

Frank Winston Ballance, Sr. on August 14, 1938 and began to grow a family. Mr. and Mrs. Ballance reared five children: Frankie, George, Frank, Jr., James, and Vashti. She also pursued her passion of seeking to bring reforms to the system of public education that was clearly discriminating against African American children. She felt that it was unconscionable that African American children were required to attend inferior schools. She believed it was immoral and illegal that African American children were forced to walk to school while their white counterparts enjoyed bus transportation. And she found it unacceptable that the African American schools received their books, instructional materials, and other supplies as "hand-me-downs" from the white schools when they were no longer useful.

As former President of the local branch of the NAACP for nearly two decades, Mrs. Ballance used the political process to make the changes she sought. Over the better part of the 20th century, Mrs. Ballance registered thousands of voters across North Carolina and informed them on the importance of voting. Her efforts impacted local, state, and federal elections in North Carolina and she became a well-known political force throughout the State.

Mrs. Ballance's passion has always been ensuring that children—particularly those without privilege—are well cared for and receive a quality education. To that end, Mrs. Ballance in 1980 opened the non-profit Kiddie World Child Care Center, Inc. in Windsor, North Carolina. For more than 32 years, Mrs. Ballance has served as the Chief Executive Officer—a position this vibrant 93 year old still holds today. She tirelessly manages a staff of 20 that serve up to 50 children each day. She is extremely proud that Kiddie World has graduated more than 3,000 students since it opened more than three decades ago.

Mrs. Ballance is a deeply religious individual. She is a long standing member of Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church in Windsor, North Carolina. Over the years, she has held nearly every official Church position including Sunday School Teacher and Chair of the church's Kitchen Committee. The Church recently recognized Mrs. Ballance's dedication and longtime service to the Church and its members by honoring her with the title "Mother of the Church."

Mr. Speaker, Alice Eason Ballance has dedicated her life in service to friends, family, and all of humanity. I commend and congratulate Alice Eason Ballance on the great honor of having April 20th from this year forward known as "Alice Eason Ballance Day" in Bertie County, North Carolina.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PENINSULA HILLS WOMENS' CLUB

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Peninsula Hills Women's Club of Redwood City, California on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Over the past 50 years the members of this group have touched the lives of people in their community, across the country and throughout the world.

In 1960, thirteen women founded the club in order to donate time and money to a variety of causes locally and worldwide. Today, the club has 36 members who continue that mission.

This Thanksgiving will be the 28th year that the members will serve dinner for lonely seniors. For 15 years, the club has provided fruit and cookies twice a month to low-income AIDS patients. For 13 years, children at migrant camps in Mexico have received hats, blankets, school supplies, sports equipment and toys. Club members sew post-op pillows for breast cancer patients, turtle pillows for seriously ill children, knit baby caps for African children and wool caps for our soldiers. They throw one birthday party a year for a low-income senior over 80 years of age. The club adopts a class and gives books to the students twice a year—on Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Christmas. It donates money to Pennies for Pines, a reforestation program, and to the Heifer Project which gives livestock to communities in developing countries in an effort to end hunger and poverty.

The Peninsula Hills Womens' Club has held numerous fundraisers for Haiti Relief, Shelter Network and the Redwood City Educational Foundation. At one of the most memorable fundraisers for the Police Youth Athletic League, sheriffs and police officers played baseball against each other—with a twist: all players were on donkeys!

As is obvious from this long and diverse list of activities, the women of the Peninsula Hills Women's Club are extraordinarily dedicated, passionate and creative. The club may be small, but it is mighty. It is currently under the leadership of its fourth president, Judy Yoakum; however, her three predecessors, Veva Wheaton, Judy Imperiale and Kit Fraglia, continue to serve on the state board.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor the Peninsula Hills Womens' Club on this day, October 20, 2011, for 50 years of outstanding community service and to wish the members the best for the next 50 years.

HONORING THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state for the record my gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since their deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in July 2011.

The Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma are composed of several units, including the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is made up of six subordinate Battalions. Additionally, the 146th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), and Oklahoma Air National Guard unit were attached to the 45th IBC for combat operations.

