our national trends, tastes, tragedies and triumph scoured one of our broad Republic's basic foundations, our small towns, to identify those that best celebrate culture, often those that celebrate their own culture and share it with the world.

The forthcoming article in the May 2012 edition of Smithsonian Magazine highlights a few of the Beckley area's many institutions, including the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, our Arts center, Tamarack, and the venerable Theater West Virginia. They reflect a hardworking, talented, inspiring, sharing, genuine people who would do anything and everything within their power to help their neighbor. The faith, hope and abundant charity within the hearts of the community is a hallmark we cherish. These cultural icons attract visitors across many cultures as well as our own school kids and families, all who are eager to learn and enjoy.

The Smithsonian quest was prompted by the premise that our "big cities" and "grand institutions" do not have a monopoly on our Nation's creative juices. I wholeheartedly agree. I would only add to the authors' survey, that partnerships as well as individuals—can constitute a virtual wellspring of cultural opportunity.

I know, firsthand, that partnerships on all levels of government and from all corners of the private sector have mixed and matched manpower, material and money to share the magic and majesty of our mountain heritage and living to all who pass our way.

These public sector commitments to local arts, theater and culture are long term investments of precious taxpayer dollars. They are among the fundamental building blocks of a regional economy. They are among the pillars that support an elevated quality of life for everyone. I know that my hometown is not unique in this respect and hope that my col-

leagues will keep this in mind as we debate the great needs of our nation.

I salute everyone involved in Beckley's, Raleigh County's and the great State of West Virginia's progress and in this most deserved distinction.

I say to my colleagues, it's worth a visit real soon.

I commend the Smithsonian, affectionately known at the nation's attic, for recognizing the best of our small cities, where the country's front porches have much to offer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly unable to make votes on April 17, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way: "no" on rollcall vote No. 154; "no" on rollcall vote No. 155; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 156; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 157; "no" on rollcall vote No. 158; "no" on rollcall vote No. 159; "no" on rollcall vote No. 160; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 161; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 162; "no" on rollcall vote No. 163; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 164.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF KEVIN
O'DONNELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Kevin O'Donnell.

Kevin O'Donnell was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1925 and attended West High School and Kenyon College before joining the U.S. Navy Supply Corps during World War II. After returning home from the war, he attended Harvard University and established himself as a businessman, working for SIFCO and Booz, Allen, Hamilton.

In 1966, he made a life-changing decision after spotting a story in a local paper about a man serving in the Peace Corps. He applied and accepted an assignment to head the Peace Corps' office in South Korea. As the Country Director in South Korea, he was charged with establishing educational programs. After four years in that post, he moved to the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. and quickly rose up the ranks, finally becoming Director of the Peace Corps in 1971. O'Donnell was instrumental in successfully opposing Congressional efforts to slash funding for the Peace Corps. His daughter Megan and granddaughter Allison would continue his legacy, volunteering with the Peace Corps in Nepal and Honduras, respectively.

After 6 years with the Peace Corps he returned to Lakewood, Ohio and to SIFCO, serving as the company's CEO. O'Donnell was recognized several times for his dedication to public service, receiving honorary doctorates from Kenyon College, Ohio Wesleyan, and Pusan National University in Korea.

Kevin O'Donnell is survived by his children Kevin, Susan, Michael, John, Maura, Megan

and Hugh; as well as by 17 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Kevin O'Donnell. His work and legacy will live on with all those who were blessed with knowing him.

HONORING NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
MAYOR CORY BOOKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Newark, New Jersey Mayor Cory Booker for his heroic efforts on April 13, 2012.

Mayor Booker returned home last Thursday evening to find flames erupting out of his neighbor's home. His neighbor screamed that her daughter was still inside. The mayor ran inside without hesitation, hoping to rescue the woman he had known for years. In doing so, Mayor Booker suffered second-degree burns and smoke inhalation. The woman who was trapped inside the burning home suffered second-degree burns on her back. Mayor Booker's neighbor, Zina Hodge, said "If Cory wouldn't have come in there and rescued me, I would have died in there."

Mayor Booker is one of our Nation's foremost Mayors. As Mayor of Newark, he has worked diligently to create thousands of jobs, reduce crime, and improve education. Mayor Booker's leadership has attracted approximately \$100 million in private philanthropy to the City of Newark, and a variety of nonprofits and public-private partnerships have been created with the goal of improving the lives of Newark residents. Mayor Booker is a shining example of what being a public servant truly means.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Booker continues to strive to improve the lives of the citizens of Newark. I would like to recognize the Honorable Cory Booker for his determination, hard work, and bravery. His dedication and leadership are outstanding models for public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MERVA E.
JACKSON

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Ms. Merva E. Jackson, who sadly passed away on April 4, 2012.

