

Conservation Corps has a rich history of providing first-hand experiences with environmental stewardship to youth all over the State of Minnesota. The Conservation Corps has a distinct goal of assisting young adults from diverse backgrounds and engaging them in various leadership opportunities while building skills and learning about environmental initiatives. Through this critical involvement in the community, young people are able to gain insight as well as employment skills. This organization thrives through the many programs offered, whether it's the Home Energy Squad installing a programmable thermostat in a home or AmeriCorps Youth Leaders engaging teens in outdoor service-learning summer camps. The reach of the Conservation Corps is far and wide.

The Conservation Corps began in the 1930s and were called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which provided much needed employment to young men during the Great Depression. The CCC allowed these workers to provide for their families through the dismal economic times with natural resource jobs. By the 1970s the Youth Conservation Corps was launched by the federal government along with the year-round Young Adult Conservation Corps. When federal support for the Conservation Corps ended in 1981, the Minnesota Legislature stepped in and created the Minnesota Conservation Corps and continued to provide these invaluable opportunities through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In 1999 the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps, made up of community supporters and program alumni, was incorporated as a nonprofit organization. In 2003, they joined with the Conservation Corps and began to operate under the Minnesota Conservation Corps. In 2010, the organization changed its name to Conservation Corps Minnesota to maintain consistency with the branch created in Iowa. The organization, now headquartered in Ames, Iowa, continues to provide service-learning opportunities at their site though the reach of the organization extends far beyond our neighbors to the south. The effects of the Conservation Corps can be seen throughout the Midwest in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. No matter the location, the legacy of restoring our natural resources and changing lives remains the same. Minnesota, known for its 10,000 lakes and abundant natural resources, is indebted to the many hours, years, and volunteers that Conservation Corps has dedicated to preserving our environment.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the community, history, and legacy of the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, celebrating their 80th Anniversary, I am pleased to submit this statement.

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HONORING THE KING SOLOMON  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, the King Solomon Baptist Church. King Solomon has served as a catalyst for the civil rights movement of Warren County.

The Church was built by former slaves in 1860, it boasted nearly a thousand members in the 1940's. Its Pastors have been leaders in the State Baptist Convention as well as the National Baptist Convention.

King Solomon is an inner-city ministry located in the heart of downtown Vicksburg. The pervasive influence of the church has shaped the social fabric of central and southwest Mississippi and impacted the lives of thousands of its residents. The church serves the Vicksburg/Warren County community through its nursing home, prison, outreach, multi-media and food ministries. Church services are broadcast across Central Mississippi, Western Louisiana, Southwestern Arkansas and throughout the Mississippi Delta.

King Solomon Baptist Church dedicates the fourth weekend in April of each year to Family Empowerment Weekend (FEW). FEW is designed to bring awareness of the Biblical Family as the central building block of the community, state and nation.

King Solomon is in the final stages of completing a second location at 180 Oak Ridge Road where the Word will continue to be taught and preached.

The members and the pastor acknowledge that they exist for the glory of God and to exalt Christ in a fallen world. The ministry is centered on Salvation, Reaching the unadulterated Word of God, Love, Unity and Living an Obedient Life that exemplifies Jesus Christ. The Church motto is, "Christ First, Christ Only, Christ Always".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the King Solomon Baptist Church for its rich heritage in Southwest Mississippi, dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

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HONORING TAYLOR LUKE  
PARRISH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Luke Parrish. Taylor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Taylor has earned the rank of Ordeal in the Order of the Arrow and become a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Taylor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Taylor improved the landscaping and installed a gravel walkway and patio at Mission Woods Community of Christ Church in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Luke Parrish for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, public education in the Northern Mariana Islands was transformed twenty-five years ago with the enactment of Public Law 6-10, the Education Act of 1988, creating an autonomous Public School System, overseen by an elected Board of Education, and administered by a Commissioner of Education. Establishment of a Public School System, outside of the executive branch of the Commonwealth government, coincided with a new period of political maturation, economic expansion, and population growth in the Northern Marianas; and the intervening years have proven the wisdom and value of this decision.

Twenty-five years ago, the Public School System comprised just over 6,000 students throughout 14 schools. Since then, PSS has grown dramatically. Student population is now 10,646, 75 percent greater. There are now 19 schools. Kagman High School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, Saipan Southern High School, and Sinapalo Elementary School have all been constructed to better serve our students. And there are now 900 PSS personnel across the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

As PSS has grown in size, so have the achievements of our students. These future leaders of our community regularly participate in national scholastic competitions, winning awards for their acting talent, debate skills, spelling abilities, and science acuity. Their successes are testament not only to students' efforts, but also to the school system that supported them and helped shape their minds.

Just this year, the Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins won the national Real World Design Challenge here in Washington, DC. Each student on that team was awarded a \$50,000 college scholarship.

For each of the past three years, PSS students have been recipients of Gates Millennium Scholarships, which pays for up to eight years of postsecondary education. This year alone three students from our small island community were awarded these scholarships. That is an amazing accomplishment—and a tribute to the efficacy of our public schools.

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band and Marianas High School Choir have both received national recognition for their musical talents. Last summer, the Manta Rays were chosen to perform in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. They participated in the London Celebration Music Festival, as well, and brought home a silver medal.

