

Our men and women who served in combat and support roles did not ask for that war; yet, they answered the nation's call with honor and conviction. They put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risked their lives for all humanity in order to preserve freedom and defeat evil. They personified the words, "Greatest Generation." Those men had survived the Great Depression, fought and won World War II, returned to America and simply tried to put it all behind them—rebuilding lives, families, and our country.

We are strengthened by their courage and awestruck by their valor. God Bless our veterans and those who gave their lives so that we may live free. Let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they fought, live a life worthy of their sacrifice, and work tirelessly to preserve our cherished way of life.

RECOGNIZING JUNE AS LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National LGBT Pride Month. Our greatest strength is its promise of equality for every citizen, and we have made significant progress in ensuring that promise is kept regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

As a proud member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, I am committed to extending full rights to all Americans, repealing discriminatory laws, and eliminating hateful violence.

This past year has brought many changes in law and policy, and there have been noticeable changes in public discourse as well. Last year, the military repealed its discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and a federal circuit court ruled last week that the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. President Obama's historic endorsement of same-sex marriage has also moved this country into a new era of progressive thinking and equal rights for all.

The 37th District of California has seen incredible movement toward equality and acceptance. I am proud to represent the significant population of gay, lesbian and transgender constituents in my district. This is a community that has become integral to the Long Beach area and continues to give back to the city in many ways.

Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, Inc. is one of the larger philanthropic organizations in the city, and they developed the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade in 1984. They have also granted nearly one million dollars to local non-profit organizations, and organized a toy drive for disabled and disadvantaged children in conjunction with catholic charities.

The Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade continues to be the main project for the organization. When it first began its organizers faced death threats and fierce opposition. Today, the parade is the nation's third-largest pride parade and attracts over 75,000 participants annually. It is heralded as one of the district's most popular attractions, and its organizers have helped to foster greater understanding and respect in the community.

During my time in Congress I have supported many different areas of LGBT legislation. I am an original co-sponsor of multiple bills including: the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to prohibit discrimination in the work place; the Equal Access to COBRA Act which guarantees the continuation of health coverage to any qualified beneficiary under an employer's health insurance; and the Reuniting Families Act which supports the core value of keeping all families together regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity together.

I voted to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, and signed the amicus brief declaring the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, and I am proud the Obama Administration will no longer defend section 3 of DOMA. These actions make our country stronger not weaker; they bring our national policies closer to our national ideals; and they affirm that in America it is the content of our character that counts, not immutable characteristics of birth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and American citizens to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the LGBT community across the United States. However, there is still so much more work to be done. Every citizen of this country deserves the same opportunities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Recent events have made momentous gains towards that goal, but let us not forget we still have a long fight ahead of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 297–305 due to a family obligation. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 297, 300, 302, 304, and 305. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 298, 299, 301, and 303.

Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 306–314 due to a family obligation. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 308, 312, 313, and 314. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 306, 307, 309, 310, and 311.

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Ozark Christian College's 70th Anniversary.

Ozark Bible College started out in Bentonville, Arkansas, on June 12, 1942 and two years later relocated to Joplin, Missouri. The name Ozark Christian College was adopted in 1985 when Ozark Bible College merged with Midwest Christian College of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Ozark Christian College offers degree programs that help lay the foundation for their graduates who are called to careers in voca-

tional ministry. Ozark Christian College graduates total more than 14,000 and are serving in 48 states and 40 counties.

Volunteerism is an important characteristic for the school. Ozark Christian College has been serving the Joplin area for 68 years and was heavily involved in helping after Joplin was struck by an EF-5 tornado on May 22, 2011. With open arms, the entire campus was used in a variety of ways from a Red Cross Command Center, to housing for 3,000 volunteers, and to a meeting place for three churches.

The school's motto of "Training Men and Women for Christian Service" has played an important role in the school's 70 year history and will continue to as students answer the call to vocational ministry.

