

positions within their neighborhoods. Specifically, he played a momentous role in the campaign of Mary Brown, a woman who became the first elected African-American Pinellas County School Board member.

Although he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2004, he never let his illness deter him from doing that which he truly loved. He was admired by the Tampa Bay community, and those who knew him, revered him.

As I join with Mr. Davis's family and friends in mourning the passing of an outstanding individual, I know they are incredibly proud of the contributions he has made to the Tampa Bay area. The entire Pinellas County community honors and remembers the 76 year life of Vyrle Davis. Mr. Vyrle Davis molded the lives of generations of students through his dedication to education and to the community as a whole. His example will continue to live through those that worked with him and those who learned from him. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community and our State.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB"
ABRAMSON OS SONOMA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to recognize and honor the life and tremendous social contributions of my late friend, Mr. Robert "Bob" Abramson of Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Abramson was an exemplary and up-standing member of his community and a longtime resident of the Northern California region. After his extraordinary, storied career as a B-29 bomber pilot during WWII, flying as many as 30 missions over the Pacific, he would be decommissioned from the military in 1945.

He would go on to graduate from University of California, Berkeley with a Masters in Philosophy and Social Welfare. He then worked as a parole officer in Oakland before taking a job at the University of Southern California through which he was stationed in Pakistan for a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. This led to larger diplomatic posts with the United Nations and the World Bank.

Mr. Abramson cared deeply for his community and the people in it. He was an open book and loved talking to new people, always looking to learn new things and always going into every conversation with an open mind. He was especially active with the World War II Pilots Association, the Prostate Cancer Support Group and the Democratic Clubs of Petaluma and Santa Rosa. He was liked by all who knew him in the community.

Mr. Abramson never lost his love for international public service. Despite retirement and an extremely active role in his local community, he accepted special consulting contracts in Maldives and Sri Lanka. He consistently represented the American people with grace and civility.

His family however, always came first. Mr. Abramson is survived by his wife Barbara, his

son Bruce, his daughter Julie Morrison, his brother Albert, his sister Carol, and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Abramson served his country with distinction both as a member of the armed services and as a civilian. He was an active, vital member of his community and it is therefore appropriate that we celebrate and honor his life and committed service and extend our deepest condolences to his friends, family and community.

HONORING SPENCER HARRISON
GRANGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Harrison Granger. Spencer 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Spencer has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer constructed nine disc golf tee boxes for a public disc golf course at Fox Hill Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

HONORING JERRY PRICE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Jerry Price, an important figure in Central Valley law enforcement, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jerry graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 1983 and was assigned to service in his hometown of Santa Ana. In 1986, he was transferred to Bakersfield where he patrolled the eastern part of the city and began aggressively seeking DUI drivers.

In 1988 Jerry transferred to Hanford, where he served for 24 years. Jerry was appointed the PAO/Court liaison in 1997 and held this position until December of 2012.

Jerry was a member of the county's first gang task force established in 1998, where he served as an Intelligence Agent.

Jerry has a passion for education and was instrumental in the establishment of many educational programs for local students. He is

credited with reorganizing high school senior ethics days in all local high schools and starting "character conferences" in junior high schools. He also helped launch "Every 15 Minutes" programs in high schools across Kings County to educate young people about the dangers of drunk driving.

Jerry enthusiastically spread this safety message at Lemoore Navy Air Station for over 18 years. He led more than 550 safety presentations for approximately 200,000 Navy personnel.

In addition to his CHP service, Jerry has been heavily involved in numerous community service commitments including Relay 4 Life, the March of Dimes, and the Central California "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive. He has coached several youth sports teams and taught at Kings Christian High School, College of the Sequoias, and West Hills College.

Most recently Jerry assisted the co-founders in organizing the "Buckle Up for Itzy" Fest, an event to raise seat belt safety awareness.

Jerry has mentored many local youths and has dedicated his life to improving the safety of the people of Central California. He has given his time and effort to numerous non-profits and charities over the decades. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Price on his invaluable service to the Central Valley, as he retires from the California Highway Patrol.

HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY, MISS
ROSE RUSH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Miss Rose Rush of Clintwood, Virginia, who celebrated her 108th birthday on Thursday, February 7.

Miss Rush was born in 1905 in the house her father built in Dickenson County, the very home she lives in today. She was valedictorian of her graduating class at Honaker High School, and attended the University of Virginia, Emory and Henry College, my alma mater, and she also attended Vanderbilt University so she could receive her teaching license.

Miss Rush taught various subjects in different school systems in Virginia until her retirement. She didn't rest for long, though—the year after she "retired," Miss Rush returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher.

To this day, Miss Rush remains up to speed on current events and politics. I have been told Miss Rush is a huge fan of our political system, and that she particularly enjoys voting on the new voting machines.

She has never been seriously ill or hospitalized, nor has she been married or had children. Some in Clintwood even say that's the secret to her longevity!

Miss Rush has been approached from time to time for interviews or photos since she turned 100. The Coalfield Progress notes that she has refused them all, "stating with a sense of humbleness that she has done nothing to receive recognition."

