

up for the rights of all working men and women across our great nation.

#### HONORING MONICA NINO

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Monica Nino, former Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, and to thank her for her leadership and dedication to the citizens of Stanislaus County.

After 25 years of devoted service to Stanislaus County, she is now San Joaquin County's new Chief Executive Officer. In her short 18 months as CEO for Stanislaus County, Nino proved herself a very competent executive, providing the thorough information needed for the five elected supervisors to make good decisions, especially on budget matters.

Ms. Nino was born and raised in Stanislaus County. She earned her Associate's degree from Modesto Junior College, her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from California State University, Fresno and her Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Stanislaus.

In 1988, Monica started as an accountant in the Stanislaus County's Auditor-Controller's Office. She joined the executive office in 1991. She helped oversee the budget during heavy cuts to deal with reduced income resulting from the housing crash of the past half-decade and related economic woes.

Ms. Nino was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in January 2012. Prior to her appointment as CEO for Stanislaus County, she had held the position of Assistant Executive Officer with Stanislaus County since 2005. Nino is the first woman and first Latina to hold the permanent post.

As Chief Executive Officer with Stanislaus County, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Nino oversaw all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which included 26 County departments, an operating budget of \$891 million, and over 3,700 employees.

Ms. Nino also sat on the Stanislaus County Animal Services Agency, Joint Powers Agency, Stanislaus Regional 911, and Doctors Medical Center Governing Board.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Monica Nino, former Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DONOHO SCHOOL

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor an extraordinary college preparatory school in my district. The Donoho School, founded in 1963, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this month.

The Donoho School was founded in 1963 as a secondary school and was called the Anniston Academy. In 1976, the name was changed to The Donoho School in recognition of Mrs. Harriet Wallis Donoho, a founder of the school. The Lower Division of the school was founded as The Episcopal Day School in 1961 as an independent elementary school. Housed originally in the facilities of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, the school moved into Grace Episcopal Church in 1967. In 1976, The Episcopal Day School merged with The Donoho School and became the Lower Division.

The Donoho School currently enrolls more than 400 students in Pre-K through 12th grade. It is an active member of the Alabama Association of Independent Schools, Alabama High School Athletic Association, College Board, National Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Independent Schools, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Honor Society and Southern Association of Independent Schools. The school will celebrate its 50th anniversary with an awards ceremony on September 16th.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating The Donoho School's achievements and thanking them for their dedication to providing Anniston's children with a quality education.

#### CONGRATULATING CHAD RUSSELL

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Turlock High School Agriculture Department Chair Chad Russell, upon being awarded the "Instructor Sweepstakes Award" by the California State Fair for a fifth year. This award is a tribute to Mr. Russell's professional accomplishments in the field of education, as well as his dedicated commitment to his students and the art of welding.

Chad Allen Russell was born on May 23, 1982, in Turlock, CA to Bev and Tom Russell. He grew up in Turlock, CA, the second largest city in Stanislaus County, which has a population of 68,549. It is home to California State University, Stanislaus, and has earned the title "Heart of the Valley" for its extensive agricultural production.

As a child, Mr. Russell attended Mt. View-Chatom Schools and from 1996–2000 Mr. Russell was a standout FFA student at Turlock High School, mentored by several renowned agriculture instructors including Dale Pollard, Joe Digrazia, and Lori Marchy. While at THS, Mr. Russell was an active participant in FFA and distinguished himself by winning several awards including the State FFA Star Agribusinessman Award and, in his senior year, Outstanding Project at the CA State Fair.

Mr. Russell's facility with welding led him after high school to a job in that industry, where he worked for three years. Although Mr. Russell's salary as a welder was nearly double what a teacher earns, he felt called to this new profession and moved back to Turlock to begin attending Modesto Junior College, where he earned an A.A. degree in Agriculture. After MJC, Mr. Russell transferred to

California State University, Fresno, where he majored in Ag Mechanics. While at Fresno State, Mr. Russell subcontracted for GEA Niro, who flew him around the country on weekends to weld.

