

honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on May 23 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Robert Agramonte, Anthony P. Barrett, Raymond J. Bayster, Kenneth I. Beardsley, Howard B. Blumenthal, William Brandfon, Robert Chapman Buckley, Carl C. Burgess, John W. Capron, James P. Carney, Irwin E. Chukerman, Otto Gabriel Chvosta, Frederick A. Coleman, John Fred Corradetti, Edward Cygan, William J. Darras, Francis J. Dawson, Everett L. Dean, David R. Denis, Elaine L. Detweiler, G. Grant Duncan, Edward A. DuVernay, William J. Eisler, Jr., Harris J. Enervold, Victor F. Erdelac, Charles P. Esposito, Raymond Farley, Clyde F. Friedman, George F. Gebes, Louis Joseph Giannini, Howard Gilbert, Richard D. Golden, Joseph H. Gondek, Robert Fred Groen, Frederick L. Hanson, Hubert K. Hawbecker, Edwin J. Helman, George Hewitt, Harold M. Hogueisson, James M. Holec, Edward J. Hollowed, Richard Casper Hoogenboom, Raymond P. Hynek, Julius Jackson, Albert S. Jacobson, Kenneth Jahnke, Richard J. Kalina, Benjamin F. Kelly, Thomas Stanley Ketcik, John H. Klingberg, Max Kolpas, Albert Kreitzer, Lenon Lathan, Kenneth Lawrence, William Leonard, Samuel David Levine, Edward F. Lobus, Emil L. Martino, Rufus E. Meeks, Marion Messman, Ernest P. Meszaros, Walter G. Moeller, James P. Moffett, Ralph Mollo, Jerome Moss, Jr., William Mossman, Robert E. Murray, Edward Obrochta, John Pankovich, Charles V. Parker, Michael Pill, Carlton Hunt Prinderville, Theodore Purvin, Raymond F. Puszczan, Carl M. Qualeatti, John Thomas Quinn, Louis T. Rivard, Benjamin S. Rosales, Edward J. Rudenga, Walter S. Rybicki, Lawrence N. Sands, Jr., Vaile J. Scott, Vernon P. Seiler, Marguerite K. Smith, Eli Sobat, George F. Soukup, Paul B. Stoxen, Richard Earl Taylor, Joseph E. Tierney, Fred H. Tolzien, Dennis Trettel, Harold S. Troupin, Robert G. Wachholz, Edward C. Williams, Jr., Joseph T. Zich.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MITCHELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my loyal district administrator, Bob Mitchell, in honor of his retirement after dedicating more than 32 years as my right-hand-man, my confidant, political adviser and tireless ambassador for southern and eastern Kentucky.

Bob Mitchell is arguably one of the greatest political advisers in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He understands the power of partnerships, regionalization and communication, yet never underestimates the importance of gratitude and humility.

His father, the late Murrell Mitchell, who served as a member of the Knox County School Board, as well as three terms as a Knox County Magistrate, inspired Bob's political interests and philanthropic heart. It is thus his courage of conviction that has driven his work to transform southern and eastern Kentucky and improve the quality of life in our rural region.

With Bob Mitchell at the helm of all district projects, thousands of families now have access to clean water and sanitation systems, are protected by flood-control projects and live without the fear of yearly floods, have better roads to travel on, and have good-paying, stable jobs. He also helped launch and provide guidance to non-profit organizations like the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation for job creation, Forward in the Fifth for education, The Center for Rural Development, TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky to promote tourism, PRIDE for environmental education and clean-ups, as well as Operation UNITE in fighting drug abuse.

Countless organizations and political candidates have coveted Bob Mitchell's impeccable leadership skills. He has served on a litany of boards from financial institutions to non-profit organizations and assisted with campaigns from county seats to Presidential hopefuls. His legacy will continue to flourish from the seeds of wisdom, hope, and inspiration he has planted across our great Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and my partner, Bob Mitchell, on his retirement. My wife, Cynthia and I wish Bob and his wife, Nancy all the best in the years to come.

HONORING CITY OF ORANGE MAYOR WILLIAM BROWN CLAYBAR

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant that I have had the honor to know and work with.