I want to congratulate Ozark Christian College as they celebrate 70 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. SEAN NELSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the good work and achievements of Sean Nelson, who is leaving the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Cleveland. Sean is leaving the VA after nearly a decade of service to the Veterans of North-east Ohio.

Sean Nelson is a 2001 graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, with a degree in Biology and a 2003 graduate of the University of Memphis with a Master of Health Administration. Mr. Nelson began his career at the VA Boston Healthcare System in 2003 as an Administrative Fellow. He transferred to the Cleveland VAMC in 2004.

He held numerous line and staff positions of increasing responsibility in Cleveland, including Chief of Quality and Information Management starting in 2005 and Chief of External Affairs and Facility Planning beginning in 2007. He later served as Assistant Director and Acting Associate Medical Center Director before his appointment as the Deputy Medical Center Director of the Cleveland VAMC in January 2011.

Sean is a graduate of the 2011 Executive Career Field Program and graduate of the 2008 Cleveland Bridge Builders flagship program. He is an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

During his tenure, Sean has been part of the leadership team at the Cleveland VAMC that has overseen tremendous expansion with the opening of the Parma outpatient facility and the growth of the Wade Park facility as it was consolidated with the now-defunct Brecksville hospital. My staff and I have come to depend on Sean's eagerness to serve our nation's veterans and his ability to solve problems.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Sean Nelson much success as he takes his tremendous skills and dedication to service to the next steps in his career.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY F. LYELL

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beverly F. Lyell upon her recent retirement as the Executive Director of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Michigan.

Compassion, commitment, and courage are three words which accurately describe Beverly. Over the past several decades, Beverly has been actively serving communities throughout Michigan. In 1975, she began working for Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Michigan as an assistant supervisor in the Ceramics Department. During her tenure at Goodwill, she worked in a number of different capacities before becoming Executive Director. As Executive Director, she has helped Goodwill attain various certifications, coordinate capital campaigns, and develop successful programs aimed at assisting the physically and mentally impaired and at risk members of our community.

In addition to her work with Goodwill Industries, Beverly has also served as a board member of many other organizations. She has received a number of awards over the years that reflect the respect our community has for her work and her character. In addition to raising their own children, she and her husband, Steve, have served as foster parents and have raised service puppies for the disabled. She is also an active member of her church. Beverly has truly left a mark on the community and improved the quality of life for many. Her character, integrity, and ever-optimistic personality have changed lives forever.

Beverly should be commended for her service to the community and I offer her my best wishes for the future.

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF KTXR
101.3 FM "THE GENTLE GIANT"**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, it was June 13, 1962, when KTXR 101.3 FM "The Gentle Giant" began informing and entertaining the Ozarks audience with great music and special programming.

Under the guidance of local owners Ken and Jane Meyer, what started in the 60s as a 6,000 watt station by 1970 became a 100,000 watt "Class C" FM operation. In 2001, when a bad ice storm brought the KTXR tower down, the Meyers received FCC permission to build the only "Class C-0" tower in the state of Missouri. Soaring 1488 feet above ground, it is Missouri's tallest radio tower with the state's largest coverage, heard throughout mid and southern Missouri, northern Arkansas, parts of Oklahoma, and Kansas.

KTXR is a rarity in Springfield. It is one of the only locally owned and operated FMs in the market. When it signed on the air, KTXR became not only the second FM station in the city but also the second in the state to broadcast in stereo. Jane Meyer was the first woman in Springfield to sell radio advertising

and was the first woman in the state to be a radio station general manager.

While the music on KTXR may have changed over the decades from classical to easy listening to light hits to today's Greatest Hits, there have always been several constants. Jane Meyer decided early on to add "special programs with special appeal." Knowing the volatility and importance of weather in the Ozarks, she hired her own resident meteorologist rather than be dependent on the National Weather Service. Then, 35 years ago Wayne Glenn, "The Old Record Collector," became part of KTXR special programming and has not missed an air shift in all that time.

