

single-employer program, with the exception that preretirement survivor annuities are forfeitable in multiemployer plans if the participant has not died as of the termination date.

The debate over how to best provide income security for older Americans will continue for some time. However, in the meantime, it is unconscionable that a widow or widower would be denied the modest benefits provided under the PBGC multiemployer plan simply because his or her spouse did not die before the plan was turned over to the PBGC.

This discrepancy appears inadvertent and deserves to be corrected by Congress. I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation so we can address this issue quickly.

HONORING KRISTINA “KRISTY”  
MARIE SERMERSHEIM

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Kristina “Kristy” Marie Sermersheim. I first met Kristy more than 30 years ago. I was a brash candidate for office not backed by the establishment and not expected to win. Kristy was a union activist who didn’t know the meaning of the word “no”. Together we challenged the conventional wisdom. Voters decided that an emphasis on children and families was what they cared about. I was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County. That same year, in 1981, she became a full-time Service Employees International Union (SEIU) staff member.

The financial roof fell in on the county shortly thereafter, the impact of Proposition 13. Neither of us wanted a reduction in services to people in need. But we faced the imperative of reductions.

We worked together to cut the budget, to make sure that as we dealt with the budget reality we protected the most vulnerable and never scapegoated our employees. Kristy Sermersheim proved her bona fides in those tough times. She was smart, pragmatic but idealistic. She had values. She stood up for her members and she stood up for those in need. She was a star.

She continued to represent workers for another 32 years. As a passionate advocate for workers’ rights, she held a range of positions on various local, state, national, and international organizations, including SEIU Local 715, SEIU International Union, South Bay American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO) Labor Council, California Labor Federation, SEIU Public Services Division, and SEIU California State Council. Kristy assumed the leadership role of SEIU local 715, the largest union representing employees of Santa Clara County.

Born in New Albany, Indiana, during elementary school, her family lived in Michigan, San Diego, and Long Beach, California. In 1961, her family moved to San Jose. In 1967, she graduated from Leigh High School. Kristy’s good grades earned accolades as a National Merit Scholar Finalist and she was voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by her classmates. After she graduated, she took classes at San Jose State University and began work-

ing as a Santa Clara County Social Services Eligibility Worker in the Welfare Department.

Kristy has devoted her life to social justice and workers’ rights. She served 11 years as a member leader for the Santa Clara County Employees Association.

As head of the former SEIU Local 715 in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, Kristy expanded the union from 5,000 members working for four employers to more than 30,000 members with over 20 different contracts. She led the consolidation of five unions, including Local 715, to form the new SEIU Local 521. As Chief Elected Office of SEIU 521, she fought on behalf of 57,000 workers throughout North and Central California. Under her leadership, the County of Santa Clara and SEIU negotiated an \$80 million settlement that established pay equity by removing discrimination in wage-setting for women and people of color.

We worked together for rights for women. Kristy helped make sure that the union represented a female worker in the county roads department in an affirmative action case that went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. County government was her partner in the case. I remember so well listening to the oral arguments on that case as a young County Supervisor. We were proud that local government and the union were partners in the quest for equal rights for women.

The case confirmed that government agencies must consider previous discrimination history as well as qualifications when making hiring decisions. In recognition of over 40 years of contributions to the social and political advancement of women, Kristy was awarded the South Bay AFL–CIO Labor Council’s 2012 COPE Award for Service Above Self.

Throughout her career, Kristy worked together with public workers to obtain improvements in working conditions, wages, and benefits. She forged alliances with other unions and community groups to improve public services to the residents union members serve. Kristy is now retired and lives in Morgan Hill with her two sisters, Andrea and Teresa. The three sisters have collectively raised their brother’s children after he passed away. They live with their niece Flori, a little dog, and three cats. In her retirement, Kristy wants to help the developmentally disabled community and volunteer where she can make a difference. I join in honoring her decades of contribution and service to the betterment of our society. The community is very fortunate to have benefited from her advocacy, dedication, and leadership. She has left her mark in the community and I know she will continue to play a positive role.

COMMEMORATING THE 21ST ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE KHOJALY  
MASSACRE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Khojaly massacre perpetrated by Armenian armed forces on February 25–26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly, now under the oc-

cupation of Armenian armed forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Khojaly, once the home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed. Six hundred thirteen people were killed, of which 106 were women, 83 were children and 56 were purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. In addition, 1,275 people were taken hostage, 150 went missing and 487 people became disabled. Also in the records maintained, 76 of the victims were teenagers, 8 families were wiped out and 25 children lost both of their parents while 130 lost one of their parents. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the Armenian Armed forces were reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

At the time, Newsweek magazine reported: “Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped.”

As part of the Khojaly population that tried to escape, they encountered violent ambushes that led to abuses, torture, mutilation and death. The Russian organization, Memorial, stated that 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days.

Time magazine published the following description: “While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.”

The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. This anniversary reminds us of the need to redouble efforts to help resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group should intensify its efforts to reach a resolution of this protracted conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly.

TERRITORIAL SEA

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will return to the people of the Northern Marianas ownership of the three

miles of submerged lands surrounding each of our islands. In doing so, this bill also puts the management of these lands back in the hands of those who have the greatest interest in protecting the natural resources there and in developing their economic potential—the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I say “return” because, until 2005, we believed we owned these lands around our islands; and we cared for them accordingly. But in 2005 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that—unlike the case for every other coastal state and territory in our Nation—the submerged lands and waters off our shores did not belong to us, but rather belonged to the federal government.

