

the Mentally Retarded formed a foundation in Mr. Murphy's honor to continue his work.

On May 18, 1977, the John F. Murphy Foundation for the Mentally Retarded was officially established with the mission to provide housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. In March of 1978, they opened their first home at 23 Pleasant St. in Lewiston for 6 people. Today, the agency provides direct support to hundreds of Mainers and their families, employs more than 700 people in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area, and generates millions of dollars in local economic activity.

John F. Murphy Homes has helped to raise awareness about intellectual disabilities and the need for group care facilities. The organization's remarkable success is owed to the outstanding vision of its founders and the tireless work of its employees. In January, John F. Murphy Homes received a \$1.7 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to continue their important work.

John F. Murphy's example has truly made the Lewiston-Auburn community a better place for the mentally retarded.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the John F. Murphy Homes on achieving 35 years of exemplary service to the Lewiston-Auburn community.

RECOGNIZING THE USDA FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its dedicated employees for 150 years of service to America. By working with farmers across America, the USDA has built the most productive, efficient agricultural economy on earth. It has rescued whole regions from the Dust Bowl, diversified production in the South to end regional dependence on cotton, led efforts to restore estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay through conservation programs, financed rural development, and rebuilt agriculture in war-torn countries in partnership with the Armed Services.

America's food security today stands in stark contrast to other industrialized countries which are heavily dependent on food imports. Only because of the USDA's work do we enjoy this security, which includes affordable food for working Americans. Today the USDA is working to ensure that food security includes healthy foods which address America's most challenging chronic health problems. Under Secretary Vilsack, the USDA is leading efforts to redevelop local food production. The benefits of this initiative are evident in my home state of Virginia, where growing wine, cheese, fruit, and vegetable production is bringing land back into production which had been fallow for decades. The USDA is much more than agriculture; it pursues a comprehensive program of rural development, and its recent efforts to strengthen local food supplies are emblematic of this comprehensive approach.

The USDA is playing a central role in conserving America's natural resources, as it has since its inception. Photographs from the

Works Progress Administration should serve as a reminder of the resources that would have been lost but for USDA leadership. Before we had comprehensive agricultural conservation programs, cubic miles of prime soils were being lost throughout the South and Midwest to erosion from wind and rain. The USDA pioneered soil conservation methods which ensured that these regions would remain productive for generations to come. Building on that early success, USDA conservation programs are responsible for reducing agricultural pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay and other estuaries, ensuring that Americans can enjoy productive fisheries as well as productive agricultural lands.

In an era where government is disparaged all too frequently, the USDA is a shining example of the benefits of federal service. We never could have become the most powerful, prosperous nation on earth without the agency which worked with farmers to feed our armies and our workforce, and to conserve those natural resources that we will rely on for the next 150 years.

REMEMBERING CONSTANTINE G. VALANOS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I doubt there is a single member of this House or the Senate who has never set foot inside the Monocle on D Street. Just steps from the Capitol, the Monocle has been a political institution as much as it has been a warm and welcoming restaurant. Its tables have long been set with a spirit of friendship that transcends party; they have been host to meetings and discussions on nearly every issue of national importance. The Monocle has been a place of agreement, often at times when disagreement divided us in this House.

It was Constantine Valanos who brought that warm and inviting place to Capitol Hill and to all who serve here. Many of us knew Connie well. Connie made a point of knowing and remembering all of us who set foot in his restaurant, even if just once in a while. Sadly, Connie passed away last month at age 93.

Constantine George Valanos was born into a family of Greek immigrants in Albany, New York, as the First World War was drawing to a close. He grew up here in Washington, D.C., and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following his discharge, Connie attended the George Washington University and pursued a career in accounting. In 1960, seeing an opportunity to buy and fix up an old restaurant on Capitol Hill, Connie and his wife, Helen—who passed away in 2005 after a fifty-three year marriage—opened the Monocle.

Among their first regular customers were then-Senators John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. Over the next fifty years the Monocle would see a steady stream of Senators, Representatives, future Presidents and Vice Presidents, Supreme Court justices, foreign diplomats, and ordinary Americans visiting with their elected officials.

After three decades at the helm, Connie and Helen passed the management of the business to their son, John, and daughter-in-law,

Vasiliki, who continue to run the Monocle today and provide the same friendly and welcoming environment to all who step through the door.

