

Along with all members of our Armed Forces, I offer my unwavering support to the Navy family in this time of grief.

We mourn all the victims of this tragedy, including the law enforcement officers who lost their lives, and send our best wishes to survivors as they recover.

My prayers and thoughts will continue to be with the victims and families of the Navy Yard shooting.

HONORING DR. MELVIN B. GIRTON,
SR. ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Melvin B. Gorton, Sr., who, after 50 years of dedicated service, has retired as the senior pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gorton has been a champion for civil rights and an outspoken advocate for social justice. As spiritual leader of the 94-year-old congregation, he has organized and hosted hundreds of events to bring the people of central Indiana together in celebration, remembrance, and hope. He remains dedicated to these goals even in retirement and will continue to serve as host pastor for the annual Indianapolis Emancipation Proclamation service, an event that is attended by dignitaries and officials from around the country. Dr. Gorton's advocacy has not been limited to the pulpit, though. He has worked tirelessly for equality and opportunity as Vice President of the Indianapolis Branch of the NAACP and has been an ever present force in efforts to strengthen our community.

Recognizing a need for job training and the redevelopment of local neighborhoods, Dr. Gorton founded the Christ Missionary Baptist Economical Training & Development Center in 1998. The Center began as a small laundry mat in an underused strip mall near the church, but over time has grown to provide a powerful social outlet for seniors, job training for local youth, and reintegration services for juvenile and adult offenders.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Gorton for his years of dedicated service to his parishioners, the Indianapolis community, and all Hoosiers.

HONORING THE KING SOLOMON
MISSIONARY 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 M.B. Church. King Solomon served as a permanent staple in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

King Solomon M.B. Church was established when nine members of Holy Green Missionary Church decided to revolutionize and become

an independent embodiment of Christians. In October of 1903 the church was organized under the leadership of Rev. Kyzer, Rev. G.P. Green and Rev. A.C. Carter in the home of Sister Mollie Carey. Then Sister Mahalia Turner named the church King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church.

The first service was held under a brush arbor due to lack of proper facilities under the direction of Rev. A.C. Carter. As the fall season grew colder services were held at the home of Sister Vickie Love. Under the leadership of Rev. A.C. Carter, membership continued to grow therefore needing a larger and more appropriate facility. Members appointed a group to form the building committee, who arranged to build a frame structure in the Lintonia subdivision which is today's current location, 1409 Calhoun Avenue. On May 12, 190*, the church was built after long period of hard work and dedication.

In 1948, Rev. Hammond was elected as pastor. During this time the church divided and the New King Solomon was organized. The church suffered greatly during this upheaval. It was not until Rev. R.S. Scott was elected as pastor at King Solomon in 1948 that the church began to rejuvenate, unify and prosper once more. Rev. Scott served the church with compassion and strong conviction.

In 1960, Rev. G.H. Hankins was elected and under his leadership the church was remodeled. He later resigned in October of 1987 after twenty-seven years of faithful service.

Rev. Benjamin Hall Jr. was elected in 1989 and continues to serve in this capacity today. In 1997, grounds were broken to begin the building of the facility that they now occupy. The reconstructed annex was completed, dedicated and renamed the "Waymon C. Crump Education Complex".

Members of King Solomon pride themselves with the energy they put into the youth of the church. Their motto is "We are Family," and they promote it not only in the church family but the community through their many ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church as they strive to be the "beacon on the hill" that guides others to the joy of serving God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

HONORING THE HONORABLE ELIHU
M. HARRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of the Honorable Elihu Harris as we celebrate over 30 years of his dedicated public service and accomplishments. Mr. Harris continues to be a celebrated individual, and we join together in praise of his remarkable contributions to the Bay Area, California, and our great nation.

Born Elihu Mason Harris in Los Angeles, California on August 15, 1947, Mr. Harris grew up in Berkeley, California and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1965. He received his B.A. degree in Political Science at California

State University, Hayward (East Bay), and went on to earn an M.A. from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Harris received his J.D. from the University of California, Davis in 1972.

