

the state of Mississippi by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mississippi. She was named state runner-up earlier this year and assumed the role after the current winner was unable to fulfill his duties as Mississippi's Youth of the Year.

In addition to winning the title, Ms. Caldwell will also receive scholarship money from the Mississippi Area Council as well as the Tupperware Corporation. She was selected among 18 organizations across Mississippi for her sound character, leadership skills and willingness to give back to the community.

Being named the 2013 State Youth of the Year is one of the highest honor a Boys and Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and her Boys and Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles that are overcome. She is the daughter of Roschella and Billy Caldwell.

Ms. Caldwell has maintained a 3.0 grade point average at Kosciusko High School. Her awards include: Advanced On Biology I, Algebra I and English II. She is the secretary for the Mayor's Youth Council, a hospice volunteer for Sta-Home, a member of the Keystone and the Leadership Club at the Oprah Winfrey Boys and Girls Club and a member of the Kosciusko High School Beta Club.

She is also currently enlisted in United States National Guard. Ms. Caldwell plans to attend Meridian Community College to major in physical therapy and later go on to a major university to further her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sabrina D. Caldwell.

#### THE TROUBLING PATH AHEAD FOR U.S.-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, despite more than a decade of targeted sanctions, Zimbabwe has continued to be a major U.S. trading partner through the Generalized System of Preferences, even though it has been excluded from the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Chromium, platinum and diamonds have enriched Zimbabwe's leaders, but not its people.

Zimbabwe had been one of Africa's leading industrial powers and agricultural producers until its government diminished the ability of the country to sustain its industrial or agricultural production. Illegal and disruptive land seizures resulted in political cronies gaining control of productive agricultural land rather than the black farm workers as promised. Agricultural production suffered, dragging down manufacturers of agricultural equipment—the base of the country's industry. The reduction in tax revenues led to a desperate search for foreign funding to stabilize an economy whose inflation rate reached globally historic levels.

Nevertheless, Zimbabwe is a major player in southern Africa, even more so now that newly reelected President Robert Mugabe has been chosen as Vice Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the organization's anticipated Chairman next year. Facing international appeals for an end to sanctions on Zimbabwe and threats from the

Mugabe government of economic retaliation, the U.S. must devise a policy that safeguards American interests while maintaining our support for democracy, human rights, good governance and economic development. Today's hearing will examine how the process of policy formation is going now and discuss what that policy should look like at the conclusion of that process.

The United States has experienced a troubled relationship with Zimbabwe since this southern African nation achieved majority rule in 1980. Robert Mugabe, the liberation leader who has led his country since 1980, has always resented that our government did not support his war against the previous white minority government. Despite our efforts to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with Mugabe's government over the past couple of decades, his regime has spurned our hand of friendship and flouted international law and convention.

Using colonial-era laws as models, Mugabe's government has eliminated the possibility that the political opposition can credibly challenge his rule. It has limited the ability of the media to effectively report on the news of the day. It has restricted civil society advocates from documenting and verifying the many human rights violations that have taken place in Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

When Congress passed the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, or ZDERA, it set out a range of aid restrictions requiring U.S. representatives on the boards of international financial institutions to vote against loans or debt cancellations benefitting the Zimbabwean government, pending fulfillment of a range of conditions based on repeal of the limitations on the freedom of Zimbabweans.

Recent annual appropriations laws also have barred U.S. support for international loans or grants to the government, except to meet basic human needs or to promote democracy. Generally, bilateral aid is prohibited, except that pertaining to health, humanitarian needs, education, or macroeconomic growth. Such prohibitions are maintained unless the Secretary of State certifies that "the rule of law has been restored . . . including respect for ownership and title to property, freedom of speech and association."

However, Mugabe's August 22, 2013 inauguration marked the end of a five-year period of often uneasy political power sharing with the opposition and partially fulfilled reforms pursued by the Government of National Unity under the Global Political Agreement. The end of the unity government means that unless a deal is struck with the ruling ZANU-PF party, its former partner in government, the opposition MDC-T party will likely no longer play a role in executive branch policy-making.