These achievements—academic and extra-curricular—were made possible through the extraordinary and cumulative efforts of a group of individuals whose dedication knows no peer: the leaders, teachers, and staff of the Public School System. From science teacher to physical education instructor, maintenance employee to bus driver, each of these individuals makes their contribution to the educational success of our youth.

They are led by a Commissioner of Education, appointed by the Board of Education. Six men and women have served as Commissioner, each of whom has left an indelible imprint on PSS and the lives of its students.

The first Commissioner, Mr. Henry Sablan, led the organization through a period of transition from a Department of Education organized under the Office of the Governor to an autonomous public education system answerable to an elected Board. Dr. Elizabeth Diaz Rechebeli then shepherded the school system for two years, followed by Mr. William S. Torres, who served for six years and initiated a move towards regional accreditation.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos, in whose memory the junior and senior high school on the island of Rota is named, served as Commissioner of Education for eight years and implemented the SAT10 testing program and standards-based assessment for students, as well as the PRAXIS highly qualified teacher initiative for instructional staff. Dr. David Borja then led the system for two years, followed by our current Commissioner, Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Dr. Sablan has, since assuming her role in 2008, focused tremendous attention on student academic achievement and guided the organization through a period of declining financial resources and increasing performance standards.

Thanks to the cumulative efforts of these six leaders, and their thousands of colleagues over the years, our students are performing better than ever on SAT10 tests, standards-based assessments, and on STAR reading and STAR math assessments. That performance is reflected in the 60 percent of graduating high school seniors who go on to college. Another 30 percent choose to serve our country in the armed forces. And 10 percent join the workforce.

Please join me in saluting those elected officials who, twenty-five years ago, recognized the value of an autonomous education system in the Northern Mariana Islands and enacted the Education Act. Also, join me in celebrating the many who built upon that foundation. The prescience of those leaders, and the hard work and dedication of the members of the Board of Education, the Commissioners, and the thousands of instructors and staff has brought us to the present-day successes of our Public School System.

Each and every individual who contributed to this achievement deserves the esteem and gratitude of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### HONORING SHANICE WIMSATT

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shanice Wimsatt, a dedicated student, who is making a difference in her community.

Shanice Wimsatt, was born in Chicago, IL on October 9, 1994. For about six years she grew up in an apartment in Chicago with her mother, Vivian Mitchell, her father, James Wimsatt and two older brothers, Jermaine and Andre Mitchell.

At about the age of six, they moved to Yazoo City, MS. She quickly began to excel in

her studies. By doing so well, she was invited to be in a high performance program called DIG. But, upon entering into the fourth grade, DIG offered her a chance to skip a grade or two. This was one of the first most important decisions she faced and she was not able to accept the offer, because by then her mother had started moving to Pickens, MS where she currently lives.

Life in Holmes county has taught her many things. Her strengths and decisions have been tested and challenged. She quickly learned that she was in poverty and did not like it at all. She set out to change or at least help change her community.

She first started an all girls group, during a critical pregnancy period and called it I.Y.G. (Independent Young Girls). Her goal was to empower the young ladies at her school by showing them that they have supporters. Next, she and a friend teamed up and created Teens on a Mission. This was created to provide more jobs for the teens in the area and to show the world that teenagers can make a difference, being that, some were voted least likely to succeed.

She is now making a great difference in her community and for herself.

#### REMEMBERING THE 9/11 ATTACKS

#### HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it has been twelve years since that terrible day when nearly 3000 of our fellow citizens perished in an unprovoked series of attacks on our nation. And while the key perpetrators of that horror are now themselves either dead or in our custody, the pain and the heroism of Americans on that day are something we must never forget.

I remember Todd Beamer of Cranbury, New Jersey, who, along with the other passengers on Flight 93, made the ultimate sacrifice to save more people in Washington, DC from almost certain death. I also remember "the Jersey Girls"—Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lone Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg—who, along with other family members, battled President Bush to force the creation of the 9/11 Commission. These men and women of 9/11—those who perished and those who preserve their memory—remind us of the strength and resilience of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the spirit of unity and common purpose that we experienced in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy can be rekindled in our nation and used to confront the many serious problems facing America. May we each play our part in reviving that spirit, even as we honor the memory of those who showed on that fateful September morning twelve years ago.

HONORING THOMAS ALAN REILLY, JUNIOR

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Alan Reilly, Jr. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 251, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Alan Reilly, Jr., for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MABEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
"PEACE DAY"

#### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the students at Mabel Elementary School in Watauga County are observing "International Peace Day" this Friday.

I commend them for taking the time to pay such special attention to a cause as important as peace.

Each student at Mabel Elementary School has a part to play in building peace.

As I told the student, peace starts with respect—respect for yourself, your family, your classmates, your teachers, and for our American values of life, liberty, personal responsibility, and equality.

Pursuing peace goes hand-in-hand with practicing respect. And practicing respect is a choice each of us will make for the rest of our lives.

President Ronald Reagan, in a speech to students at Moscow State University, said "A people free to choose will always choose peace."

In this country, we not only have the freedom to make that choice, we also have wonderful examples to follow as we learn to practice respect and build peace.

No one values peace more than the men and women who serve in our armed forces. These brave people and their families sacrifice to defend freedom and pursue peace in our world. When bad things happen and when we find ourselves in danger, they answer the call to protect us and they always work to find peace.

It takes courage and conviction to choose to treat others with respect and pursue peace. But peace is a noble calling and a just goal.

By practicing peace and respect at home and in school, Mabel Elementary students can