

for me to be able to celebrate this week with my lovely wife, Christy, to whom I have been married to for 22 years.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVARRE HIGH
SCHOOL LADY RAIDERS
WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM AS STATE
CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Friar, Alyssa Jones, Chelsea King, Heather Lynch, Kylie Shelley, Morrigan Webb, Praise Pettus, Sarah Cox, Savannah Rodwell, Skye Barberi, Taylor Smith, and Coach Garrett Bagley of the Navarre High School Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team on earning their school's first state title.

On Saturday, February 9, 2013, under the coaching and leadership of Garrett Bagley, the Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team became Florida High School Athletic Association State Champions. After finishing in second place for the past three years, victory for the Lady Raiders was that much sweeter. This season, through the perfect blend of perseverance, discipline, focus, and desire, the Navarre Raiders were ultimately triumphant and defeated two-time defending state champion, Spruce Creak, for the title in a close 24–23 win.

A commendable eleven members of the lady Raiders team performed exceptionally well at the sectional competition and qualified for the State Championship. Of those eleven teammates, six lifters earned themselves individual medals with senior Amanda Friar leading the team as the 110-pound weight class individual gold medalist, followed by Skye Barberi and Praise Pettus finishing with second-place showings, Alyssa Jones and Kylie Shelley finishing fourth, and Chelsea King finishing sixth. I am certain that their impressive victory will continue to be a cherished moment in each of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Navarre High School Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Navarre High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. TOMMIE L.
LEWIS IN HONOR OF 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY AS PASTOR OF BETH-
EL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th pastoral anniversary of Dr. Tommie L. Lewis, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Since 1982, this dedicated servant has

led the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church to new horizons in ministry. I am pleased to honor Pastor Lewis and join with his congregation in celebrating 30 years of excellence in leadership and service to the Lord. Pastor Lewis answered his call to minister on January 6, 1973 at the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church. For more than 40 years, Pastor Lewis has been led by his faith to minister and spread his message of service and commitment to mankind. While he has served at other churches, Pastor Lewis is most celebrated for all that he contributed to the Bethel Baptist Church family, affectionately known as "Bethel Nation". Under his 30 year leadership, Bethel Nation has grown to a membership of over 5,000 worshippers and currently stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration in the Pratt City community. Pastor Lewis has shaped a legacy defined by numerous ministries that reach far beyond the church sanctuary. In both his professional and spiritual life, his character has been defined by his willingness to serve, his unselfish generosity and his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. He uses his clergy position as a powerful force for good throughout this world.

Pastor Lewis is an accomplished biblical scholar. He attended the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College and the Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia. Pastor Lewis is also the recipient of various honorary doctorate degrees as a result of his varied contributions to the ministry and public service. Through the years, in addition to his dedicated service to Birmingham, Pastor Lewis has also sought to share his spiritual teachings all over the world. He has ministered to and delivered sermons throughout the United States, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. But no matter where his ministry has taken him, Pastor Lewis is forever committed to home. Pastor Lewis has led by example and displayed his commitment to public service through his affiliation with various religious and civic organizations aimed at empowering the lives of those that he serves. His involvement include but are not limited to: the Pratt City Ministerial Alliance, the Birmingham Metropolitan Baptist Ministerial Conference and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Pastor Lewis also worked to transform the trajectory of his community through his service as former Captain for the Bessemer Police and Fire Department Chaplaincy Corps and the former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Jefferson County Transit Authority. Pastor Lewis currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Jefferson County Commission of Economic Opportunity and State President for the National Rainbow Push Coalition. In 1998, he received one of Birmingham's highest honors when he was inducted into the City of Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens.

In the aftermath of the April 2011 tornadoes, which completely destroyed Bethel Baptist Church, Pastor Lewis' faith and determination has been unwavering as he continues to minister to his congregation as they rebuild a stronger Bethel Nation. He continues to be grounded in God's mercy and grace giving hope to the hopeless and providing opportunities for the least amongst us.

While his contributions and accolades are large in number, I am especially grateful for the servant leadership that Pastor Lewis has

shown to the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. He has made an indelible imprint on the lives of so many of us through his ministries. We are blessed by his visionary leadership. Therefore, it is with pride and a humble heart that I pay tribute to Pastor TL Lewis in recognition and appreciation of his 30th pastoral anniversary at Bethel Baptist Church. And so it shall be transcribed in the annuals of the United States House of Representatives that special recognition be made to Reverend Dr. Tommie L. Lewis on behalf of a grateful nation.

HONORING CHIEF APOSTLE
ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

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

Whereas, Bishop Robert Lee Williams, Sr., and Straight Life Church of God Pentecostal, Inc., are celebrating the elevating of Bishop Williams to Chief Apostle after years of pastoral and stellar leadership to his church and our community; and

Whereas, Chief Apostle Williams, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Straight Life Church of God Pentecostal, Inc., as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Chief Apostle Williams is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and congratulate Chief Apostle Williams as he is elevated to this position of great recognition and great responsibility in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim November 11, 2012 as Chief Apostle Robert L. Williams, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 11th day of November, 2012.

TRIBUTE TO HADIYA PENDLETON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young woman who had really just begun to embark upon her life's journey, but Hadiya Zaymara Pendleton was taken from us too soon on January 29, 2013 as a result of senseless gun violence.