Past patterns of ZANU-PF governance, along with recent actions by ruling party officials and the MDC-T's new marginalization, indicate that Zimbabwe may be entering a period characterized by a pattern of unilateral exercise of state power potentially accompanied by manipulation of the rule of law in its favor; a lack of national political consensus and the absence of vehicles for alternatives to ZANU-PF policies; continued restrictions on the activities of civil society organizations and opposition activists, including legal and extralegal harassment and violence both by the police and by ZANU-PF supporters, and weak eco-

nomic growth due to ZANU-PF's pursuit of a nationalist economic agenda focusing on state interventions in the economy.

The Mugabe government has long blamed the United States and Great Britain for hampering its economic growth due to sanctions, but aside from direct aid limitations, most sanctions are targeted toward Mugabe and his government's leadership. SADC is now calling for a removal of sanctions against Zimbabwe and is being joined by a growing international chorus that includes a few voices from within the Congress of the United States. Meanwhile, President Mugabe has threatened to punish Western firms operating in Zimbabwe unless sanctions are lifted.

But questions remain about the willingness of the Mugabe government to take the steps necessary to rescind U.S. sanctions. If Zimbabwe takes a defiant stand, where does that leave U.S.-Zimbabwe relations? The Administration has tried limited relaxation of sanctions only to be met with continued refusal to accept reform. Where does this leave U.S. policy?

However problematic our relationship with Zimbabwe has been, we need to devise a policy that fulfills our national interests, protects the human rights of Zimbabweans and enables this former industrial power to resume its rightful role in Africa's economy and the global economy as a whole.

#### IN HONOR OF LYNN RHYMER

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 North Carolina Principal of the year, Lynn Rhymer.

Ms. Rhymer, who lives in Cabarrus County and is originally from Asheville, N.C., is currently the principal at Central Cabarrus High School in Cabarrus County, N.C.

She has served in education for the past 25 years, dedicating 15 years as a high school mathematics teacher and basketball coach and the past 10 years as an administrator.

She first received her bachelor's degree in mathematics and a teaching certificate from Western Carolina University. Since receiving her master's degree in school administration from Appalachian State University, Ms. Rhymer has served as an assistant principal and principal.

She began her career as principal at Northwest Cabarrus High School, transforming it within three years from a failing school to the sixth best for the state of N.C. as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. She is in her seventh year as principal and loves the time she gets to spend with staff and students.

When asked about her profession, Ms. Rhymer simply states, "I wouldn't do anything else in the world than what I'm doing now. This is my fate, and it's a pretty amazing job."

As the son of a school teacher, I understand that education is imperative for the future of our nation, and I appreciate Ms. Rhymer's dedication to our students. Her success serves as an example to other teachers in North Carolina and across the nation.

The students of the Eighth District of North Carolina are fortunate to have administrators,

teachers and mentors like Ms. Rhymer who recognize the importance of building a culture where every student can succeed.

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**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

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**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday September 9, 2013, I missed rollcall No. 448. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.” I was at the classified briefing on Syria in which Members of Congress were briefed by Secretary Kerry, Secretary Hagel, General Dempsey, and National Security Advisor Rice.

**HONORING THE MONK FAMILY FARM****HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 185th anniversary of the Monk farm’s founding in Worth County, Georgia.

As one of the Georgia Centennial farm recipients, this farm is one of Georgia’s historic landmarks and a beloved and cherished part of our past.

In 1828, a newly married William and Alcy Monk built a home on a hill in what was to become southern Worth County. William would eventually come to purchase plots of land totaling almost 2000 acres, where he would cultivate sugar cane, tobacco, and cotton. The beginnings of the Monk farm are in many ways, reminiscent of Georgia—and America’s—agricultural heritage.

Beginning in the early 1900’s, it saw recent Mercer Law School graduate and later State Court Judge Chesley Monk practice law farm the property for over 50 consecutive years. It saw naval officer Ridley Monk return home to operate the farm after fighting World War Two in the Pacific. And it has even seen—and was home to—the very first farming tractor in Worth County.

But the Monk farm is not only a story of the past; it also embodies the story of Georgia’s growth. Despite its success, however, it has remained in the Monk family for six generations, and has filled the farm with countless memories. Though the Monk family’s dreams and careers have taken them near and far away, the farm and the family’s devotion to it remain.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I congratulate the Monk family on their farm’s long-standing place in Georgia’s—and America’s—rich historic past. Here’s to their place in the next 185 years of American history.