

Mr. Solomon is remembered by my constituents as “a true public servant in the finest sense of the term,” and “a humble person who possessed extraordinary talent and accomplished great things.”

Francis Xavier Solomon leaves behind a beloved wife of 29 years, Millie, and several children and stepchildren. And he leaves behind a legacy throughout our island communities, for which we will always be indebted.

REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH
CAMPBELL THOMAS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today in remembrance of Joseph Campbell Thomas, a lifelong resident of western Roanoke County, Virginia who passed away at the age of 91.

Joe was born on March 25, 1922, and grew up on his family farm during the Great Depression. He helped raise crops and livestock, worked in his family's tomato canning factory, and graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in 1939. While attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Joe was a member of the Regimental Command of the Corps of Cadets, the Scabbard and Blade and the VPI German Club. After graduating, Joe joined the United States Army Air Corps, and served our country as a pilot flying the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.

After some time working for American Bridge and General Motors, Joe joined his brothers Frank and Lewis to found Thomas Bros. excavating contractors. Their hard work paid off, and Thomas Bros. eventually grew into a premier company with important projects like Lewis Gale Hospital, Carilion Hospital, Salem Memorial Stadium, Valley View Mall, Tanglewood Mall, and others.

Outside of work, though, Joe was a lifelong member of Salem's First United Methodist Church and an avid golfer. He gave back to the community by serving on numerous boards and organizations including the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, the Roanoke County School Board, the Richfield Retirement Community Board of Directors, Lewis Gale Medical Foundation, Salem Rotary Club, the Salem YMCA, and others. He was a regular fixture at his alma mater over the years, rarely missing a Virginia Tech football or basketball game. He served as Chairman of the Virginia Tech Second Century Campaign, the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, and the Hackin' Hokies. He also was awarded the Virginia Tech Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993 for his contributions to industrial engineering.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Leftwich Thomas; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown Thomas; brothers Frank Brown Thomas Jr. and Lewis Preston Thomas; and sister, Mary Louise Thomas Crain. He is survived by daughter Julia Thomas Arthur and her husband Michael; son Joseph Campbell Thomas Jr. and his wife Leigh; five grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and other loving members of his family.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Joe's family and loved ones. His love for his family and neighbors and his contributions to our

community will always be remembered and cherished in Salem and throughout the Roanoke Valley.

THE IRANIANS ARE FEELING THE
PINCH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the old Israeli saying goes, “What you don't see with your eyes, don't invent with your mouth.”

Iran and six world powers, including the United States, are meeting in Geneva to negotiate over Iran's nuclear weapons program. The U.S. must be clear and unequivocal: There will be no reductions in sanctions without verified steps to show that Tehran is abandoning, not just freezing, its nuclear weapons program.

Sanctions are what have brought Iran to the table to talk in the first place. In 2012, the Islamic Republic's net exports of petroleum dropped to their lowest level since 1990. Its GDP has dropped for the first time in 20 years. The Iranian Central Bank acknowledged an annual inflation rate of 45 percent in late July 2013; many economists believe it is more likely in the 50–70 percent range.

In short, the Iranians are feeling the pinch. The sanctions are working.

But getting the Iranians to the negotiating table is not good enough.

If we reduce sanctions now, we give up one of our main sources of leverage for the negotiations. Why stop what is working before we even start talking? Tehran wants to ease the sanctions to a tolerable enough level so that it can continue developing nuclear weapons without pain to its economy.

If we ease sanctions now, Iran will doubt our resolve, continue to run out the clock, and develop nuclear weapons knowing that there will be no serious consequences.

If the U.S. caves in at this critical time, other countries around the world will likely follow its lead and ease their own sanctions. In short, we would be right back to where we were in 2004: Iran marching toward a dangerous nuclear weapons program with no significant sanctions in place. Only this time, it would be much worse. Tehran has continually blocked international inspectors from seeing its nuclear facilities because it has something to hide.

Iran is closer than ever before to crossing the threshold and developing a nuclear weapon. Iran's stockpile of medium-enriched uranium has nearly doubled in a year, and its number of centrifuges has expanded from 12,000 in 2012 to 19,000 today.

Iran could produce enough weapons-grade uranium to build a nuclear bomb in as little as a month, a recent report by the Institute for Science and International Security states. It goes on to say that if Iran built a covert enrichment plant with the specific purpose of enriching uranium as quickly as possible, with current Iranian technology it could produce enough material for a nuclear bomb in a week. Backing off from sanctions now should not be an option. We simply do not have time.

If we want diplomacy to succeed, we shouldn't be talking about reducing sanctions but rather ratcheting them up. My colleagues

and I in the House of Representatives passed an additional sanctions bill in July that would inflict even more pain on the Iranian regime. These new sanctions would go after more sectors of the Iranian economy and more individuals in the Iranian government. The U.S. Senate should ignore the president's objections and pass these sanctions immediately. If peace is to carry the day, we cannot start backing down now.

Nobody wants war with Iran. We should not give up the one peaceful tool that has finally impacted the Iranian regime enough to change its cost-benefit analysis. It would be foolish and dangerous to reduce sanctions without Iran proving that it is dismantling its nuclear weapons program. And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HELEN
MOSS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Helen Moss, who passed from this life on Saturday, November 9, 2013. Helen Moss was an indefatigable and socially minded community leader on many fronts. The living partnership she and her husband, Richard, formed were constant forces for community betterment across the Cleveland region.

