

my District Office staff where he rose to become Deputy District Director. Rafael has used his vast experience and extraordinary skills to help make the federal government work for the people in my congressional district. Whether the issue is veterans' benefits, Social Security, education, consumer protection, health care or myriad other federal concerns and responsibilities, Rafael has devoted himself to promoting, protecting and defending human dignity.

Rafael also serves his community on the Mott Community College Board of Trustees, as an executive board member of the Flint Branch of the NAACP and he was awarded the Distinguished Emerging Alumni honor at the University of Michigan-Flint where he earned a Masters of Public Administration. He was also selected to participate in the prestigious Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program and traveled to Brazil to advance the Rotary's mission.

Mr. Speaker please join me in honoring Rafael Christopher Turner, a dear friend and accomplished public servant as he moves on to continue making a difference in people's lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how I would have voted on the amendments and final passage of H.R. 4089, the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012.

If I had I been here to vote I would have voted in the following way:

Holt (NJ): I would have voted "no."

Grijalva (AZ): I would have voted "no."

Peters (MI): I would have voted "no."

Heinrich (NM): I would have voted "no."

Foxx (NC): I would have voted "yes."

Democrat Motion to Recommit: I would have voted "no."

Final Passage: I would have voted "yes."

As an avid hunter, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, and a member of the Congressional Sportsman's caucus I understand the value of sportsmen's rights and cherish the opportunity to pass on my love for hunting to my children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was detained from voting on Monday, April 16, 2012 and the afternoon of Tuesday, April 17, 2012. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall Nos. 152, 153, and 157.

If present, I would have voted "nay" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall Nos. 154, 155, and 156.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS (SAVAC) OF OSWEGO

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Student Association Volunteer Ambulance Corps, SAVAC, of Oswego. The SAVAC is the first fully student funded, staffed, trained, and operated volunteer ambulance corps on a college campus in the nation, according to the American College Health Association.

Originally founded in 1971 by a small group of SUNY Oswego undergraduate students, the program had humble beginnings, initially receiving \$8500 in funding from the SUNY Oswego Student Association, which continues to fund the program today.

Today, the SAVAC is now the primary Emergency Medical Services, EMS, provider for SUNY Oswego. Additionally, the SAVAC is certified in Basic Life Support by the New York State Department of Health, providing mutual aid support to the Oswego City Fire Department and the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department.

The SAVAC has become a gateway to the EMS world, sending many of its members on to professional positions within Emergency Medical Services and Fire Departments across New York State and the country. I applaud the commendable and valuable work of the SAVAC and honor their rich history of community service.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, held every April, Equal Pay Day signifies the point in the year that a woman must work to earn what a man made in the previous year. Only in April will a woman finally earn what a man has made.

In my own state of New York, women make 83 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. According to a report by the National Partnership for Women & Families, full-time working women in New York lose approximately \$24,257,741,976 each year due to the wage gap. The national average is even worse: on average, women in the United States earn 77 cents for every dollar earned by male coworkers.

Though the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963, when women earned 59 cents for every dollar earned by men, it is nearly 50 years later and women STILL aren't being paid equally.

The work women do matters—women make up nearly half of the labor force and mothers are the primary earners or co-earners in two-thirds of all families. Equal pay isn't merely a women's issue—when women don't earn fair pay, the families that rely on their wages struggle. Families increasingly rely on wom-

en's wages to make ends meet. In typical married households, women's incomes accounted for 36 percent of total family income in 2008, up from 29 percent in 1983.

This Equal Pay Day, I recognize the many achievements and contributions of women across the country to our economy and pledge to work towards economic equality for women, to a time when women can finally receive the wages they have worked for and rightfully earned.

HONORING DEPUTY ROBERT PARIS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and memory of Deputy Robert Paris, who was slain in the line of duty this past week in Modesto. Deputy Paris is the third sworn officer to be killed while serving with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, and on behalf of the community and this Congress, I want to offer condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

Deputy Paris has a long career of service, first being certified as a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic in 1980. In 1993, he graduated from the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center, and three years later started his 16-year career with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office. There, he served in many capacities before volunteering for the dangerous but necessary work of the civil division. In all assignments, Deputy Paris earned the confidence of his superiors and the respect of his fellow officers. His end of watch came on April 12, 2012, while serving an eviction notice, accompanied by local locksmith Glendon Engert.

Deputy Paris is survived by his parents, Robert Sr. and Jane, sister Krista, brother Eric, and two adult children, a son and daughter.

May the example of Deputy Paris renew in each of us the determination to live by the watchwords of honor and duty, values he defended at the price of his life. It is also my fervent prayer that those close to Robert Paris receive the only solace afforded in the face of such tragedy, the certain knowledge that whatever honors we express here, they pale before the peace awaiting him and all who lay down their life for others.

IN RECOGNITION OF VERA PETERSON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Records Clerk II Vera Peterson for her 23 years of service at the Daly City Police Department.

Ms. Peterson served as assistant trainee for the department from 1980–1981. She started her career in the records division in 1988. She excelled in all categories handled by that division: transcription, subpoenas, citations and impounds, classification, and restraining orders. Her extensive experience and wealth of

knowledge put her in the perfect position to train new employees of the records division.

Ms. Peterson's meticulous attention to detail and hard work have earned her the respect and admiration of her co-workers. Her passion for baking also made her a very popular member of the department; she frequently shared broccoli quiche and cupcakes with her colleagues.