Few times in one's life do you come across a person with such great passion, grace, and expertise like Merva Jackson. Merva had an indelible impact on everyone she met, including me. I vividly remember a meeting I had with her and several of her colleagues in my Washington office in the spring of 2010. It was one of those inspiring meetings that you never forget. The excitement in the room and the commitment to change was palpable as we brainstormed ways to combat the pervasive school-to-prison-pipeline that entangles too many of our youth. We left the meeting ener-

gized and with a plan for a statewide conference to tackle ways to reform the system. Merva's passion ignited my own, and I remember feeling so lucky that the State of Connecticut had her to advocate on behalf of vulnerable youth. A few months later our vision became a reality when over 150 people from across the State—and the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education—came together to listen to Merva and others discuss the critical issue of promoting dignity in schools. Of course, she provided invaluable insight and perspective that day, as she did every day.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Merva Jackson but feel so lucky to have known her. I last saw Merva in October at a juvenile justice event in Wethersfield, Connecticut. She was busy planning events for the future, to continue her work for justice and equal opportunity for all. I hold that memory near to me, and hope all who knew her find some comfort in reflecting on their own many loving memories of Merva and take pride in all that she did and all that she was.

IN HONOR OF MS. MALAK
JADALLAH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Malak Jadallah and to acknowledge her receipt of the Community Service Award from the Cleveland American Middle East Organization (CAMEO). Ms. Jadallah is being recognized for her service, dedication, leadership, volunteerism and advocacy on behalf of the Arab American Community of Greater Cleveland.

Malak was born and raised in Jerusalem, Palestine. She is a former art and German language teacher. Ms. Jadallah later moved with her beloved husband, Muhammad Amer, to Kuwait in 1972. Later, the Palestinians that had settled in Kuwait were forced to leave their homes and lives. Malak immigrated to the United States in 1990 and settled with her mother and sisters in Brooklyn, Ohio.

Soon after becoming a Member of Congress, I asked Malak to join my Congressional staff in Lakewood, Ohio. She has been faithfully serving the residents of the 10th District for 15 years as a constituent service representative specializing in immigration and visa issues. Prior to working in my office, Malak was a program director for the Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services (AACCESS). She has continued her work in the Arab community and has been a member of CAMEO for 18 years. She also worked with the Council of American-Islamic Relations, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Arab Institute, Beit Hanina Federation and the Ramallah Federation.

As a result of her steadfast dedication, Malak has been honored numerous times throughout the years. She has been recognized by the Arab American Community Center, Albanian American Association of Cleveland and Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the U.S.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Ms. Malak Jadallah as she is

honored by the Cleveland American Middle East Organization.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN PAYTON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, "Democracy, at its core, requires that all of the people be included in 'We the People.'" Uttered by Mr. John Adolphus Payton during a 2008 speech in Michigan, this quote embodies his legacy. A true pioneer, John Payton rarely turned down an opportunity to advocate for the least among us and reminded America time and again of the necessity to advance toward a more inclusive and tolerant society. From his youth until his last days, John Payton fought for the recognition of individual rights and taught us how to work toward democracy—not just speak about it.

A quick glance at John's background quickly reveals the makings of a civil rights giant. At the height of the overt racial tensions of 1965, John Payton was one of only a handful of black students at Pomona College. Even as a working student, John found time to enhance the quality of collegiate life for disadvantaged students by founding Pomona's Black Student Association, organizing and participating in anti-war and civil rights demonstrations, successfully lobbying Pomona's administration to recruit more black students, and for the creation of a black studies program. A year after graduating from Pomona College, John enrolled at Harvard Law School in 1974. As a law student he obtained affidavits from black student activists who were injured during Boston's school busing controversy. John served as an ideal model of what true civic engagement should be. Even without a formal title, he used his resources to fight for the rights of others.

Serving as the sixth president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), John led many victories before the U.S. Supreme Court, including the 2010 case *Lewis v. City of Chicago*, where John successfully represented a group of firefighters who argued that the city had discriminated against black recruits by using a grading system that resulted in no black applicants being hired. Though their claims had been barred by a statute of limitations defense in the lower court, the Supreme Court reversed those findings, allowing the recruits' claims to move forward. Prior to taking the helm of the NAACP LDF, in 2003 John argued in *Grutter v. Bolinger* that the University of Michigan had a compelling interest in promoting class diversity, and that acknowledging race as one of many factors in admissions decisions was not a quota. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court agreed with John's argument, and put our nation one step closer towards achieving equitable higher education for all.

John's journey to erasing the "badges of slavery" meant challenging racism head on. As an associate with the D.C. law firm Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering (now known as Wilmer Hale), he contributed to the firm's representation of the NAACP in various legal matters, including assisting with the 1982 Supreme Court case *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.* The