

blues, and rock and roll. As the oldest surviving acoustic instrument producer in the world, C.F. Martin & Co. led the charge ever since the guitar began to take hold in the early 1800s and eventually surpassed the piano as the most popular instrument.

Impressively, six generations of the Martin family have continuously owned and operated C.F. Martin & Co. The company persevered through the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and even the disco decade. C.F. Martin's adherence to high standards of musical excellence and the company's adaptability have helped account for its remarkable longevity. Business conditions and musical trends have changed over the years, but Martin's attitude toward guitar-building clearly has not.

C.F. Martin & Co. is also a commendable corporate citizen, with a long-standing dedication to responsible timber sourcing and a willingness to support its local community of Nazareth and the Lehigh Valley. Nationally and internationally, royalties from more than fifty signature edition Martin guitar projects have been donated to support of an array of charitable causes of various recording artists' choosing.

C.F. Martin & Co.'s achievements are a reflection of its guitars' high quality and the inspiration those instruments imbue in artists' hands. The company's accomplishments are a source of pride for its generations of employees and for Martin guitar players around the globe. I extend my wishes for continued high contributions to the world of music for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING SHARON
STANLEY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Sharon Stanley, my constituent from Circleville, OH, on being inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame for 2013. Each year, Governor John Kasich honors a handful of distinguished veterans with this recognition. Throughout her life and career, Ms. Stanley has been unwavering in her dedication and service to our great nation, and I commend her for this distinction.

Sharon Stanley was an Army nurse on both active duty and the reserves, and she continued to serve her community after retirement. From 2009 to August 2013, she served at the national level as Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross, where she led and trained Red Cross nurses in all areas of service, including disaster response and the National Student Nurse Program.

During her time with the Red Cross, Ms. Stanley was responsible for the volunteer management of over 15,000 Red Cross nurses and volunteer nurses. She also increased the presence of Red Cross volunteer nurses in both military hospitals and the health care system at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

But her service does not stop there. Ms. Stanley has been a part of the Community

Health Resilience Initiative for the Office of Health Affairs and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Nursing, and she is directly involved with Wright State University in developing a national standardized program that will provide nurses with a certificate in Disaster Nursing.

In addition to her recent induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Ms. Stanley was honored in 2013 as one of only five nurses from the United States to be awarded the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Ms. Sharon Stanley has improved the lives of countless service members and civilians. She is a hero by nature and a true public servant, and for that I respect and appreciate her. Ms. Stanley has rightfully earned her place in the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, and I offer my deepest congratulations to her.

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY MICHAEL
REESE, JR.

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Timothy Michael Reese, Jr. He was a sophomore at Clemson University, I am told a great brother, an even greater son, and a best friend to our son Landon. He lived a short, but remarkable life and in attempting to portray it let me just tell you one story.

I flew home Tuesday afternoon to attend his funeral and in the late afternoon after doing so, but before my flight, I joined maybe a hundred or more close friends to the family in warm remembrances of Michael's life over a meal. It was a perfect South Carolina late afternoon, the sun was light and the sky was blue. There was a light breeze in from the ocean there on Sullivan's Island, and despite the tragedy of a life cut short, there was a mood of peace and warmth and even happiness as we in our different ways reflected on Michael's impact in each of our own lives.

In that setting Tim, his dad, stood up and gave a really special talk about Michael, about God, faith, friendship and love. He talked about after days of tears and grieving, he had come to the point of peace because of his faith and as the crowd in the backyard listened to each word, three thoughts hit me.

One, there are few things in life more extraordinary than the love between a father or mother to a son or daughter. It's ultimately a reflection of God's model of love toward each one of us as a heavenly Father, and that's probably something I've not taken enough time to be appreciative of whether in heavenly or earthly form.

Two, it hit me how significant the gift of life really is . . . and how there can be an even greater gift and inspiration that comes in truly living it. In that regard, Michael, during his nineteen years set the bar. He was infectious in his enthusiasm for life. In the wake of the funeral I had spoken with Landon about Mi-

chael and he made the point that Michael was always positive. That he always added humor or laughter. That as a friend he didn't fight or argue, but instead looked for ways to build up Landon or others around him as they were beginning this journey called life.

