

until he graduated. Afterwards the Community Students Learning Center hired him to assist in teaching mathematics for their summer program. He spent the entire summer working with the center, and positioned himself to be the recipient of a scholarship from the Congressional Black Caucus.

Donovan attends Jackson State University where he is a senior political science major. While in college he has continued his educational success. He has received numerous awards such as Most Outstanding Student in Political Science both his sophomore and junior year, and being recognized on the Dean's List every year. Last summer, Donovan was accepted to study public policy at Princeton University in the Public Policy and International Affairs program. Upon completion of this program, he received many scholarships to Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Princeton. Donovan is currently finishing his last semester and will be obtaining his B.A. in Political Science. He has also received a scholarship to attend the University of Mississippi School of Law. After graduation, he will be pursuing a career as an attorney.

Donovan owes all of his success to how his journey began. Coming from a small town, and being humbled through his volunteer service has made him the person he is today. He loves to tell his story in hope that it will motivate other young people traveling down a similar path.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Donovan Mitchell, for his humble dedication and determination in making a difference in his community.

RECOGNIZING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Olympic National Park located on the Olympic Peninsula in the great State of Washington. Seventy-five years ago, on June 29, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation that established the Olympic National Park. In the intervening years, the Olympic National Park has become one of the most beloved and visited national parks in the country.

In establishing Olympic National Park, Congress defined the park's purpose as to: "... preserve for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the people, the finest sample of primeval forests of Sitka spruce, western hemlock, Douglas fir, and western red cedar in the entire United States; to provide suitable winter range and permanent protection for the herds of native Roosevelt elk and other wildlife indigenous to the area; to conserve and render available to the people, for recreational use, this outstanding mountainous country, containing numerous glaciers and perpetual snow fields and a portion of the surrounding verdant forest together with a narrow string along the beautiful Washington coast."

The park combines three different communities into one—an extensive old-growth rain forest, mountains topped with glaciers, and miles of untarnished Pacific Ocean coast. In

recognition of these areas, the World Heritage Convention named Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site, and the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization heralded the park as an International Biosphere Reserve.

Olympic National Park has something that both tourists and scientists alike can marvel at—more than 650 archeological spots detailing 12,000 years of human life.

The Olympic National Park stands as a testament to the diverse heritage of America. As it has been for the last 75 years, Olympic National Park will be protected and preserved for generations.

Mr. Speaker, our country is a better place because of the special landscapes like Olympic National Park. I commend the work of M. Sarah Creachbaum, the Superintendent of Olympic National Park, park staff, National Park Service, and all fellow citizens who have dedicated time, resources, and energy to protect and preserve this biological and historical treasure. I am pleased today to recognize the Olympic National Park in the United States Congress.

HONORING ALBERT RAMSEY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Albert Ramsey has led the Yonkers Department of Veterans Services since 2000 modernizing an office and bringing new services to help the approximately 18,000 veterans and their dependents in the City of Yonkers. And today I am proud to join with Yonkers in honoring Albert Ramsey as a veteran who served 28 years in the United States Air Force.

Our nation's freedom has been preserved by members of the Armed Forces, and they continue to do so today. As a Member of Congress, I have consistently supported veterans and our servicemen and women. They deserve no less from us. We owe the preservation of our freedoms and our way of life to the veterans who proudly served their country.

Albert Ramsey advocates for and assists veterans and their families helping them to access services and benefits and to receive their deserved recognition. He strives to educate the community about veterans' needs and their many contributions to and sacrifices for our nation.

Prior to his joining the City of Yonkers, he was a Service Officer at the New York State Division of Veteran's Affairs and a board member of the Veterans Coalition of the Hudson Valley. His work was recognized by the New York American Legion who awarded him their Service Officer of the Year Award.

He joined the Air Force upon graduating from high school. He earned three Associate Degrees and completed both the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and the Senior NCO Academy during his service. He retired from the USAF in 1990 and graduated with Distinction from Nyack College with a G.P.A. of 3.86 in 1995. He lives with his wife of eleven years Charlene.

I am proud to join with the City of Yonkers in honoring Albert Ramsey on Veterans Appreciation Day for his service to his country

and his outstanding work in helping his fellow veterans and their families.

HONORING MS. BRENDA LASHAY TURNER-BUCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Brenda Lashay Turner-Buck, a remarkable worker, who is changing her community.

Brenda Lashay Turner-Buck was born September 30, 1966 to Rev. and Mrs. Percy Turner. She is the second of three children. Brenda does have an older brother, Vincent, and a younger sister, Tammie. Brenda learned the importance of independence since she was a middle child.

Brenda graduated from Jefferson High School as Salutatorian of her class in 1984. She enrolled at Alcorn State University in Agriculture Economics and received her B.S. in 1987, followed by her Master's in 1992.

Throughout Brenda's entire life, she has truly lived and breathed the importance of "community." Being a "Preacher's Kid," it was hard not to be surrounded by people with so many needs and the opportunity to gain extended family. During high school she took on the role of President of the FFA and helped to coordinate many outreach projects. College was not different because it was an opportunity to spread her wings and learn more to bring back to the community.

For over a span of 18 years, Brenda worked at Alcorn State University in different capacities. She started as a recruiter for the university in 1988 and served as Director of the Center for Rural Life and Economic Development until 2006. She feels that God led her to her alma mater to serve as a beacon of light for many young people and families. During her tenure at the university, she was able to recruit hundreds of students and become one of the founders of AG-HOPE (Agriculture—Helps Our People Earn). The program allowed over 275 young people from rural America the opportunity to see the other side of Agriculture, Food Science, and Technology.