A native and lifelong resident of Orange, Texas, William Brown Claybar is more than just a Mayor, he is a community leader. Brown Claybar runs a small business the community has relied on for more than three decades. While serving our community at city hall, he is also serving our Lord and his flock in many varied roles at the First United Methodist Church.

A graduate of Lutch Stark High School and Stephen F. Austin State University, Brown Claybar pursued further studies at the Commonwealth College of Mortuary Science and Rice Institute—Advanced Management Institute. A Past President of the South East Texas Funeral Directors Association, he has also chaired the Legislative Committee for the Texas Funeral Directors Association, served as Secretary of the Selected Independent Funeral Directors, a board member of the Great-

er Orange Area Chamber of Commerce and served as a former President and trustee of the West Orange-Cove Consolidated Independent School District.

It is impossible to name all his civic and community service, because the list is so long—the 1999 Community Builders Award from Madison Lodge 126 AF & AM and the Texas Grand Lodge of Texas, the 2002 distinguished Christian Service Award from Salem United Methodist Church, the 2003 Velma Jeter Scholarship Foundation Humanitarian Award, the 2008 Torch Award from the Beavement Chamber of Commerce and the April 2011 "Person of the Year" award from The Record Newspaper.

While he's proud of his many forms of service, his community is now taking a moment to let him know how proud we all are of him and how honored we all are that his wife Linda and their children and grandchildren have so willingly shared him with the town they all love so much.

When Brown Claybar says he has "thoroughly enjoyed" being Mayor, he means it. Through two severe hurricanes, Mayor Claybar has managed Orange's "competing interests" with a steady grace and a very large dose of common sense. While understanding the impossibility of "being all things to all people," Mayor Claybar has been the glue that has kept Orange together in tough times. His town will miss him. His staff will miss him. I will miss him.

Orange is a unique community that has faced difficulty with a humble and stalwart determination. That is also a fit description for Mayor Claybar who has helped the Golden Triangle's jewel navigate a tough start to the 21st century following Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

After a decade as mayor of Orange, William Brown Claybar is leaving city hall a stronger place than he found it. That truly is the highest compliment a Mayor can pay a community he loves so much.

CONGRATULATING DELORES HUERTA FOR BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delores Huerta for being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation's highest civilian honor and I cannot think of anyone in this country more deserving of this distinction than Delores Huerta.

A lifelong labor leader and civil rights activist, Delores Huerta's activism has helped redefine the way laborers in California and across the country are treated. From fighting to ensure safer working conditions to negotiating better salaries, Delores Huerta's influence extends far beyond California's San Joaquin Valley. Her unparalleled drive and dedication embody the spirit of activism that keeps our country moving forward.

In 1962, Delores Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers Union with labor legend Cesar Chavez. As part of their struggle to ensure that farm workers receive a fair wage and

safe working conditions, the UFW led a worldwide grape boycott that helped secure farm workers a seat at the table in contract negotiations.

In 1963, Delores Huerta was successful at securing Aid for Dependent Families and disability insurance for farm workers in California. Delores Huerta's hard work and determination also paid off in 1975 when the California State Legislature enacted the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which gave farm workers in California the right to organize and bargain for better pay and safer working conditions.

At the age of 82, Delores Huerta continues to fight for social justice, giving a voice to the working poor throughout the country. Through the Delores Huerta Foundation, a non-profit she established in 2002, Ms. Huerta is helping to train a new generation grassroots organizers who are committed to the same ideals and principles she has fought for throughout her lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, not only is Delores Huerta a role model to a new generation of civil rights activists, but she remains an inspiration to those who grew up in the '60s and '70s, myself included.

I urge my colleagues in joining me to congratulate Delores Huerta for being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

TRIBUTE TO THE ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF THE VALLEY OF SYRACUSE

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse upon the occasion of celebrating 150 years of service to the Syracuse, New York community and surrounding areas.

The Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse operates within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America and is comprised of four separate Bodies: Central City Lodge of Perfection, Central City Council Princes of Jerusalem, Central City Chapter of Rose Croix, and Central City Consistory. Each of these four Central City Bodies has been active in Syracuse and nearby areas since 1862.