In July of 2011, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team mobilized for Operation Endur-

ing Freedom to conduct full spectrum operations. Since July 2011, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed more than 3,000 soldiers to provide command and control and conduct security force and detainee operations and to provide training to Afghan Security Forces, representing the largest single deployment for the Oklahoma Army National Guard since the Korean War.

When the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team moved into theater, 1,200 soldiers from the 1-160th Field Artillery Battalion and the 1-180th Cavalry Squadron were detached from the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and redirected to Kuwait.

Upon arrival in Regional Command-East, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as Task Force Thunderbird, assumed responsibility for Panjshir and Laghman Provinces as well as the three western districts of Nuristan Province; Mandol, Do Ab and Nurguram. The combined operations area in Afghanistan consisted of over 10,000 square kilometers and an estimated population well over 600,000.

Through the exceptional performance of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as Task Force Thunderbird, the Provinces where the 45th were operating are better prepared to run their government independently of Coalition Forces.

Sadly, these successes did not come without a price, as 14 soldiers from Task Force Thunderbird made the ultimate sacrifice, and many soldiers were wounded, to ensure the freedom and security of the United States and Afghan people.

I wish to publicly recognize the citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oklahoma National Guard as invaluable to the national security of the United States, vital to defending against threats both foreign and domestic, and I welcome these brave men and women home to a grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN KYLEANE HUNTER

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize and pay tribute to Captain Kyleane Hunter, of the United States Marine Corps. I, and many other Members of this chamber, have had the great pleasure of working with Captain Hunter over the past year that she has served as part of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs Liaison Office in the House of Representatives. She will soon be leaving the liaison office and looking toward new challenges ahead.

Captain Hunter diligently and professionally represented the Marine Corps on all matters in the House of Representatives from September 2009 to April 2012. Throughout this period, Captain Hunter advised and assisted in the execution of many of the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives and distinguished herself as a leader and standard bearer of Marine Corps values and skills. Through her direct and skillful interaction with numerous Members of Congress, she ensured that Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood; ensuring the greatest possible support

to the Marine Corps. Her initiative, leadership, and tireless efforts as a USMC Military Fellow and as the Operations Officer of the House Liaison Office have had a direct and lasting impact on improving the war fighting capabilities and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps.

Throughout her time, Captain Hunter personally supervised and responded to hundreds of inquiries, many of which gained national level attention. Through her exceptional interpersonal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, she assisted the Director, Marine Corps Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support and trust in critical issues. This served to provide the Marine Corps latitude and time to reach appropriate solutions in each case. Captain Hunter directly contributed to the Marine Corps' high degree of success in these matters that may not have been otherwise achieved.

Captain Hunter successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted an extensive number of international and domestic trips for high-level Congressional and Staff Delegations. These delegations often included senior leadership Representatives, such as the Chairman or Ranking Member of the major Defense Committees. These delegations visited heads of state, military commands, and deployed U.S. military personnel worldwide. Her attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed the Representatives and staff personnel to focus on fact-finding and learning new information to guide critical decisions to support the people of the United States. These trips led to an understanding of the successes and challenges facing our Marines that could only be gleaned from first-hand observation and face-to-face interaction.

Captain Hunter also assisted in the planning, coordination, and execution of countless events, receptions, and meetings on Capitol Hill. These events included New Member Orientation for the Freshman Congressional Class of the 112th Congress on Capitol Hill and in Williamsburg, Virginia; The House of Representative Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremonies, Multiple House Armed Services and House Democracy Partnership events, Promotion Ceremonies, Awards Ceremonies, and tours of the Capitol. She also scheduled and supported a great many office calls for the leadership of the Marine Corps to include Commandants of the Marine Corps, Assistant Commandants of the Marine Corps, and numerous other General Officers conducting business on Capitol Hill.