Mr. Harris' esteemed career has spanned over four decades as an attorney at law, politician, and community college administrator. He became a senior partner for the firm of Harris, Alexander and Burris in 1978 for twelve years. He was an instructor teaching at various higher education institutions in the Bay Area, and later served on staff for Congresswoman Yvonne Burke and Assemblymember John Miller. In 1975, he was appointed as the Executive Director of the National Bar Association before forging his legacy in California politics. In 1978, Mr. Harris was elected to the California State Assembly to represent the 13th District. During his thirteen year tenure, he chaired the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, served as Chair of the Select Committees, and was a member of the Judiciary Committee as well as the Transportation, Health, Labor and Ways and Means, subcommittees on Education and Finance. In 1981, Mr. Harris authored the historic legislation that designated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a California state holiday. The Oakland Elihu M. Harris State Office Building was dedicated in his honor in 1998.

From 1991 to 1999, Mr. Harris served as Mayor of Oakland. In that role, Mr. Harris helped to restore and strengthen Oakland following the devastating aftermath of both the Loma Prieta earthquake and Oakland Hills Firestorm. He developed Oakland Sharing the Vision, a community strategic plan involving Oaklanders setting goals and objectives for the City. He also established community policing for Oakland neighborhoods, and created new city programs and initiatives to improve the community such as Oakland Healthy Cities and Camp Read-A-Lot, one of the many education endeavors he supported in office.

In 2000, Mr. Harris was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to serve as a board member on the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. From there, Mr. Harris was appointed in 2003 as interim Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District before receiving the post on a permanent basis in 2004. During his term as Chancellor, Mr. Harris was a strong supporter for students and championed equal access to education for all. He served in this capacity until 2010.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Harris has been an ardent advocate for social justice and civil rights. The Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center and Merritt College has recognized Mr. Harris' contributions and aptly named its lecture series program as "The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series."

On a personal note, Elihu has been my brother and my friend since the early 70's. He has been my trusted confidant and provides honest feedback and constantly "watches my back". For this and so much more, I am deeply grateful.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, the Honorable Elihu Harris, I salute you. Your over 30 years of public service have made an indelible mark in our community. Best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ST.
GEMME, ALL AMERICAN COM-
MANDER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William St. Gemme, Commander of Springfield, Missouri's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3404, to whom the VFW has given All American status as a Post Commander.

William was drafted into the United States Army in November of 1967. He served in a number of locations, including Vietnam, as a number in the Medical Service Corps and was honorably discharged in October of 1971. William joined the VFW Post 3404 in 2005 and was named Commander in October of 2011.

The title of All American Commander is the most prestigious honor given by the VFW. Out of more than 7,200 VFW Posts, only 204 VFW Post Commanders have been selected worldwide as an All American Commander. This honor is based on outstanding achievements in membership growth and participation in other VFW programs that benefit veterans and their communities.

Post 3404 and the Ladies Auxiliary of Springfield, Missouri also received the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Outstanding Community Service Post Award. There were only 68 recipients of this award. These Posts are remarkable examples of nearly 12 million hours of community service throughout the U.S. valued at over \$263 million performed by VFW volunteers last year.

I am honored to recognize William's achievements as Post Commander of VFW Post 3404.

DANIEL DEMELFI, UNICO
HAZLETON CHAPTER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel DeMelfi, the outgoing president of the UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter.

Mr. DeMelfi has served as the president of the UNICO Hazleton Chapter since 2010 and has held positions as a core committee member and entertainment co-chair for UNICO's Bell'Italia Festival. UNICO is the largest Italian American organization in the United States. Members seek to improve their communities by providing assistance to area and national charities through fundraisers and donations. Additionally, they strive to honor and educate others about their Italian culture and ethnic heritage.