Scottish Rite Masons are a diverse group of Brothers who come from all walks of life, cultures, religious backgrounds, and careers.

Today, with 750 members in the Valley of Syracuse, The Scottish Rite of Free Masonry supports Schizophrenia research, provides college scholarships to members and their children, and supports many charities and organizations, particularly the Children's Dyslexia Center of Central New York.

It is important that we recognize organizations like the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse for their dedicated service to the community as well as their rich history and involvement in the shaping of the State of New York and the United States of America.

It is with privilege that I pause in my legislative deliberations to congratulate and thank the Scottish Rite of the Valley of Syracuse on their 150th Anniversary.

HONORING JAMES L. LITTLEJOHN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Ninety years ago on May 16, 1922, a tenacious man of God was born in St. Ann's Jamaica West Indies; and

Whereas, Mr. James L. Littlejohn, born to Georgianna and Nehemiah Littlejohn, grew up in Jamaica where he met and married his sweetheart Millicent and to their union two children were born, Barbara and Gilbert; and

Whereas, Mr. Littlejohn has shared his time and talents as a Husband, Father and Motivator, giving the citizens of Jamaica, England and the United States a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all advancing the lives of others, through service at Brooklyn Baptist Church (1975) in New York and since 2002 at Peace Baptist Church in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Littlejohn has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mr. Littlejohn along with his family and friends are celebrating a remarkable milestone, his 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Littlejohn on his birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 16, 2012 as Mr. James L. Littlejohn Day in Georgia's 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO DAN AGUILAR

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero, Dan Aguilar of Palm City, Florida. Dan has been awarded the Silver Plaque International Alpine Solidarity Award, given to individuals who have risked their lives to save others in dangerous mountain accidents. Dan is a well-known mountain rescuer who deserves both the admiration and the praise of this body.

Dan grew up in Dallas, Texas, where he resided for 18 years. After graduating from Crozier Tech High School, he served in the US Army for four years. Upon returning to the United States, he moved to Vail, Colorado where he began his now renowned career in mountain rescue. Dan's love for the mountains has seen him travel the globe and conquer the most dangerous alpine trails in the world. What's more, his mountain climbing adventures have taken him to Mexico, Ecuador, Alaska, and Argentina. But it is not his accomplishments as a climber or mountain hiker that have earned him this prestigious award, but rather it is his courage as a mountain rescuer.

In the early 1980's, Dan suffered the crushing loss of a dear friend that completely changed his view of climbing. For some time he was unable to even fathom climbing again, but this experience eventually drove him to the line of work that has made him a living legend. He has been a member of the Vail Mountain Rescue Group in the nearly three decades since.

For Dan, saving the life of another seems to come naturally. In fact, this award is not the first time he has received recognition for his devotion to helping others. He was also awarded the Mountain Rescue Association's Outstanding Individual Service Award. In all, it is estimated that Dan has been involved in around 500 different rescue missions since his involvement with Mountain Rescue. His advanced rescue skills have also been utilized in rescues on Mt. Rainier in Washington, the Pamirs in Russia, and the Aconcagua in South America.

Dan's dedication and incredible compassion to help others have earned him a legendary reputation and the admiration of people around the world. According to Tim Cochrane, a fellow member of Mountain Rescue, in an article in The Vail Daily by Tamara Miller, "Aguilar is the first volunteer rescuer in North America to win the award."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Florida and the U.S. Congress, I congratulate Dan on this distinguished and well-deserved award. He is a great American who deserves our gratitude and praise.

Dan, your community, State, and Nation are proud of you.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JOEL OSTEEEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it was indeed an honor to have Pastor Joel Osteen serve as a guest Chaplain to open the house on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 with prayer for members of the House and for our nation. I also take this opportunity to wish Pastor Osteen, his wife Victoria, their family and entire organization well as they prepare and implement a major outpouring of religious favor this week in Washington DC area.

The ability to fill the DC Stadium with people for religious praise and worship is indeed leadership and I commend Rev. Joel Osteen for being able to provide a great deal of that.

TRIBUTE TO SHELDON KOTZIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of a