

Stanislaus Region with responsibility for developing and delivering the Regional Transportation Plan, RTP. This plan includes a diverse mix of transit, non-motorized, highway and local street and road projects to be completed in Stanislaus County over the next 25 years. During Mr. Harris' tenure as Executive Director, he was responsible for all agency functions including regional transportation planning, program administration, financial management and budget control.

Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering Technology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University in Hayward. His career spans 35 years, with transportation assignments in both the public and private sector in California, Texas, Utah, and Washington, DC.

Prior to joining StanCOG, Mr. Harris was the Deputy General Manager of San Francisco Municipal Railway's Construction Division. In this capacity, he headed a division of approximately 140 engineers, technicians, and administrative staff responsible for the delivery of the agency's \$2.67 billion Capital Improvement Program. The program included new Light Rail Transit extensions, facility upgrades, and enhancements.

He is also the former Executive Director of the Alameda County Transportation Authority. In this role, he managed the agency's \$1 billion Half-Cent Transportation Sales Tax Program. The program included a variety of projects which addressed mobility for seniors and disabled persons, major transit, bikeway and highway corridors, and improvements to local streets and roads.

During his time as Executive Director, Mr. Harris worked collaboratively with the Stanislaus region's nine cities and the county to support significant transportation improvements to the region. Under Harris' leadership, millions of transportation dollars financed projects such as the Whitmore Interchange Reconstruction Project, the State route 219 (Kiernan Avenue) Widening Project, and hundreds of locally developed and delivered transportation projects.

Mr. Harris' last day with StanCOG is May 31, 2012. He has accepted a new position as Director of Capital Programs and Construction for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and commending Vince Harris, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments, StanCOG, for his numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

#### HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH SHEPHERD

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sgt. Joseph Shepherd on his retirement from the Waterville Police Department.

Sgt. Shepherd is officially retiring from the Waterville Police Department after 31 years. Joe began his career in law enforcement at the age of 22, and he has been a model of integrity ever since. Throughout his career, he has never wavered from his dedication to the

community or his desire to help people. Waterville police Chief Joseph Massey has called Sgt. Shepherd a "problem solver" with a stellar reputation throughout the city. These values have made him one of Waterville's most effective and well-liked police officers.

With Sgt. Shepherd's departure, Waterville is losing a valued asset. Joe holds a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from the University of Maine at Augusta and a master of business administration from Thomas College. He has also left his mark on the department as a supervisor and training officer. As he embarks on this next exciting step in his life, Sgt. Shepherd leaves behind a community ever grateful for his years of dedicated service.

I am pleased to join the Waterville Police Department, and the people of Maine, in honoring Sgt. Shepherd on his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sgt. Shepherd on achieving this milestone, and thanking him for all that he has done to keep Maine families safe.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 18, 2012, I was meeting with constituents of my district on the East Steps of the Capitol building and missed rollcall 293 on the Rahall Motion to Instruct Conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on H.R. 4348.

#### THE HELPING EXPEDITE AND ADVANCE RESPONSIBLE TRIBAL HOMEOWNERSHIP (HEARTH) ACT

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 205, the HEARTH Act.

Under current law, many Native Americans living on tribal land have to fight government bureaucracy to buy a home. Just like other Americans pursuing the American dream of homeownership, they find a house, get a mortgage approved, and make an offer. It's at this point that the dream often turns into a nightmare for tribal members. Before they can close on a house, they have to get approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to lease the land—and this approval process can take as long as two years. During this extremely long wait, the mortgage approval usually expires and sellers can rarely wait this long. With such a daunting and long process, it's no wonder that tribal members give up and decide to move off the reservation and away from their families and communities, just to own a home.

The good news is that the bill before us today would allow tribal governments to lease the land directly, reducing the approval time and making this process much easier for Native Americans to buy homes on tribal land. The tribes would initially receive approval for

their own leasing regulations from the Secretary of Interior, and could then process lease applications internally, rather than having them all be processed by the BIA. This leasing structure would also encourage community and economic development on tribal lands, and spur renewable energy development in Indian Country. Tribal governments will be able to control their own land and direct the necessary resources to construct community centers and fill commercial spaces. This tribal control is critical, and I wholeheartedly support it and encourage my colleagues to join me in voting yes.