The ancient Greek statesman Pericles said: "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in monuments of stone but what is woven into the lives of others." Connie Valanos leaves behind a legacy not only of a restaurant but also of the countless ways in which he made that restaurant a place where leaders come together to hash out the agreements that help make our Nation great and improve lives around the world. The Monocle, as former Vice President and regular patron Walter Mondale once noted, is "where laws are debated, where policies are set, and where the course of world history is changed." That is Connie's lasting legacy.

I join in celebrating Connie's life and in offering my condolences to his wife Judith, his children, John and George, his three grandchildren, and the entire Valanos family.

RECOGNIZING JESSIE "DINK" HOSMAN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 91st birthday of Jessie C. "Dink" Hosman who was born June 3, 1921, and grew up in the Willard, Missouri area.

During World War II, Technician Fifth Grade Hosman was in Company B, 1st Battalion, White Combat Team, which fought all over Burma with "Merrill's Marauders". T/5 Hosman fought through some of the harshest conditions of the war where the enemy was often less of a concern than malaria, deadly Mite Typhus, Amoebic Dysentery, and malnutrition. T/5 Hosman spent two years in the jungle and also served in Panama and India. Being a member of "Merrill's Marauders" earned T/5 Hosman the distinction of United States Army Ranger.

T/5 Hosman helped secure the strategic Burma Road while it was being built in treacherous conditions. Extraordinarily, while "Merrill's Marauders" had such a high casualty rate, they never left a fellow soldier's body behind. T/5 Hosman received the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Bronze Star Medal for exemplary service.

After the war, Jessie returned stateside and spent some time in San Francisco where he was given everything and anything he wanted to eat to make up for two years of malnutrition. Eventually Jessie returned home to the Willard area where he raised his family and purchased a farm where he ran a milk and beef cattle operation for 50 years.

These days, Jessie is enjoying life and taking it easy living with his daughter, Terri Hughes, and her husband, Jimmy Hughes, in Walnut Grove, Missouri. He still enjoys his hobbies of fishing, hunting, boating and his RV. Jessie has also attended several "Merrill's Marauders" reunions.

As the years create more and more distance from the events and heroes that defined World War II, I personally wanted to take this

opportunity to recognize one of my constituents who is a Real American Hero. Without the sacrifices of America's Greatest Generation, we would not be enjoying the freedoms and rights they fought to preserve. May God bless Jessie C. Hosman. I wish him a very happy birthday and many more.

RECOGNIZING GMU PRESIDENT
ALAN MERTEN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Alan G. Merten and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement following a distinguished, 16-year tenure as president of George Mason University.

Dr. Merten was Mason's fifth president, and under his leadership the University developed the culture, academics and reputation of a unique and world-class institution of higher learning. There are many examples of its growth and enhanced prestige, but I would like to cite a few statistics that speak to the caliber of excellence Dr. Merten has helped build at Mason. U.S. News and World Report ranks George Mason 138th among the best universities in the nation. Incoming freshman now average a 3.6 GPA, up from 3.0 in 1996. Mason's student body has grown to more than 32,000. While GMU was founded as a branch of the University of Virginia, it became an independent institution in 1972 and now is the largest university in the Commonwealth. Dr. Merten's success cultivating new funding opportunities and promoting the fields of information technology and biological sciences have sparked an increase in annual research funding from \$28 million in 1996 to more than \$100 million today.

When he steps down next month, Dr. Merten will conclude a career in higher education that has spanned more than four decades of service at numerous institutions. Dr. Merten holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, a master's degree in computer science from Stanford University, and a PhD in computer science from the University of Wisconsin. He began his career in 1970 as an associate professor of industrial and operations engineering at the University of Michigan. He later served as an associate dean in the Michigan Business School where he was responsible for executive education and computing services. After serving for three years as the dean of the College of Business at the University of Florida, Dr. Merten accepted the deanship of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University in 1989. In 1996, he accepted the position of President at GMU.

Dr. Merten is a well respected figure in the Northern Virginia community who has used his considerable and diverse talents to raise the profile of the University and our community. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Merten has expanded GMU's partnership with the regional business community, serving on the Board of

Directors of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Northern Virginia Technology Council, and he was a member of the Virginia Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education. His tireless efforts advocating on behalf of the university in local, state, and federal government have earned him a reputation as a champion of higher education. After his retirement, Dr. Merten will continue to serve George Mason and our community in other capacities, as well as spend more time with his wife Sally, daughter Melissa, son Eric and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Dr. Alan G. Merten for his tremendous contributions to George Mason University and the higher education community. I consider Dr. Merten a dear friend and wish him, his wife and family the best as he moves into retirement. Thanks to his leadership, the University and Northern Virginia are well positioned for future growth and success.