No words can ease the pain of losing a child, Mr. Speaker. To Hadiya's parents and loved ones I can simply offer them a word from scripture. In Luke 18:16 the Bible tells us

"Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.'"

Born June 2, 1997, Hadiya was loved by everyone who has encountered her since that summer day. A lover of Chinese food, cheeseburgers, ice cream, and Fig Newtons, Hadiya was active in extracurricular activities such as the CHI-TOWN Cheerleaders, Debate, Volleyball, Basketball, Mentoring Programs, and serving as Band Majorette where she proudly participated in last month's Inaugural Parade. In addition to her extracurricular passions, Hadiya was an honor student who began her academic journey at Small Stride Academy and continued her development at such schools as John D. Shoop Math-Science Technical Academy, Marva Collins School, the Carter G. Woodson School, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. College Prep High School.

These institutions were critical in creating a sound educational foundation for this well-rounded young woman. Hadiya had a high regard for academic success and higher learning. Her favorite class was Latin and she recently expressed how disappointed she was that the language program would end after this school year. Her love of learning drove her ambitions. One of her many aspirations was to major in pharmacology and journalism.

Mr. Speaker, though Hadiya's voice has been silenced far too early her memory and her spirit continue to live on through all of us. It now falls upon us, Hadiya's friends, family, neighbors, and community to speak out in her name, to strive for excellence in her name, and to build a better world in her name. I, Mr. Speaker, am one individual who pledges to do just that.

HONORING THE "GEMS OF 26" MAINE MILITARY PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cyndi Robbins and the "Gems of 26" for their outstanding efforts to honor our nation's veterans. Over the last three years, Cyndi Robbins and the staff of the Poland Spring Inn welcomed more than 600 members of military and veteran families for short getaways in scenic Western Maine.

Thanks to a unique partnership formed between a group of unique sites along Route 26 called the "Gems of 26," military and veteran families have been treated to lodging, meals, boat rentals, and free access to a variety of activities and historic sites in Maine's western mountains.

In addition to the Poland Spring Resort, the generous "Gems of 26," include the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, the Poland Spring Preservation Society in Poland Spring, and the grounds of the McLaughlin Garden in South Paris. The Maine Military and Community network has also played an important role in helping eligible families participate in the program.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Cyndi Robbins, the Poland Spring Resort, and these historic Maine attractions for their com-

mitment to serving our veteran and military families.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2013 theme—"At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality." This year's theme reminds us of two very important landmark events in American history, the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963. This year we recognize the perseverance, sacrifice, and struggle of those who fought for the freedom and equality that has shaped our great nation.

This year's theme, "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality," focuses on our nation's struggle for equality and civil rights, beginning with President Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the abolishing of slavery. Some one hundred years later, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the Civil Rights March on Washington fighting for, amongst other ideals, meaningful civil rights legislation, including better employment opportunities and an end to segregation. These historic events have had an immense impact on our nation's fight for the equal rights of all human beings, regardless of race, gender, or religious, cultural, or social beliefs. Although there is still work to be done, we must take a moment to commend the many Americans who have, against all odds, strengthened our union, fought for our freedoms, and built a better nation. This month and always, it is important to remember the courage of inspirational leaders including President Lincoln, Dr. King, Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. Du Bois, and the many others who have played such a critical role in changing the landscape of American society for the better.

I would be remiss if I did not also pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, who passed away only a few weeks ago. As the representative of the First Congressional District of Indiana, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Quentin Smith. Born in 1918, Mr. Smith saw firsthand the great injustices faced by African Americans throughout our country's history, as well as the courageous strides made toward equality and civil justice. A member of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen, Quentin's service in the 99th Fighter Squadron will forever be remembered in working to conquer America's racial divide. In a time when segregation existed not only in our communities but in the military as well, the Tuskegee Airmen are now rightfully remembered as one of the most successful units in our military's history, not only for their bravery and sacrifice in the air, but for the position they played in the progression of the military and American society as a whole. As a civilian, Mr. Smith continued to serve his community as an educator, counselor, and principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as a professor at the collegiate level. Held in ex-

traordinary regard in the educational community, Mr. Smith was able to utilize his vast experiences to positively influence generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring those who fought, and those who continue to fight, for civil rights. Let us also remember the selfless and brave Quentin Smith. We are forever indebted to him for his contributions toward freedom and equality, and Northwest Indiana is proud to have been his home.

HONORING MR. LEE VAN OLIVER

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

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

Whereas, One hundred years ago a tenacious man of God was born in Screven County, Georgia on November 8, 1912; and

Whereas, Mr. Lee Van Oliver was blessed to have ten siblings, he grew up in Georgia attending school in the local school system and moved to Savannah, Georgia at an early age; he worked in several industries in Savannah; International Paper, the Shipyard, Sears & Roebuck, Smith & Kelly; and

Whereas, Mr. Oliver has shared his time and talents as a Husband, Long Shore man, Uncle, Brother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

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

Whereas, Mr. Oliver along with his family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, his 100th 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. Oliver 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 November 8, 2012 as Mr. Lee Van "L.V." Oliver Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of November, 2012.

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK TINIAN ANNEX ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the American Memorial Park Tinian Annex Act. This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop, maintain, and administer on the island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands an extension of the existing