Through her exceptional personal efforts, Captain Hunter has contributed immeasurably to the Marine Corps' professional reputation throughout Capitol Hill. The rapport she developed with Members of the House of Representatives and the Professional Staff Members has in large part helped to ensure the strength and vitality of the Navy/Marine Corps team for years to come. Her exceptional performance as a USMC Congressional Fellow and Operations Officer of the House Liaison Office has made a lasting impact on the readiness and welfare of the Marine Corps, and as such, I thank her for her steadfast dedication to the Marines and our country.

From one Marine to another, I can unequivocally state that Captain Hunter is a testament to the Marine Corps' commitment to excellence. On behalf of my colleagues; we thank Captain Hunter and wish her the very best of luck in future endeavors.

URGING THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FYROM) TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROCESS WITH GREECE TO ACHIEVE LONGSTANDING UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS POLICY GOALS OF RESOLVING THE NAME DISPUTE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation urging the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to work within the framework of the United Nations process with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of resolving the name dispute and encourages the United States to work with its NATO allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue.

Negotiations are ongoing between Greece and the FYROM to resolve the name dispute. Historical and archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Macedonians were Greek. Macedonia is a Greek name that has designated the northern area of Greece for 2,500 years. In 1944, the name of the Skopje region was changed to Macedonia as part of Tito's imperialist campaign to gain control of the Greek province of Macedonia.

NATO's Heads of State and Government unanimously agreed in Bucharest (April 3, 2008) that "... within the framework of the UN, many actors have worked hard to resolve the name issue, but the Alliance has noted with regret that these talks have not produced a successful outcome. Therefore we agreed that an invitation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will be extended as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached. We encourage the negotiations to be resumed without delay and expect them to be concluded as soon as possible"—an agreement for which the heads of State and Government participating in the NATO Summit meetings in Strasbourg/Kehl (April 4, 2009), as well as in Lisbon (November 20, 2010) reiterated their support.

This resolution urges the FYROM to work within the framework of the United Nations process with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of resolving the name dispute and encourages the United States to work with its NATO allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue and extend an invitation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA SIEGEL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patricia Siegel, who has dedicated her life and

career to making child care accessible and affordable for all families. I have known Patty for over 25 years and have witnessed her passion and determination to have child care recognized as a vital component of community life. Patty was a ferocious advocate for children in the California Legislature. She was unstoppable and never hesitated to shame people into doing the right thing.

Drawing on her experience as a mother, teacher and parent-organizer, Patty began developing and delivering child care services 40 years ago. She organized the Yellow Garage Playgroup for families in the Inner Sunset District in San Francisco. In 1972, she founded Childcare Switchboard to help families elsewhere in the city find such services. Four years later she was instrumental in initiating and implementing alternative child care solutions through the passage of AB 3059 which provided funding for the Child Care Resource & Referral Programs and Alternative Payment Programs in all California counties.

In 1980, Patty was the Founding Director and Executive Director of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, which has grown into the most established system of child care resource and referral services in the country.

As the Executive Director of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, Patty shaped state and federal policy for children and families. Her work included the Child Care Initiative Project, a statewide public-private partnership to expand the supply of licensed quality child care by recruiting and training new family child care providers, with special emphasis on infants and toddlers and Spanish speaking communities. She also inspired and guided the development of Parent Voices, a grassroots parent-led effort to engage and empower parents to actively and successfully participate in the policy process.

Patty also played an essential role in the creation and implementation of TrustLine, California's registry of license-exempt caregivers.

Beyond her role at the Network, Patty served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Child Care Development, was one of the original state commissioners for the California Children and Families First Commission (First 5), and represented California in the Children's Defense Fund state child care advocates network. She is the state advocate and liaison for the National Women's Law Center and volunteers her time and expertise with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Patty was born in Oakland and received her B.A. in French and English from the University of California, Davis.

In 1965 she married her husband Sanford "Sandy" Siegel. They have three children, Toby, Tara and Kelsey, and three grandchildren, Declan, Caio and Oona.

In her well deserved retirement, I am certain that Patty will enjoy spending more time with her family, gardening, traveling, cooking, hiking, reading, dancing and being in the outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to recognize my friend Patricia Siegel for her lasting contributions to families in California and the country and for always putting her community before herself.