This bill is badly needed so that Native Americans do not have to endlessly wait to pursue the American dream. As a member of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 205.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE "WELCOME HOME" VIETNAM VETERANS CELEBRATION

#### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the selfless service of the Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery who celebrated their 20th anniversary on December 17, 2011 of bringing honor and dignity to the burial services of our veterans.

The Memorial Services Detachment is an all volunteer group composed of retired and former military service members who have committed themselves to ensuring that all military veterans interred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery receive proper burial honors. The Memorial Services Detachment provides a final gesture of honor to our nation's veterans at no expense to the veterans' families.

The group was founded on December 17, 1991 to address the budget cutbacks that occurred in the late 1980s that caused the Department of Defense to restrict full military burial honors to individuals dying while on active duty and those who were fully retired. Since its inception, the Memorial Services Detachment has ensured that all deceased veterans' families receive the solace and comfort that these burial honors provide.

The Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston's continued service to our country has received national recognition from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania which bestowed the group with the George Washington Honor Medal for their adult community volunteer service. The Memorial Services Detachment was also honored as the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County's Volunteer of the Year in the military-community category in 2009.

I would again ask you to join me in congratulating the Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on their 20th anniversary of service to our nation's veterans.

HONORING THE CARROLL HIGH  
SCHOOL NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLAR FINALISTS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with exceptional pride that I recognize Brian Bourcy, Colin Kantor, Patrick Liu, Conner O. Mitchell, Lauren Rutherford, Christian Shannon and Hannah Walcek, each of whom is a National Merit Scholar Finalist from Carroll Senior High School.

Every year, approximately 1.5 million high school students take the Preliminary SAT, which doubles as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The test is a preview to the SAT and covers reading, writing, and math. Students who do exceptionally well become competitive in the National Merit Scholarship Program. To be a National Merit Scholar semifinalist is a well-recognized achievement that tends to open many doors in a student's academic life. To become a finalist requires another level of application and assessment, and only 15,000 students nationwide (1% of the total entrants) reach this prestigious level.

I am so pleased to convey that seven students from Carroll Senior High have earned their way to become National Merit Scholar Finalists. Their accomplishment is truly a rare one and is a testament to their brilliance and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Brian Bourcy, Colin Kantor, Patrick Liu, Conner O. Mitchell, Lauren Rutherford, Christian Shannon and Hannah Walcek on their becoming National Merit Scholar Finalists.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF  
SANFORD WEBSTER

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary man, a revered Palo Alto, a loving husband, a devoted father, a proud soldier, an investor, risk taker, athlete, a lover of fun, a storyteller and generous philanthropist. Sanford (Sam) H. Webster embodies the best of what our community, the heart and home of Silicon Valley, is all about.

The life of Sam Webster is the saga of nearly a century of accomplishment. From West Point, to parenthood, to pistachios; from Wimbledon to World War II; from the Joint Chief's office to the golf course; from real estate investing, to tangerine growing, to basketball; to Miss Gamble's lovely benefactress and to countless recipients of his and Kim's extraordinary generosity. He has done it all with a smile, with a zest for life and a twinkle in his famous blue eyes. He is a grand gentleman and one I'm proud to honor today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Sam Webster's extraordinary military service to our nation. He served our country with distinction in the Army for 22

years after completing his education at the United States Military Academy, retiring with the rank of Colonel.

I recently contacted the Secretary of the Army on his behalf, asking that he be awarded the Legion of Merit. He was honored with the Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant in 1958 because "he distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as Deputy Chief, Combat Surveillance Department, United States Army Electronic Proving Ground, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, during the period 18 June 1954, to 30 April 1957." His efforts resulted in an effective Battlefield Surveillance capability for the 1956 Field Army through the use of drones.