Possibly the most unique programming decision the Meyers made was to put sports on a music station. While most in the radio broadcast industry would tell you a music/sports format would never work, KTXR has proved them wrong. It started with the Kansas City Royals in the 1970s, and a few years later KTXR became the exclusive radio home of the St. Louis Cardinals in the Ozarks and remains so today. Drury University and Evangel University were two of the local colleges sports programs aired on KTXR in the 70s. In the 80s the station picked up the Missouri State University Bears and KTXR remains the flagship station of the Bears Radio Network. After carrying the Bears for several years it was Jane Meyer's decision to broadcast the Lady Bear basketball games that helped propel them to a nation-high attendance record and in turn she received an invitation to address the NCAA national meeting about marketing women's sports.

Though Jane Meyer passed away in 2001 her influence is still felt not only in the halls of KTXR but throughout the Ozarks. She and Ken Meyer have always served on numerous boards and foundations giving of their time and finances to support the community that has always been supportive of Meyer Communications.

Over the past 50 years Meyer Communications has grown from the humble beginnings of one station to, at any one time, owning several radio and television stations, an outdoor signage company, and an advertising agency. But, it has always been KTXR "The Gentle Giant" that is the heartbeat of the company.

Ken Meyer has stated unequivocally "in my opinion Jane Meyer made KTXR the class station of Springfield. Any way you look at it Jane was the Gentle Giant."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 318 due to a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Matheson of Utah Amendment.

RECOGNIZING HERITAGE MIDDLE
SCHOOL STUDENT ESSAYS**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, eighth grade students from Heritage Middle School in Maryville, Tennessee, recently visited Washington, DC.

Our office gave the students and chaperones a tour of the Capitol, and I received a very nice thank you letter from trip coordinator Patricia Russell and principal Steve Moser.

Along with the thank you note, I was also sent the enclosed four essays from some of the students on the trip. I was so impressed with these essays that I wanted them to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I hope my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD will take a few minutes to read the impressions of these 8th grade students about our Nation's Capital.

MY AMERICAN APPRECIATION

(By Anna Stout)

"In a mountain of despair, there is a stone of hope," said Martin Luther King Jr. I read this quote from the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. This was one of the most significant moments on the whole Washington D.C. trip for me. The trip to D.C. changed my whole of life. I use to take every little thing for granted, like eating and the things I owned. Going to the Holocaust Museum, the Lincoln memorial, and the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial all increased my appreciation for my American heritage.

The Holocaust Museum was probably the saddest, most moving thing I've ever experienced. When you read about what happened in books or on the internet you don't really understand what happened. You kind of just think "yeah that's awful, hope it doesn't ever happen again" but when you see with your own eyes the actual happenings of what Holocaust, it changes you forever. When I walked into the room, and saw hundreds of pairs of shoes, I went into shock. I just stood there and looked at how many there were. It took me a few minutes before I started to look at the individual shoes, the baby shoes, the shoes that were my size, and the shoes that were bigger than my own foot. I was in such shock it took me at least 5 minutes to move, and 10 to stop staring at them all. That change how I look at everything. How I get mad over having "nothing to wear" and they wore rags. Now everything I do, a part of the Holocaust is in my thoughts.

I really liked the Lincoln memorial because Lincoln really fought to keep our Nation together and without that, things today would be way different. Most of us probably would even be here. I use to think that Lincoln started the war to free all the slaves, when really he started the war to keep our united states together. Personally I think he was one of the most successful, helpful presidents ever. And Im glad that there is a memorial built in his honor. To remind the generations to come, about all he did.

Last but not least, the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. I really enjoyed going to this memorial, because I have a lot of respect for Martin Luther King. I think what he did for our nation was an amazing, and very brave thing. He stood up and fought for what he believed in, but he did it peacefully. That sets an amazing example for the people of our time. To not have to use guns and war to solve things is a great accomplishment. "In a mountain of despair, there is a stone of