Today, many of them are outstanding employees of Fortune 500 companies and the USDA. In 2000, the late President Clinton Bristow, Jr., made an administrative appointment and named Ms. Buck as Director of the Center for Rural Life and Economic Development and Executive Director of Traceway Community Development Corporation. This appointment took her to another stepping stone in her career. Being a part of the Institutional Advancement, Planning and Research under the leadership of Dr. Franklin Jackson, Brenda was part of writing over 3 million dollars in grants for outreach in Southwest Mississippi. Many of the dollars provided better living conditions for families and spurred economic growth through small business development.

For years, Brenda prayed that God would show her true calling and purpose. Little did she know that she was already living it every day by making a difference in the lives of those that were less fortunate.

After six years of traveling through Southwest Mississippi, Brenda saw the need to return to her home and roll up her sleeves. October 2, 2006, Brenda returned to Jefferson County as Administrator. The six year journey has been a goal of hers to bring opportunities to the communities. Being a part of over 4 million dollars in funded grants, the community now has a new walking track, funds for a new library, and many other community services. Modest in her doing, Brenda always believes that it was God who placed her to serve the public and she's going to do just that.

Brenda didn't stop in Jefferson County. In October 2012, she was selected as the County Administrator of Claiborne County, Mississippi. She has always considered it as a second home.

Brenda is the mother of four wonderful children—Vincent Delon, Brittany, Brandy, and Tyrese.

She is a dedicated member of the Greenleaf Baptist Church, where she serves in the choir and as president of the Youth Department. She believes in the order of God first, then family and third, her career. Brenda is a team player and encourages everyone around her to reach their greatest given potential because they are unique creations of God. At the end of the day, it's not about the title she wears, but the ability to know that someone in the community is living just a little bit better because of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Brenda Lashay Turner-Buck for her dedication and determination to take on the challenges of her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2013 to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. The bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian shall be considered a federal agency.

The bill complements my Smithsonian Modernization Act and my Smithsonian Free Admission Act. I introduce these three bills today to make the Smithsonian accountable for the annual federal appropriations it receives, which account for 70 percent of its budget. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and has always been treated as a federal agency. However, in the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. Indeed, the Smithsonian's website clearly states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This lack of transparency is of great concern, particularly in light of the Smithsonian's recent history of secrecy and corruption. In

2007, an independent review found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight, had overcompensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian now has new leaders, who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, its transparency should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by the federal government must be accountable to the American people. The American people have a right to know that their interests are being served.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

LETTER WRITTEN BY CHRISTINA BONARRIGO

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT,
Gainesville, FL, June 5, 2013.

Hon. CORRINE BROWN,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: A well-educated workforce is essential to the growth of our country. I firmly believe that higher education is what drives our economy and gives our country its competitive advantage in the current global economy. As the colleges and universities in the United States make progress towards curing cancer and finding alternative energy sources, the cost of a college degree has increased progressively.

According to the SFA Funds Management Report from the University of Florida, over 10,000 students have received \$37,122,091 in subsidized Stafford Loans. Across the board, the cost of a college degree has increased by more than 1,000 percent in the past 35 years and many students simply cannot bear the cost of a college degree.

I do not want to see student loan rates increase, but I recognize the need for long-term solutions to the problems that students face. I, along with the 50,000+ students at the University of Florida, support a bipartisan solution that will contribute to the success of students and support them in today's economy. This is an issue that we care about and it is a discussion that we want to be a part of.

Economics teaches us that stability is one of the greatest influences in any market. Students need to be able to plan for the financial responsibilities of college and a stable loan market is crucially important to providing stability and security. I think that everyone can agree that students should be

focused on their education and college graduates should be focused on their career. Unfortunately, the current loan crisis has students and graduates focused on the amount of money they owe instead of studying and contributing to the nation's economy.

Ensuring that all stakeholders' voices are heard during the discussion is our main priority in finding a long-term solution to student loan rates. We are receptive to entertaining different possible solutions until the best one is found. Students and their families deserve financial stability instead of crippling adjustments or rate increases that would hinder their success. I look forward to discussing this issue with members from the state of Florida, and would gladly share my viewpoint with other Members of Congress.

Go Gators,

CHRISTINA BONARRIGO,
Student Body President,
University of Florida.

HONORING FRANK R. SULLO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history our freedom has been preserved by members of the Armed Forces, and they continue to do so today. As a Member of Congress, I have consistently supported veterans and servicemen and women. They deserve no less from us. We owe the preservation of our freedoms and our way of life to the veterans who proudly served their country.

Today I join the City of Yonkers at its annual Veterans Appreciation Day in honoring Frank R. Sullo, who served his country as an Army infantryman in Vietnam and who received the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He is a long time resident of Yonkers who attended Public School 18 and graduated from Yonkers High School. He is an active member of the Empire Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 375, and is a member of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans.

With his wife, Pearl, and their children, Nicole and Frank, he has a lifetime of accomplishments that has enhanced his city. I am proud to join the City of Yonkers in honoring Frank Sullo, and thank him for his heroic service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DEUNTAE SHEARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Deuntae Sheard, a dedicated student, who is making the difference in his community.

Deuntae Sheard was born in Jackson, MS, on May 23, 1993, to the proud parents of Freddie and Elaine Sheard. Elaine is a head-start teacher and Freddie is a deputy for the local sheriff's department. Deuntae is the youngest of three children, Freddie Jr. and Spartel.