Well, here's to Miss Rose Rush, and to her family, friends, and students in Virginia whose lives she changed. Happy 108th birthday, Miss Rush.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT-ELECT PARK GEUN-HYE ON HER INAUGURATION AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, President-elect Park Geun-hye will be inaugurated as the eleventh President of the Republic of Korea on Monday, February 25, 2013. Madam Park will then become the first freely elected woman leader among the nations of Northeast Asia and the first woman President of the Republic of Korea.

Madam Park has shattered the glass ceiling for Korean women by attaining the highest elected office in the land, achieving this remarkable feat before the United States has elected a woman to lead our Nation.

In the traditional Land of the Morning Calm where the slogan "men first, women behind" was the watchword only a generation ago, Park Geun-hye's election is historic. President-elect Park will serve as a role model for women—young and old—not only in Asia but around the world as they seek to achieve their full potential unfettered by the gender limitations of the past.

Madam Park also raises the possibility of a new beginning in the complex and often hostile relationship that has evolved between the two Koreas since the tragic division of the Korean peninsula at the end of the Second World War. A daughter of a mother slain by a North Korean agent in 1974, Madam Park chose to put this painful family tragedy aside and travel to North Korea in 2002 and meet the very man, Kim Jong-il, who was likely responsible for the murder of her mother. She did this for the good of her country, for those numerous divided Korean families who have not seen nor heard from their loved ones in sixty years, and for a people with a common culture and heritage suddenly torn asunder by Cold War politics.

The Korean people have an old saying that "when whales fight, shrimp get broken" recognizing the victimization of a small but proud nation surrounded by colossal and often hostile neighbors. The healing process after sixty years of this externally imposed division symbolized by the stark frontier of the DMZ will not be easy. But, as was once said in reference to the unfreezing of Sino-American relations, that "only Nixon could go to China," so it may one day be said that "only Park Geun-hye, the daughter of an anti-communist general and a martyred mother, could reconcile the two Koreas."

This coming summer, on July 27th, we will commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of an Armistice which silenced the guns but brought no permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. Our aging Korean War era veterans, who include four Members of the U.S. House of Representatives including the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL, the Honorable JOHN CONYERS JR., the Honorable HOWARD COBLE, and the Honorable SAM JOHNSON, often speak of our steadfast friendship with the people of South Korea as being one which was forged in the crucible of war.

The Korean War Memorial, located not far from this House, serves to remind us all of the

brave men and women of our country "who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met." The election of Park Geun-hye symbolizes the achievement of those democratic values for which these veterans fought and died.

I am also certain that America's almost two million strong Korean-American community who have contributed so much to their adopted country are justifiably proud of the democratic and economic miracle of their ancestral homeland. The alliance between their old and new countries, strengthened by the recent adoption of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, will only be further invigorated under Madam Park's presidency.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to the service, often at great personal sacrifice, that President-elect Park Geun-hye has rendered for and on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea. I join my colleagues in looking forward to welcoming Madam Park when she makes her first official visit to Washington, DC later this year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATES' MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with a bipartisan group of cosponsors, I am introducing the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act, legislation that will allow medical marijuana patients and businesses—who are complying with state law—the ability to access and distribute marijuana free from federal interference.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana for people suffering from conditions such as cancer and severe nausea. As a result there are now hundreds of thousands of medical marijuana patients nationwide. Despite these laws, at the federal level marijuana is currently listed as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that it is considered a substance with a "high potential for abuse," with "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." This means that the 19 jurisdictions that permit medical marijuana are operating in a patchwork of inconsistent local and federal laws.

These inconsistencies create significant challenges for both patients and the businesses working to provide access to medical marijuana. Because of federal tax and banking laws, marijuana businesses—despite operating in compliance with state or local law—are not allowed to deduct their legitimate business expenses and are often unable to make deposits or maintain bank accounts. Simultaneously, the federal government has continued to enforce federal law, and many medical marijuana facilities across the country have been raided by the Drug Enforcement Administration or otherwise targeted by the Department of Justice.

The federal government maintains a monopoly on access to marijuana for research, currently run by the National Institute on Drug

Abuse (NIDA). The mission of this Institute is to "lead the Nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction," and many researchers have found it difficult to obtain marijuana for research into the potential therapeutic or medicinal effects of marijuana.

The States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would provide for the rescheduling of marijuana under the Controlled Substance Act to a listing other than Schedule I or II, which would mean the federal government recognizes an accepted medical use. It would also ensure that neither the Controlled Substances Act nor the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act would restrict individuals, doctors or businesses from consuming, recommending, producing, distributing or otherwise operating in marijuana in compliance with state or local laws. Finally, it would require that access to marijuana for research into its potential medicinal and therapeutic uses be overseen by an entity in the government not focused on researching the addictive properties of substances.

Nineteen jurisdictions have passed laws recognizing the importance of providing access to medical marijuana for the hundreds of thousands of patients who rely on it. It is time for the federal government to respect these decisions, and stop inhibiting safe access.

HONORING JACE C. PINE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jace C. Pine. Jace 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jace has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jace 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, Jace has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING WILLIAM ASHFORD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. William Ashford, who is interning in my office with the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for more than a decade and I am happy to be a host again this year.

Will comes from the University of Wollongong and is studying engineering and