Mr. DeMelfi's commitment to the community does not end with his service to UNICO. He serves as the founder and former president of the Hazleton Area Landlords' Organization, a core committee member for the Sounds of the Season Concert, and lector and piano accompanist for the Most Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church. Additionally, he is a board member for both the Hazleton Silent Santa organization and the Wiltsie Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedicated service to both his Italian heritage and our community, I commend Daniel DeMelfi, outgoing president of the UNICO Hazleton, Pennsylvania Chapter.

IN MEMORIAM OF STAFF SER-
GEANT ROBERT E. THOMAS, JR.

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, the nation mourns the passing of Staff Sergeant Robert E. Thomas, Jr., age 24, who died last Friday at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, for injuries sustained while serving in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

A native of Fontana, California, Sergeant Thomas was stationed with the 1st battalion of the 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st armored division in Fort Bliss, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Kristina and daughter, Hailey, as well as his father and mother.

I send my condolences to the family, friends, and all those who knew and loved Staff Sergeant Thomas. We honor his love of country and his dedicated service to our nation.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their efforts to promote Constitution Week, September 17–23. The women of the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to promoting a better understanding of the Constitution since 1895, and I commend them for their continued contributions.

The Constitution of the United States of America sets us apart from every government that had come before. We are a nation of laws, not men. Our Constitution has survived the test of time in embodying and protecting that fundamental principle. Further, the Constitution guarantees our freedom of speech, religion, our right to bear arms and protects us from the government itself. Our Founding Fathers well understood the need to limit the power of any one branch of government through checks and balances.

We owe the Daughters of the American Revolution a debt of gratitude for their efforts to promote the study of and reflection upon this critical document, as only an informed public can protect its own rights.

When I was sworn in as a Member of Congress, I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. The principles found in our Constitution have propelled our country to be a "shining city on a hill." I believe our nation's greatness can be renewed by returning to our founding ideals.

INDIA'S MISSING GIRLS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that my subcommittee held last week examined the problem of "India's Missing Girls." While for most of us today our attention was drawn to the unfolding crisis in Syria—I was on C-SPAN's Washington Journal Program call-in program and introduced a resolution calling for establishing a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal—other atrocities continue unabated around the world. We cannot ignore these atrocities, among the most egregious of which is violation of the human rights of the girl child and women in India.

Women in India are confronted with a compounding crisis. By most estimates, there are tens of millions of women missing in India due to the devaluing of female life beginning in the womb.

Sex-selective abortion and female infanticide have led to lopsided sex ratios. In parts of India, for example, 126 boys are born for every 100 girls. This in turn leads to a shortage of marriageable women, which then leads to trafficking in persons, bride selling and prostitution.

Perhaps the best figures we have concerning the magnitude of the problem come from India's 2011 census figures, which find that there are approximately 37 million more men than women in India.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has addressed this issue head on, stating "the falling child sex ratio is an indictment of our social values. Improving this ratio is not merely a question of stricter compliance with the existing laws. What is more important is how we view and value the girl child in our society . . . It is a national shame for us that despite this, female feticide and infanticide continue in many parts of our country."

Even when they are not killed outright either in the womb or just after birth, this bias against girl children manifests itself in situations where family resources are limited and little food is available, in boys being fed before girls, leading to greater incidents of malnutrition among girls and a mortality rate that is 75% higher for girls below age 5 than for boys.

The desire for a male child can be so great that there is a trend towards sex change operations for girls between ages 1 to 5, a process known as "genitoplasty." Each year, hundreds of girls reportedly are pumped with hormones and surgically altered to turn them into facsimile boys. India's National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has correctly stated that this "highly unethical" procedure is a violation of children's rights as well as a "perpetuation of the age old preferences for boys and biases against the girl child."

But the roots of the present problem lie not only with cultural factors, but also misbegotten policy decisions—including population control policies that were hatched in the United States—which have had a disproportionately negative impact on India's women.

We learned from our witnesses that this includes policies advanced by the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, and funded by foundations such as