With degree in hand, Mr. Russell was hired by Turlock Unified School District in 2006 as a part-time ROP welding instructor and eventually worked his way into a full-time position as an Agriculture teacher. Alice Pollard, former Principal of Adult and Career Education at Turlock Unified School District has praised Mr. Russell's devotion to his students, "Chad selflessly gives up his weekends, his spring and winter breaks, as well as spending more hours than you want to know during the summer helping his students." Cindy Young, Director of Yosemite ROP in Stanislaus County, relayed her awe at his commitment to his students, "When I visit his classroom, I see more than a classroom, I see a business. His students are involved and engaged. They are committed to excellence. They are respectful and he is respectful of them. Mr. Russell is building tomorrow's workforce."

It didn't take long after starting his career at THS for Mr. Russell to make a reputation as one of the foremost Ag Mechanics instructors in the State as his students began to win award after award at the Stanislaus County and California State fairs. In 2009, Dominic Agresti-Assali, one of Mr. Russell's stand-out welding students, custom-made two 54 foot almond trailers that went on to win 1st place in the State Ag Mechanics over-\$10,000 division, earning Best in Division and Best in Show honors along with two other corporately-sponsored awards.

That same year, eight other THS students earned first place and Best of Show honors at the State Fair. Most recently, in 2013, Mr. Russell earned his 5th Instructor Sweepstakes award at the State Fair based on his students' outstanding performance and THS junior Trey Smith won a Golden Bear Award, the fair's highest honor. Mr. Russell's students are highly sought after for welding jobs at local businesses due to the reputation he has established in the community as a result of his students' extensive accomplishments.

Based in part on his students' numerous accomplishments and his own stellar record as a welding instructor, Mr. Russell was recently awarded the Yosemite Regional Occupation Program (YROP) Teacher of the Year award from Stanislaus County Office of Education. ROP is a program designed to prepare students for a career by providing a wide variety of specialized career education programs for high school students. The goal is for students to develop marketable skills, abilities, attitudes and work habits so that they can secure jobs, upgrade skills, and prepare for advanced careers.

For the past five years, Mr. Russell has served as the Department Chair of the THS Agriculture Department and has overseen its expansion to five teachers. He has been instrumental in helping to secure University of California approval for many of the agriculture courses at THS, allowing students to participate in a Career Technical Education program while maintaining four-year college eligibility. Mr. Russell's long-term plans are to pursue a Master's in Agriculture and continue to build the THS Agriculture Department into one of the premiere programs in the State. With his outstanding commitment to THS students and

passion for Agriculture, it is only a matter of time before this dream becomes a reality.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Chad Russell for his hard work and dedicated service at Turlock High School, and congratulating him upon receiving the California State Fair "Instructor Sweepstakes Award" not once but five times.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARKY  
MARKHAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Arky Markham of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Ms. Markham has dedicated her entire life and professional career to a simple pursuit: helping those in need, and giving a voice to the voiceless.

As a social worker, she has spent a career protecting and promoting the human rights of vulnerable populations, including war veterans, and those without healthcare.

As a political activist, she has stood up time and again for the causes that matter to her, demonstrating against nuclear weapons, and leading her community for peace, and against wars.

Ms. Markham has routinely volunteered and founded groups on behalf of social justice causes, including the American Friends Service Committee, where she was a co-organizer and chief fundraiser for the first Martin Luther King celebration in Northampton; Social Workers for Peace and Justice; The Middle East Peace Coalition; the Franklin/Hampshire Health Care Coalition which later helped to form Mass-Care, a state-wide organization that continues to advocate for single-payer health care; the Northampton Bill of Rights Defense Committee and the Alliance for Peace and Justice.

As Ms. Markham's community, friends, and colleagues gather this month to celebrate her 98th birthday and her life's work of 'doing good,' I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring a true champion of human rights.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD E.  
HARTMAN, SR.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of a remarkable individual, Donald E. Hartman, Sr., who passed away on August 15, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to the state of Indiana.

Throughout his life Mr. Hartman served our country and Indiana with honor. He joined the U.S. Army in 1965 as a member of the military police and served overseas in Heidelberg, Germany. He then gave 26 years to the Indiana State Police. During his career he was recognized numerous times for his dedication

to public safety and in 1996 was awarded the Indiana State Police's highest honor, the Gold Star Award for Valor, after saving a woman from a burning vehicle on I-65.