The Court did acknowledge in its ruling that Congress had the authority to convey these lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and it is that authority that my bill would exercise.

We have been here before. In three previous Congresses legislation has been offered to provide the same ownership of submerged lands to the Northern Mariana Islands as is enjoyed by American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2005 Representative Jeff Flake of Arizona—now Senator Jeff Flake—introduced H.R. 4255 for this purpose. And in 2009, when for the first time the people of the Northern Mariana Islands themselves were represented in this House, I introduced H.R. 934, conveying these lands. That bill passed the House without dissent, 416–0, in July of 2009, but died in the Senate. Again in 2011 I introduced this legislation, as H.R. 670. Again the House passed the bill without dissent, 397–0. Again the Senate failed to act, although the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on a companion measure, S. 590, sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI.

In each Congress each bill introduced on this issue has progressed farther down the legislative track.

I hope the fourth time proves to be the charm.

We know from past action that this House supports local control of these local resources in the Northern Mariana Islands. The Obama Administration has testified in favor of the conveyance. And I can attest that my constituents desire equivalent treatment to other U.S. coastal jurisdictions. So, we just have to give the other body one more opportunity to join in this wide agreement.

Let me add that the cost of the measure I have introduced is nothing and that Congress has the Constitutional authority to enact this bill—two threshold questions that we must always answer.

And let me thank the hundreds of Members who voted in favor of this conveyance in the 111th and 112th Congresses and all those Members who are original co-sponsors of today's measure, which provides the right of ownership and responsibility of management for submerged lands and waters to the Northern Mariana Islands that every other coastal area of our Nation enjoys.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
REVEREND JAMES S. YOUNG

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Reverend James S. Young for his selfless service to the Northwest Florida community.

Reverend Young founded the Pensacola chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference more than 50 years ago after an inspirational meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Birmingham, Alabama. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference not only played a critical role in the civil rights movement, but continues to push for effective policy in four major realms: economic development, education, community empowerment, and technology.

Reverend Young's contributions to the civil rights movement include working closely with local ministers and leaders to organize boycotts throughout the city in order to further their cause for justice. Under his leadership, several ministerial and civil leaders were able to conduct meetings with businesses specifically regarding merchants' discrimination practices. Most notably, Reverend Young was selected to meet with the Supreme Court Judges in Washington, D.C. to participate in a discussion on segregation issues. The list of Reverend Young's accomplishments extends far beyond what is noted here, but they all highlight his devotion to improving the lives of those around him and to bettering his community through service.

In addition to his involvement with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Reverend Young serves as the Dean of the Baptist Ministers Union of Pensacola, the Executive Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration Committee, and senior pastor at Mt. Canaan Ministry Baptist Church. He also offers his leadership and expertise as a member of the NAACP, the Ministerial Association, and the God in Government Committee.

Reverend Young's commitment to service and passion for bettering the lives of others has been recognized through the countless awards bestowed to him; most recently with proclamations from the Pensacola Mayor and County Commission. For the past several decades, Reverend Young has served his community and organization with unwavering dedication. There is no question that Reverend Young has left an invaluable impact on not only Northwest Florida, but to the national human rights and justice movement as well.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to recognize Reverend James S. Young for his lifetime of service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing James and his wife Marie all of the best.

IN HONOR OF WILLIE F. MONDAY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, Bill Monday of Locust, North Carolina, dedicated his life to

the service of his country. His military career and civic service make admirers of all those fortunate enough to have known him.

Bill Monday selflessly volunteered for service in June of 1940 and was sent to Ft. Bragg as part of the 4th Field Artillery Battalion in the United States Army Air Corps.

Bill's long and distinguished career in the Corps began with his enlistment and ended with his promotion to Captain after his skill and commitment to duty qualified him for Officer Candidate School. He went on to qualify and earn his wings as a Field Artillery Liaison Pilot.

During his military career, Bill was stationed throughout the South Pacific though the bulk of the action he saw was in the ferocious campaign for the Philippines in October of 1944. In this campaign Bill's intrepid flying ability allowed him to land on small dirt roads and school yards in order direct fire, provide reconnaissance, and drop supplies to cut off troops. All of this was done with nothing more than a thin layer of plywood to protect him from the rain of anti-aircraft and small arms fire.

It was here, flying up to ten miles behind enemy lines in an unarmed aircraft, that Bill earned a Silver Star in December of 1944. This was followed up by the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters in June and September of 1945.

His Silver Star citation reads: “Flying from short, hazardous fields, he was not able to take an observer with him, but was nonetheless able to make accurate and skilled adjustments of artillery fire. By his outstanding courage and willingness to meet military necessities beyond the call of his normal duties, Lieutenant Monday conducted himself in a manner worthy of the highest traditions of the military service.”

After the war ended, Bill returned to Fort Bragg. After being discharged in August of 1949 he settled in Locust, NC with his wife, Virginia, where he lived a long prosperous life.

Bill loved flying and said that even during wartime there was a peace to flying and that he never felt closer to God than when he was in the air alone. As he is laid to rest, let us hope that he finds that same peace.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to call his extraordinary service and devotion to the United States to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
TED SCHLOSSMAN

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2013*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Ted Schlossman, a great husband, father, and grandfather. He was an outstanding businessman, a volunteer in his community, and a friend of mine. Ted passed away unexpectedly Sunday, January 20, 2013, while attending a conference. I know the contributions he left us with will not be forgotten by his family, friends, or his community.

I had the privilege of knowing Ted for more than 20 years and his dedication and service to the housing industry has truly made a difference. Ted was not only a strong advocate