

to countless individuals that he touched through his service to the people of the East Bay.

John was an active member of our community, serving in several local community groups. He was a proud member of the Hayward Rotary Club for 32 years and served as its president from 2002–2003. In 2005, John was honored as Outstanding Hayward Rotarian of the Year. John also was a member of the boards of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce, the Alameda County Fair, and the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Association.

John operated his small business in Hayward, alongside his beloved wife Robin, since 1976. He always was willing to donate his professional time to many, including the motorcycle units of the Hayward Police Department and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. For his outstanding business practices, John was honored with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce's Inaugural Businessperson of the Year Award in 1989.

John always lived his life by the Rotary International motto of "Service Above Self." A few years ago, John and his family helped start The Dictionary Project, wherein local Rotarians would visit each third grade classroom in Hayward and provide these students with a dictionary to assist them with learning, reading, and academic advancement. This is but one example of John's dedicated service through which he touched and improved the lives of so many of those around him.

John is survived by his wife of 43 years Robin Wilma, daughter Lieutenant Colonel Alisa R. Wilma, brother Charles Wilma, sister-in-law Cindy Wheeler, and brother-in-law Christopher de St. Croix. I am honored to be paying tribute to John today. His tireless efforts and generosity in service to the East Bay community will be missed.

CBC HOUR: IMMIGRATION REFORM

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for highlighting the importance of immigration reform for our community and our country.

Recognizing immigration reform as a key civil rights issue, the CBC continues to be at the forefront of this important topic.

As someone who represents a district with rich cultural diversity, I have witnessed firsthand the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

I have seen families separated by a backlogged visa system, students denied the opportunity to contribute to the country that gave them the tools to succeed and innovate, and LGBT couples unfairly singled out and denied the opportunity to live together within the borders of this country.

Mr. Speaker we need immigration reform because our system is broken. We need it for family unity, for accountability, for fairness and equality, and for the good of our country and economy.

Most importantly we need to create a roadmap to citizenship for the men, women, children, and students living in our country.

These individuals, Americans in every sense of the word but on paper, are just the latest generation of immigrants to contribute to the cultural diversity and vitality of our Nation.

They are hardworking, they are dedicated, and they came here in search of better lives for themselves and their families; their lives are modern-day tales of the American dream and that echo the experiences of the parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents of each one of us.

And now we are at the brink of reforming this broken system and creating one that reflects our values of hard work, family unity, and equity.

Immigration reform will change things for the better, including in those communities that aren't usually at the forefront of this debate: immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean.

And while these immigrant communities aren't typically acknowledged, they have made tremendous contributions to getting us where we are today.

Take for example Shirley Chisholm, my dear friend and mentor, whose father was born in British Guiana and mother in Barbados.

She became the first African American woman elected to Congress and was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. She was also the person who inspired me to take part in the political process when I was just a young college student.

And there are others, like Colin Powell, who was born to Jamaican parents and rose to the ranks of four-star General and Secretary of State.

And Harry Belafonte, the "King of Calypso," was also born to Jamaican parents.

And Maureen Bunyan, a well-known news anchor and founder of the National Association of Black Journalists and the International Women's Media Foundation, who was born in Aruba. And the list goes on and on.

I am also proud to say that my own district is home to a growing community of immigrants and their families from places like Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Caribbean.

They are active contributors to the East Bay region, as well as to a vibrant immigrant community that highlights their distinct cultural backgrounds while emphasizing a strong sense of local unity.

With a new immigration system, members of these communities will finally be able to unite with close family members, many after years and even decades of separation, same-sex binational couples will be able to express their love and obtain status equal to that of their neighbors without being separated by a border wall, and we will have an immigration system that people will go through rather than go around.

We also need to make sure that the new system protects and assists workers by increasing the enforcement of workplace standards and antidiscrimination laws.

It must also include more robust programs for job training, including adult education opportunities and programs for low-wage workers.

Lastly, it must make it easier for individuals to compete for jobs and provide resources to take the workers where the jobs are.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to make this new system a realization and to better the lives of the immigrant groups in my district and throughout the country.

Thank you again to my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for continuing this discussion and working toward a bipartisan solution.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM "BILL" SHERMAN WEEKS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a real American hero and proud resident of the Eighth District of Texas, William "Bill" Sherman Weeks, who was laid to rest in the Houston National Cemetery this week.

It was very fitting that so many from our community joined Mr. Week's friends and family to honor this amazing man who offered over thirty years of service in defense of this nation.

As someone who was playing American Legion baseball and going on Boy Scout campouts at age 14, I can't help but be amazed by Bill Weeks, who at 14 donned this nation's uniform to serve in World War II.

Bill Week's service didn't end with the War to End all Wars; he went on to serve in the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam. His military service has been honored with over 22 ribbons and medals including the Bronze Star with Valor, the Korean Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnamese Honor Medal presented by the Vietnamese government. On top of all of that, he was also awarded a Purple Heart.

Mr. Weeks retired from the Air Force in 1974 as Chief Master Sergeant, and settled in Shenandoah where this devoted family man enjoyed his retirement, especially his time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In an interview with one of our local newspapers, the Conroe Courier, Mrs. Weeks described her husband of 20 years as "...very modest and reserved, not only about himself but also about his time spent serving his country."

"As I'm going through things, I'm sure I'll still find stuff that I didn't know he did," said Mrs. Weeks.

That, my friends, is what's right about America. Bill Weeks was the best of Americans because he showed us what makes a hero with his actions and those actions spoke more than any words ever could.