Upon retirement from the police force, Mr. Hartman continued to offer his time and energy to the people of Indiana. He was elected as Sheriff of Newton County and began his first term in 2007, a position he still held at the time of his passing. He was a selfless, respectful, and gracious leader, always putting the people and department before himself and working to provide the best service and safety possible to Newton County residents.

On and off the job, Mr. Hartman was invested in Indiana. He was the Vice-President of the Newton County Fair Board and the President of the Newton County 4-H Council. In his youth, he was an active member of 4-H as well as Future Farmers of America.

Mr. Hartman was a true family man who is survived by Teri, his loving wife of 41 years, three children, his mother, and his brother. Mr. Donald E. Hartman, Sr. was a man committed to his family, his community, and his country. America is a better nation because of Mr. Hartman. He will be truly missed. Thank you for all you have given to this country and the state of Indiana. Rest in peace, Mr. Hartman.

ACKNOWLEDGING WILLIAM "BILL"  
BASSITT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor William "Bill" Bassitt, President and CEO of the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance on his retirement and to thank him for his dedicated, life-long spirit of community service.

Bill Bassitt holds a Bachelor's Degree from Xavier University and a Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University. He has also completed course work in economic development at the University of Oklahoma and was a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organizational Management from the University of Delaware, as well as the Center for Creative Management. He is a member of numerous professional organizations and has been the keynote speaker at many local, state, regional, and national conferences.

Since 2002, Mr. Bassitt has held the position of President and CEO of the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance. As CEO, Bill Bassitt conducted three private sector fundraising campaigns to provide private sector funding to support the operations of the Alliance. Under his direction, the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance has been successful in bringing public and private sector leaders together to breed change, address systemic issues and market Stanislaus County as a place to do business.

With 28 years experience in the Chamber of Commerce and economic development management in four states, Bill Bassitt has had an exceptional impact on the community. His career includes several years in the international business arena, working in over 24 countries, covering four continents, developing reciprocal trade agreements and seeking to bring direct

foreign investment and corporate operations to the United States.

Bassitt previously served as Senior Vice President of the Detroit Regional Chamber and Executive Director of the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership, where he built a large regional organization. In addition, he led numerous highly successful marketing missions involving complex interaction and negotiations with international business and government leaders. Adding to his list of accomplishments is the development and marketing of several business parks.

After working for over 30 years in economic development in 25 countries and on four continents, and leading six separate economic development organizations, Bill Bassitt and his wife Nancy, will relocate to their home in Ohio. Married for 45 years, they have four children and 7 grandchildren, which they look forward to spending more time with in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Alliance CEO Bill Bassitt on his retirement and in thanking him for his exemplary leadership and service to the community.

HONORING BOBBY E. COLLINS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, September 9, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bobby E. Collins, the newly appointed Postmaster for the Dallas Post Office. In this new position, Mr. Collins will oversee 1,435 employees across 31 stations, managing more than 540,000 deliveries throughout Dallas and its suburbs.

Mr. Collins spent decades refining his career with the U.S. Postal Service, which dates as far back as 1980 when he started as a letter carrier in Houston, Texas. Throughout his career, Mr. Collins advanced quickly within the Postal Service. He served in a number of supervisory roles in various parts of the country such as Texas, Arizona, and Missouri. Today, after devoting 33 years of service to assist the Postal Service with its mission to reliably deliver mail to every corner of our Nation, Mr. Collins takes this new responsibility with much enthusiasm.

The United States Postal Service is an important American institution that is fortunate to have such dedicated employees on board. Mr. Collins has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the Postal Service and his fellow neighbors through decades of service and this new position will enable Mr. Collins to achieve even more.

Mr. Speaker, as we work together to address the various issues that the Postal Service currently faces, it is important that we recognize the individuals working diligently behind the scenes to keep postal operations running smoothly. I am proud to congratulate Mr. Collins for achieving this milestone in his career, and I have every confidence that he will serve the Dallas area well as Postmaster.