Vera Peterson graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in San Francisco and received her Associate Degree in criminology from City College of San Francisco.

She and her husband of 28 years, John, live in Montara. They have one daughter, Tiffany.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor the devoted service of Vera Peterson to the residents of Daly City. Her high standards and exemplary commitment to the community will be a difficult act to follow for any future records clerk.

TRIBUTE TO MARIESSA FLYNN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the House of Representatives, Mrs. Mariessa Flynn, upon her retirement from my Somerset district office following three decades of service.

"Resa" has been my right hand on many issues impacting constituents of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District over the last 30 years. However, she found the greatest joy in serving thousands of veterans of our U.S. Armed Forces, assisting them with everything from financial struggles to replacing lost war medals. Countless veterans visit my Somerset District Office each year, because they know they have a friend in Resa Flynn, who will go to every length to help them in their time of need. Resa's loyalty, passion and persistence will be missed as she enters retirement.

Outside my Congressional office, Resa has served as a long-time leader for the Pulaski County Republican Party and the Pulaski County Lincoln Club. She has always led with a strong voice, stout convictions, and has been a tireless advocate for many worthy community projects across the region.

Resa is also a talented crafter and uses her spare time to crochet the most beautiful afghans for families and friends in the Somerset area. She is also a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mrs. Mariessa Flynn, upon her retirement from my Somerset district office following three decades of service.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Resa Flynn on her retirement, as we also commend her for 30 years of service to the people of southern and eastern Kentucky.

MARQUIS ALEXANDER, FUTURE
COMMANDER OF TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY'S CORPS OF CADETS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African American to become commander of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets. Currently Marquis is a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in International Studies.

HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT TAMU

The history of African-Americans at Texas A&M University dates back to the founding of the institution. African-Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant Act in 1866, which established the A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African-Americans worked at A&M as laborers, maids, custodians and various other support staff; however they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty.

The history of African-Americans at A&M has been shaped by decades of racial segregation, quiet desegregation, and attempts to redress historical wrongs. It has been filled with lifelong struggles and determination to fulfill a dream which was accomplished when A&M opened the doors in 1963 to African Americans. The past 37 years have been a continuing struggle by African-Americans and A&M to ensure that the dream is kept alive.

The first African-Americans joined the corps in 1964. The first female cadets came a decade later. In A&M's centennial year, Fred McClure won election as body president, making him the first to be equal to that of Corps Commander and Aggie Yell Leader.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights is a subject that cannot be ignored or taken lightly, even in this day of progressive movement toward tolerance. We must not lose sight of the continued need for civil rights. We must not relax our initiatives which build greater racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance. While I believe that there is still work to be done on the issue of civil rights and hurdles to overcome, we cannot ignore the progress that has been made as the result of decades of hard work, diligence, the sweat and tears of many of our country's civil rights trailblazers. This is evidenced by an increase in the numbers of minorities attaining leadership positions in the private and public sectors for example: Ken Chenault, an African American who currently serves as the CEO of American Express; Ursula Burns, who became the first African American woman to serve as Chairman and CEO of Xerox a Fortune 500 Company; and Antonio Perez, the first Latino American to serve as CEO of Eastman Kodak Corporation to name a few.

BACKGROUND ON MARQUIS ALEXANDER

He is the oldest of 10 children and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Mr. Alexander is currently a Corporal in the Marine reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the Corps. Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of

having the most graduates to enlist in our nation's armed forces when compared to other nonmilitary academies.

Marquis Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston! And our city is proud of his achievements. Marquis has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so "gung-ho" military that he participated in Texas A&M's Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received his letter of acceptance to Texas A&M University.

Yet, true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and spent a year and a half on active duty. He subsequently reverted from active duty status and is serving the remainder of his enlistment commitment in the Marine Corps Reserves. He re-applied for admission to Texas A&M in 2009 and was promptly accepted.

He was selected following a rigorous review process in which a host of cadets are considered when leadership selections are made each year. Soon he will assume duties as cadet colonel of the corps, the 2,100 member organization's top leadership position, also known as corps commander, and one of the three top positions on campus, along with that of student body President and Yell Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Alexander for aiming high and continuing to strive above and beyond his primary goals of joining the military. He is a mentor and guiding light to those who know him. I congratulate Mr. Marquis Alexander on his achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GOLF DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 18 as National Golf Day. This is a day where the leaders of the golf industry are able to meet with members of Congress and discuss the continued growth and importance of the sport.

Of course golf is not just a sport. The golf industry generates over \$76 billion annually in economic activity, and sustains over 2 million jobs. The golf industry has a direct and substantial impact on the economy, jobs and tax revenues in communities across this country. Through this growth, golf is no longer the exclusive sport of the privileged, the wealthy, and the upper class. The industry has become more democratized, and people of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds are able to participate.

I applaud the golf industry for its commitment to environmental sustainability. As technology advances, golf course architects and landscape engineers are able to design and maintain courses that are economically viable and environmentally friendly. For example, technological advances have made it possible to employ more efficient irrigation techniques using recycled water.

In my home state of California there are over 900 golf courses, generating an average annual revenue of \$15.1 billion. California's gorgeous courses are huge tourist magnets and provide 160,000 jobs for Californians. I