Dedicated to success and committed to the pursuit of innovative research, Helen created the Helen Moss Cancer Research Foundation in 2000. The purpose of the foundation is to encourage and support education in Integrative Medicine and Comprehensive Cancer Care in Northeastern Ohio. She chose to turn her final heroic struggle into continuing good for her community: in 2012, she helped to establish the Parker Hannifin/Helen Moss Cancer Research Foundation Professorship in Integrative Oncology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In addition to her support of health research, Helen played an active role in the local community. She was elected as a councilwoman for the Village of Bratenahl in 2001. Additionally, she was selected to be the President of the Ohio Ballet in Akron in 1982 and was appointed to the Ohio Arts Council in 1986. An elegant woman, strong, and vitally engaged citizen, she held a precious appreciation for beauty—in the arts, in the built environment, in literature and music. Helen was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Helen Moss leaves to cherish her life and legacy her husband Richard Fleischman, their four children, grandchildren and extended family and friends. We join them in honoring the life and service of an exceptional woman.

HONOR TRANSGENDER DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today is Transgender Day of Remembrance. On this

day, we remember those who have been killed as a result of anti-transgender violence and take note of the continued violence directed at the transgender community.

Sadly, violence and bullying against the transgender community is common. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, nearly 80 percent of transgender students have been harassed in the K–12 school setting. That discrimination continues into the professional work environment. Transgender people are twice as likely to be unemployed compared to the general population and 90 percent have been mistreated at work. In September this year Erycka Morgan, a student at Rutgers University and LGBT advocate, was killed in a New Brunswick boarding house. Public reports and press releases identified Erycka as a male and authorities identified her by her birth name and gender, despite being advised of her transgender identity and her preferred name.

As we remember those who have been killed or wounded by hate and violence, we also should commend the transgender community for working hard to educate Americans on the inequality they face. They are making great strides. Two weeks ago the Senate passed a fully inclusive Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The Senate-passed ENDA would prohibit employers from discriminating against an individual due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill passed by a strong bipartisan vote of 64–32. It is time for Speaker BOEHNER to bring that bill to the House floor.

A few years ago, the House considered a version of ENDA that did not include gender identity. Although I strongly oppose employment discrimination against all people, including gays and lesbians, the fact that the bill did not include gender identity is why I could not support the legislation then. I expect that when we finally achieve an ENDA law, perhaps this year, it will be inclusive.

Finally, I want to commend the LGBT advocates in New Jersey who have worked hard to achieve full equality in New Jersey. I share the excitement and sense of pride felt by my fellow New Jerseyans when the New Jersey Supreme Court refused to prohibit the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We have a way to go towards full equality, but we are on the right path, a path that bends towards justice. In honor of Erycka Morgan and all those whose lives have been cut short due to violence rooted in ignorance, we will get there.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE BEACON GROUP AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which in the last several years has helped more than 48,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to

buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with significant disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program provides essential assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

I am proud to acknowledge the important work of Beacon Group in Tucson. Since 1952, Beacon has provided quality services by employing people with disabilities. Their services improve the quality of life, alleviate barriers to independence, and help Arizonans of all ages to reach their full potential. With the support of the AbilityOne Program, Beacon provides and serves over 2,100 people with disabilities each year, providing a variety of employment related programs. The direct impact of these services on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to work, be independent, participate in community life, or contribute to their society; the AbilityOne Program and agencies like Beacon are invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I strongly support the AbilityOne Program and Beacon Group. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Steve King, the President of Beacon and his staff. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of the society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and make our country a better place to live.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE COAST EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Space Coast Early Intervention Center (SCEIC) and its long running efforts to serve Florida children with and without special needs. For the past 25 years, SCEIC has established a unique inclusive program to ensure equal learning opportunities for all children regardless of ability. Their goal is to provide children with the academic and social skills needed to succeed in life.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center was founded by Betsy Farmer, who recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the SCEIC's 25th Anniversary Celebration for her vision to establish Brevard's premier preschool.

The preschool is renowned for providing a safe, quality and high achieving learning environment for children with developmental delays such as William's syndrome, Rhett's Syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Autism, Pervasive developmental delays and Apert Syndrome, as well as children with visual, speech and hearing delays.

The SCEIC's curriculum is designed around key development indicators—language, literacy and communication; social and emotional development; physical development and

health; mathematics; science and technology; social studies, and creative arts. Through curriculum and play, students are taught social skills necessary to develop successful friendships, appropriate behavior and have daily opportunities to develop and strengthen basic skills necessary to manage themselves, resolve conflict and develop positive social behaviors.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center enrolls more than 70 students and has a staff of over 25 teachers and nearly 600 volunteers. The Center conducts monthly parent education sessions, as well as community training outreach programs. Additionally, a team of occupational, speech, and physical therapists, and teacher assistants are trained in child care services, First Aid and applied behavioral analysis.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center provides a tremendously valuable service to families and our community. The Center's dedication to helping children develop the skills they need to succeed in life makes our nation stronger and our future more secure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,200,725,370,597.56. We've added \$6,573,848,321,684.48 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pharmacy is one of the oldest of the health professions concerned with the health and well-being of all people.

Today, there are more than 300,000 pharmacists licensed in the United States providing services to ensure the safe and effective use of all medications.

The safe and effective use of medication, as a cost-effective alternative and a preventative mechanism to avoid more expensive medical procedures, is a major force in moderating overall health care costs.

It is important that all users of prescription and nonprescription medications, their families or their caregivers, be knowledgeable about and share responsibility for their own drug therapy.

Pharmacists have extensive education and expertise on drugs and medication therapy, which makes them ideally suited to work collaboratively with patients and their health care team members to improve medication use and outcomes.