THE PASSING OF MURIEL WATSON

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of San Diego's great citizens Muriel Watson. Muriel passed on May 1, 2012 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

I had the pleasure of knowing Muriel when I was Mayor of Imperial Beach. I would also talk with her when I would ride my horses along the border. She was tenacious, dedicated and motivated to all of her causes and her attitude and intellect allowed her to accomplish anything she set her mind to.

Muriel was born in Newton Massachusetts on October 23, 1930 as the only child of William and Cynthia Bianchi. She grew up as a teenager in San Diego, attended San Diego High School, and later earned her teaching degree at San Diego State College. She was a patron of the arts and would dance and act at the Old Globe theatre in San Diego from time to time.

After meeting her husband George Watson in 1953, a Border Patrol agent, Muriel began her work with the U.S. Border Patrol. She became involved with the Border Patrol Union as a Public Information Officer and testified before Congress regarding issues and concerns of the Border Patrol.

In addition to her involvement with the Border Patrol, Muriel created an initiative called "Light Up the Border" in 1989. The goal of the group was to shine car lights on the border in order to cut down on border violence. The group met monthly starting on November 4, 1989. At the first meeting, 23 cars were present and over the seven months of the program the group grew to 2000 cars in June of 1990.

Over the course of the program, Muriel was able to enlist the help of Congressman Duncan Hunter to begin construction on what today represents three layers of border fence, more agents, and lights on the border.

Muriel will be missed by those of us who knew her. Her memory will live on in the lives

of her children and grandchildren, in the hearts and minds of the Border Patrol agents, and through the people of the causes she served.

TRIBUTE TO DEACON LAMOUNE
CARLOS GLOVER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of my friend and brother beloved, Deacon Lamoune Carlos Glover who made his heavenly transition on Tuesday, May 8, 2012. Deacon Glover was born April 23, 1968, in Chicago, Illinois to the late Robert and Lorraine Glover. A product of the Chicago Public Schools system, Lamoune attended Mollison Elementary School and Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable High School, and later went on to attain an Associate Degree in Applied Science.

Lamoune's love for Christ started at an early age. At 6, his "play mother" May Turner took him to church. Lamoune was baptized at the age of twelve at the Gospel Temple Church, under the leadership of Pastor Warren L. Turner. There, he served as a member of the usher board and in the youth ministry.

Later in his journey, Lamoune began attending the Beloved Community Christian Church where I am privileged to serve as pastor and teacher. In 2002, Lamoune experiencing the transformative power of Jesus Christ and being led by the Holy Spirit re-dedicated his life to Christ. At Beloved, he served as a trustee, church steward and member of the Men's ministry.

In July 2003, Lamoune met his "better half" Joyce Lemon. After a loving three-year courtship, Lamoune and Joyce married on August 19, 2006. To this union, one beautiful, daughter was born, Ahrmani Glover.

In 2011, after nine years of devoted Christian service, I installed Bro. Lemoune as Deacon of the Beloved Community Christian Church. It was one of his proudest moments, for no matter what life threw Lamoune's way, he always somehow knew that with God, he would be "okay".

Mr. Speaker, in the Exodus story, as Israel did battle with the Amalekites, Moses stood on a hill with the staff of God in his hands, whenever Moses raised his hands Israel prevailed. When Moses hands grew tired so that he was forced to lower them, Israel suffered in battle, but Aaron and Hur, Moses' armor bearers, held Moses' hands up and Joshua and Israel defeated Amalek. Lemoune was such an armor bearer.

Deacon Lamoune Carlos Glover's life has been seen through the lenses of personal sacrifice, love, reconciliation, and perseverance. My sincerest thoughts and prayers are extended to his loving wife, Joyce, his children Otisha Pitts, Jakwon Webb and Ahrmani, grandchild Javion Goss, brothers, Robert Glover and Marvin Harvey, sister Bernadette Glover, his Beloved Community Christian Church family, and host of other family and friends. I am privileged to enter these words in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.