He was not only positive, but also had this spectacular sense of adventure that I think would serve as an example for those double, three times or four times his age. Many frankly never find a sense of adventure like his regardless of their chapter in life. This manifested itself in back flips off the dock at our farm, Coosaw. It showed itself in ski jumps out West that frightened me on occasion. It even served as the origin for new words as the boys created "terragoning" as they pulled skateboards behind golf carts at the grandparents' home in Florida. I could give another hundred examples, but I would summarize the thoughts with what I remember reading many years ago on the front cover of Forbes magazine upon the death of Malcolm Forbes. It said simply, "While alive—he lived." Indeed Michael Reese did and in so doing, I believe serves as a vital reminder to every one of us who have been blessed by our Creator with this thing called life, to make the very most of it—and each day in it.

Finally, I was struck by the genuine sense of community. We all yearn for connection. I believe both to those around us and to God above. Sometimes I don't know that we would describe it in those terms, but I believe that the yearning is there in each one of us. This sense of community is as well something with spiritual overtones that I think tie back to being one's brother's keeper. I saw it there in South Carolina that night. Part of it I suspect comes from a local community that's maybe not as transient as some parts of the world, and as a result there are many multi-generational ties that have been there for all the many ups and downs that come with life. There is something special about that kind of community and I am proud to call it home. Maybe it was a reflection of the Reese family. Their roots not only run deep in the community, on a daily basis they've showered it with blessings based on their own warmth and grace. Maybe still another explanation was the spiritual component to what Tim talked about as his prayer and conversation really set the tone for the whole group assembled. So I suspect I could ascribe many different reasons for the sense of community I felt on Tuesday night, October 29th, but I just know that sense of community is vital. It is a reminder to me that if we could get it right in that backyard, we could get it right in my State and in this country and here, even in the halls of Congress.

So Michael Reese has left me with many things to ponder, but more than anything a life that was well and joyously celebrated in each day over his nineteen years of life, and that gives me something to strive for over the next nineteen of mine. My prayer, Mr. Speaker, is that it will do the same for you and for those who hear my voice. Godspeed, Michael. I know Tim and Frannie, Annie, McLean and Baker will miss you. Landon and I along with the rest of the Sanford gang will too, but we will see you soon.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, and to honor the men and women who proudly served in the United States Armed Forces during this turbulent period in history.

Our nation will never be able to fully express the heartfelt gratitude we have for our veterans. The debt that we owe them is immeasurable. Time and again, our servicemen and women have stepped forward to defend the freedoms we enjoy today.

American veterans are a cornerstone of society. Past generations helped build up this great country and did not hesitate to answer the call of duty. As we remember their selfless actions, it is my hope that citizens everywhere take time to speak with the veterans in their family and community. Thank them for their service, and ask them about their role in defending our country. Helping veterans pass on their priceless wisdom and memories to future generations is one of the best ways we can honor them today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating this 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Ask that my colleagues rise and join me in thanking our veterans, past and present, for the sacrifices they have made in service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. BERNICE COLEMAN THOMPSON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Bernice Coleman Thompson on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Mrs. Thompson has been a trailblazer and leader in her church and local community her entire adult life. Mrs. Thompson was born in Salford, Alabama on September 24, 1933, to Daniel and Annie Coleman. At the age of 10, she moved to New York City where she would remain throughout her formative years. Mrs. Thompson earned an AAS degree in secretarial studies with an emphasis on the medical field from Brooklyn College. She also earned a B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in education with a concentration in Guidance and Counseling from Lehman College of the City University of New York.

Mrs. Thompson has been involved in her church for almost seventy years. As a child, she was guided in her faith by her former Pastor, the late Reverend W. L. Harding of St. Luke Baptist Church, in New York City. In 1955 she wed her husband, the Reverend Randolph Thompson, now Pastor Emeritus of the Victory Baptist Church. Through the years, Mrs. Thompson has served in many different capacities within the ministries of a number of churches. She is most proud, however, of her service as a Sunday School Teacher.