In light of the extensive and pervasive use of drones for surveillance since Colonel Webster's Army service, I respectfully requested Secretary McHugh's review of the record to determine whether Colonel Webster can now be awarded the Legion of Merit. Having worked to correct an armed forces medal injustice many times, I know that the process can be unreasonably long. By acknowledging in this body the importance of Colonel Webster's work, we acknowledge in a most public and permanent way that his contributions to our nation's expertise at reconnaissance have saved thousands of lives, added to our ability to root out those who would do us harm, and added to our military arsenal. His brilliant work must never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Sam Webster. While we cannot dispense medals, pin ribbons on lapels, nor convey military rank, we can recognize excellence, applaud honorable work, salute valor and stand in praise of a true American hero, Colonel Sam Webster. He has earned our respect and gratitude for all he has done to strengthen our country.

HONORING THE GOLDEN GATE  
BRIDGE

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, a modern architectural marvel and a landmark that defines California and the West Coast. Since its opening on May 27, 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge has stood as a symbol of human potential—a triumph of ingenuity, creativity, and progressive vision that complements the beauty of our natural surroundings and enriches life in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since the Gold Rush first brought American settlers to the San Francisco Bay Area, residents have been interested in the idea of linking the Bay Area with a bridge spanning the Golden Gate. A single span would bring together the northern and southern halves of the greatest natural port on the West Coast, easing transportation and spurring economic growth across Northern California. For years, though, the task was considered too costly and too complicated to realize.

By the 1920s, engineers had become more confident that technological advances made a fixed link feasible, and San Francisco City Engineer Michael O'Shaughnessy launched an

effort to make the proposal a reality. In 1921, Joseph Strauss—later the Chief Engineer of the Golden Gate Bridge—submitted his first designs. After they were made public, communities on both sides of the Golden Gate began lining up behind the plan. Under the leadership of Santa Rosa businessman Frank Doyle, a public coalition formed in Sonoma County with representatives from across the North Coast, all pushing for the Strauss design. In 1923, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District Act, authored by Senator Frank Coombs of Napa, passed in the California Legislature. In 1924, Marin and San Francisco Counties submitted a joint application to the War Department for permission to build on the federally owned headlands at each end of the strait. Permission was granted by the end of that year.

In 1929, the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District met for the first time, with members from San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Del Norte Counties. Strauss was named Chief Engineer, and the Oakland-based architect Irving Morrow was appointed to consult on the final plans. Morrow would become famous for crafting a design in harmony with the rugged coast, balancing graceful Art Deco features with strong lighting and powerful lines. Morrow was also responsible for convincing authorities to accept the radical choice of painting the entire Bridge in the now-famous international orange.

While the Great Depression deepened, work forged ahead. In 1930, casting aside fears that infrastructure was an unwise long-term investment, District voters overwhelmingly approved a bond measure using their own homes, ranches, and vineyards as collateral. By 1934, the first tower—the Marin tower—was complete. By 1936, both towers and the cable spinning were complete, and over 1,000 workers were employed in the construction. In April 1937, ahead of schedule and under budget, the Bridge was ready for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The first to cross on foot was a young runner from Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley. The first to cross by car was none other than Santa Rosa's Frank Doyle, the business leader widely credited with uniting Northern Coast residents behind the endeavor.

In the 75 years since its opening, the Golden Gate Bridge has borne witness to millions of lives, and to many changes in the Bay Area. The Bridge is a crucial route to work and school, a magnet for global tourism, and a center for recreation that links two jewels in the federal park system. It is a demonstration of American labor and engineering. It is a theater for advocacy and protest. For many soldiers sailing into the Second World War, it was their last memory of home. For new Americans emigrating from Asia and the Pacific, it is their first welcome to a new future. The Golden Gate Bridge is more than a modern wonder of architecture and engineering—it is at the heart of what it means to live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, and in thanking all those who have fought for, built, and stewarded the Bridge over the years. We also owe a special debt to the eleven workers who were killed and the many others who were injured in the course of the construction. The Bridge is a testament to their dedication and expertise,