Americans love their nation and the freedoms we cherish. Some, like Bill Weeks, loved this nation enough to lend this nation the best years of their lives. A hero isn't someone who wins a battle, but who serves others. Mr. Weeks was a great American and a hero.

Our nation is forever in his debt as we are to the millions of Americans who volunteer their service to our nation. We pray God's comfort for this family and honor the memory of this Airman, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who has left such an amazing legacy.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
HELEN DIANE FOSTER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, since Dr. Carter G. Woodson first initiated the idea of Black History Month in 1926, Americans have celebrated the contributions of African-Americans to our country's great history. Their contributions know no boundaries and can be felt in literature, arts, sciences, politics and every other facet of American life.

As the Representative of the Fifteenth Congressional District of New York, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to know and work with New York City Councilmember Helen Diane Foster.

Standing on the shoulders of the brave African American women who fought so hard for their rights, Councilmember Foster is a beacon of inspiration and role model for women of all races. She was born in the Bronx and is the second child of educator Helen Foster and former Councilmember Pastor Wendell Foster. At a very young age she was taught the importance of hard work, civility and public service.

Before running for office, Councilmember Foster attended and graduated from Howard University and the CUNY School of Law. She worked as the Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, served as Assistant Vice President for Legal Affairs at St. Barnabas Hospital. She also happens to be a proud member of the nation's oldest Black sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In November 2001, Councilmember Foster was the first African-American woman elected to the New York City Council from Bronx County. Throughout her tenure as a member of the New York City Council, she has become well-known for her strong work ethic, no nonsense stances on local issues and robust legislative agenda.

It is leaders like Councilmember Foster who are today's inspiration for future generations of African American women. We honor her, along with all of the courageous African American women, past and present, for their courage and tenacity to help create better communities and a better nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in remembering the many strong African American women who have shown us what equality is and how as Americans we all must come together to fight for equality of all races and genders. Today we honor a woman who stands amongst them. Join me in paying tribute to New York City Councilmember Helen Diane Foster and the great African American women who have come before and currently stand beside her.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Of-

fice of the Comptroller of the Currency. The OCC is the oldest regulatory agency in the federal government.

President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the National Currency Act on February 25, 1863. The National Currency Act created a new system of locally owned, federally-chartered and -supervised financial institutions and a new position in the Treasury Department, the Comptroller of the Currency, to oversee their safety and soundness.

The National Currency Act became law during the Civil War, which by 1863 had already proven far more costly in blood and treasure than anyone had imagined at the war's outset. Because the act required newly chartered banks to purchase U.S. government bonds to secure their obligations, it brought millions of dollars to the Treasury, helping to ensure that the troops and those who furnished their food and equipment would not go unpaid.

But for Lincoln, Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, and their allies in Congress, the system ushered in by the National Currency Act was also the fulfillment of a dream to truly unite the country into a vast national market in which a reliable money supply flowed freely from state to state and region to region, stimulating commerce, communication, and a sense of mutual engagement in the enterprise of growth and prosperity for all.

For the past 150 years, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has aided in advancing the great American enterprise. Over that long period, national bank examiners and those who support their work have exemplified professionalism and integrity.

With skill, steadiness, and good judgment, the men and women of the OCC have helped steer the nation's banking system through crisis. During the Great Depression, OCC examiners worked day and night to reorganize banks and reopen them to the public. The banking system went on to play a major part in financing the American war effort between 1941 and 1945, and the rebuilding of the war-torn world thereafter. During the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, the OCC helped shore up the banking system and its recovery, so that banks could resume the vital functions they perform in support of America's businesses and communities.

Since 2011, the OCC has also been responsible for the supervision of federal savings associations, whose support of housing finance has made it possible for millions of Americans to enjoy the benefits of home ownership.

Now, whereas Congress approved, and President Abraham Lincoln signed, the National Currency Act of 1863, creating the federal banking system and the position of Comptroller of the Currency; and whereas the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has served the people of the United States with distinction, ensuring a safe and sound national banking system to support American business, consumers, and communities, Congress hereby congratulates the OCC on its 150th anniversary and wishes it continued success in the accomplishment of its important mission.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce a bill, the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2013, to give District of Columbia residents another element of the self-government enjoyed by all other American citizens. The bill would establish the Office of the District Attorney for the District of Columbia, headed by a district attorney elected by D.C. residents, to prosecute major local criminal laws of the District. Under the Home Rule Act, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, a federal entity, is responsible for prosecuting major local crimes here. The bill effectuates a 2002 advisory referendum, approved by 82 percent of D.C. voters, to create an office of the district attorney, headed by a locally elected district attorney.

There is no law enforcement issue of greater importance to D.C. residents, or on which they have less say, than the prosecution of local crimes here. A U.S. attorney has no business prosecuting the local criminal laws of a jurisdiction, an anachronism that is out of place in 21st century, home-rule D.C. The goal of the legislation is to put the District on par with every other local jurisdiction on local criminal law matters. Under the bill, the locally elected district attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia would continue to handle federal matters, like the other U.S. attorneys in our country. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia is the largest in the country, only because it serves as the local city prosecutor. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia needs to be freed up to handle national security and other vital federal cases, particularly in the post-9/11 nation's capital.

Amending the Home Rule Act to create a local district attorney would be an important step toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION ON AMERICANS LIVING ABROAD ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 8, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, our 4-6 million constituents scattered across the world promote our culture and strengthen our nation's global influence as they live and work abroad. For years I have worked to ensure that overseas Americans can fully exercise their rights as U.S. citizens by having their voices heard loud and clear by Congress. Five years ago, I formed the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus because I wanted to bring awareness and focus to the concerns of those residing abroad. U.S. citizens remain just that, citizens, regardless of