Mrs. Thompson has always been a trailblazer. She and her husband were actively involved in the Civil Rights movement and became leaders within the African American community in my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. In the 1960's she was hired as one of the first African Americans to integrate and work for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in Miami, Florida. She was also one of the first African Americans to work at the Wilson Memorial Hospital in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Thompson is the proud mother of five children and three grandchildren. As parents, she and her husband fought for integration of public schools and their two daughters were the first African American girls to integrate the Wilson, North Carolina public school system.

When Mrs. Thompson and her husband returned to New York City, she worked as a medical secretary at Columbia University's Medical School. She later worked as a high school guidance counselor at Walton and Morris High Schools in the Bronx, New York.

Through the years she has received a number of awards including Guidance Counselor of the Year at Morris High School, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Church Woman of the Year, and the Meritorious Service Award for assisting and supporting her husband while he was a seminary school student at Colgate Rochester Divinity School. She has also been a member of the NAACP, United Federation of Teachers and their Guidance and Counselors Chapter.

Mrs. Thompson's extraordinary life has been one of devotion and love for her family, church, and social justice. Mr. Speaker, I salute Mrs. Bernice Coleman Thompson on her 80th birthday and send her best wishes for the years to come.

THE ATTACK AT LAX AIRPORT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my shock and dismay at the deadly shooting at Los Angeles International Airport on November 1. The gunman deliberately targeted Transportation Security Administration agents, killing Agent Gerardo I. Hernandez and wounding two other TSA agents and a high school teacher.

Mr. Hernandez was a brave and dedicated public servant. He was known for his commitment to his family and cheerful demeanor with travelers passing through his checkpoint. My thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family, especially his wife Ana and their two children.

Also in my thoughts are the over 50,000 TSA agents who work to keep our skies safe every day. They screen nearly 2 million passengers daily at 450 airports nationwide. Many agents will be facing long hours in the next few months as holiday travelers fill our airports and skies. It is their dedication that keeps us safe as we travel home for the holidays and all TSA agents should know that their efforts and sacrifices are deeply appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD FLOYD

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Donald Floyd, who has helped to improve the lives of millions of youth across our country through his outstanding efforts as Chief Executive Officer of National 4-H Council.

Although Don has served as CEO of National 4-H Council for thirteen years, he still describes himself as "a youth worker at heart." From his earliest days as Executive Director for Junior Achievement in Reading, Pennsylvania, to his current position at National 4-H Council, he has been driven by the knowledge that young people who are involved in positive youth development opportunities will create a healthier and more prosperous future for us all. Under Don's leadership, National 4-H Council adopted a new mission in the year 2000: "To advance the 4-H youth development movement to build a world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change." Don's commitment to see National 4-H Council fulfill that mission is evidenced through his efforts to create the "National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century" and the creation of the first national action agenda for youth policy. Through these activities, 4-H has grown into one of the world's largest youth development organizations, serving more than seven million youth in 50 countries.

During Don's tenure, the 4-H movement has built upon the organization's history of bringing scientific development into rural areas to provide new and exciting programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to youth. Through these programs, young people across the country have the opportunity to study alternative energy, robotics and geographic technologies in an effort to get them engaged in STEM education and careers. Don has led 4-H in reaching out to important communities of youth, including those in urban areas, youth at risk of delinquency, children of military families, Native American youth and children of incarcerated parents. He has made a particular impact globally where 4-H is increasing its focus on international communities and identifying the role young people play in addressing the issue of food security. Don is focused on empowering independent country-led 4-H programs to increase their impact on young people; encouraging their youth to be the next generation of farmers, leaders and innovators; and expanding the reach of positive youth development worldwide.

Throughout this growth, Don has maintained a commitment to the principle at the heart of 4-H: young people and adults working together to improve their communities. Through his ability to maintain the successful traditions of the past while identifying and pursuing opportunities for the future, Don has helped 4-H produce a generation of young people who are contributing citizens to their communities, their country and their world.

As Don retires as CEO of National 4-H Council, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him on behalf of the millions of youth,