

Association. Notably, Mr. Francis won the 2010 Investigator of the Year award given by the California District Attorney Investigator's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Francis for his invaluable service to the County of Napa. William Francis' unyielding dedication to making Napa County a safer place to live, work and raise a family is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF PRIORITY-TWO
(P-2) REFUGEE IMMIGRATION
STATUS FOR AHISKA TURKS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Ahiska (Meskhetian) Turkish community, a distinct minority group that has faced statelessness, discrimination, and violent attacks in the former Soviet Union for nearly 70 years. Given recent reports of active and severe persecution against Ahiska Turks in southern Russia at every socio-economic and political level because of their ethnicity and religion, I urge the U.S. Department of State to re-establish Ahiska Turks as a group of "special humanitarian concern" for Priority-Two (P-2) processing for refugee status.

The Ahiska Turks, who were uprooted and resettled from their ancestral lands in the Soviet Republic of Georgia by Stalin in 1944, have been perennial refugees since then, and unable to return to their homes. Much of the refugee community is now centered in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia, led by Governor Alexander Tkachev. The Ahiska Turk community numbers less than 19,000 in the Krasnodar region, with thousands more in the nearby Rostov region and Kabardino-Balkaria, for a total of 80,000 in all of Russia.

Between 2004 and 2007, roughly 12,000 Ahiska Turks came to the United States under a special refugee status known as P-2, settling all over the United States, including in Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, and many other states. This resilient community has been able to fully integrate into American society, and has proven itself to be a great asset in their new home states by becoming entrepreneurs and creating opportunities for others.

Unfortunately, Ahiska Turks lost their P-2 status when it expired in 2007. For those who remain stateless in southern Russia, their struggles continue. The discrimination and ethnic persecution of the Ahiska Turks by the Russian authorities, as well as vigilante and Cossack paramilitary forces, has been documented by the U.S. State Department, the Russian human rights organization "Memorial," and the media, most recently The New York Times.

Furthermore, an October 2013 report by the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance, which dedicates a section to Ahiska Turks, indicated that the situation in southern Russia remains "very bad" for ethnic minori-

ties. The report also goes on to explain that human rights organizations' efforts to monitor and report on the situation have been met with "hostility by the authorities, including criminal investigations and prosecutions."

Mr. Speaker, issues of human rights and the ethnic persecution of Ahiska Turks in southern Russia remain serious concerns. Although the Ahiska Turkish diaspora, particularly in the United States, and various organizations have long advocated for renewed resettlement assistance, the international community remains largely unresponsive. Therefore, I believe that it is long past time that the State Department re-institute P-2 status for Ahiska Turks and resume the implementation of a successful program that has not only improved the lives of refugees, but also enriched the communities they joined.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL R.
MOON ON ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Daniel R. Moon of Scout Troop 931 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Daniel Moon has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Daniel has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Daniel will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Daniel's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Daniel Moon on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY CIESLA

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's 4th Congressional District is home to countless special people and businesses. Today I rise to honor Larry Ciesla, one of those special people who has made a major impact at Intrado, Inc., a company in my district that has played a significant role in providing our country's 9-1-1 emergency system. This month, Larry will retire after more than 40 years in this mission-critical industry.

Larry began his telecommunications career as an engineer with Western Electric, which later morphed into Bell Labs, AT&T Technologies and eventually Lucent Technologies. Before and after Intrado acquired Lucent's Public Safety Division, Lucent's switch engineers recognized Larry's special capabilities and came to respect his expertise in 9-1-1 switching functionality—presenting Larry with the Bell System's prestigious "Distinguished Member of Technical Staff" award. It was in those early years when Larry's visionary participation in standards development and his pioneering contributions led to the technical foundation for what we all know today as Enhanced 9-1-1 service.

Larry can count among his accomplishments his role as the chief architect of the AT&T E9-1-1 database management system, his leadership in developing a geo-spatial 9-1-1 database which was a precursor for locating mobile 9-1-1 callers used today, and his co-authorship of the technical paper that defined the method used today for routing wireless 9-1-1 calls—ensuring that those calls for help at a time of need are delivered to the appropriate public safety agency.

Larry is credited as an inventor or co-inventor of multiple U.S. Patents, including a method for expanded communications in a telecom network and an E9-1-1 architecture for Internet telephony.

Always content to work behind the scenes, Larry has been an unsung hero—responsible for saving countless lives in his four decades on the job. On behalf of all Americans, I commend Larry Ciesla for his dedication, his outstanding contributions, and his impactful service to his country and its citizens.

HONORING MS. MANISHA HEARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable, well-rounded, and highly driven young woman, Ms. Manisha Heard. Born to Mr. Steve Campbell and Ms. Jean Heard, Manisha was raised in the small, close-knit town of Bolton, Mississippi. As a child, Manisha was an outstanding young woman who was deeply involved in her community and church home. She regularly attends Church of God In Christ and is active in Sunday school and various other auxiliaries.

Manisha is not only a well-mannered young woman, but also exceptionally bright. Her academic ambitions were accomplished and exceeded during her matriculation at Raymond High School, where she graduated in May 2010. She currently is matriculating at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, where she is striving to receive a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Multimedia Journalism. Her ambitious spirit will ultimately lead her into a promising career of on-air news reporting. Alongside her academic studies, Manisha has been involved in a number of extracurricular activities as well, including an avid member of the Jackson State University cheerleading squad, MADDRAMA Performance Troupe, and served as Miss Junior of Jackson State University.

Deeply rooted in her faith, Manisha also continues to remain involved with her church home. She has been crowned Miss Church of God In Christ and served as Assistant Secretary for COGIC club. Manisha truly has a heart to serve others and continues to advocate for her fellow peers. Currently, Manisha serves as Resident Hall Senator for the Student Government Association and has been selected to serve on the president society at Jackson State University. In addition to her other appointments, Manisha will also serve as Women's Philanthropy Ambassador. Clearly, Manisha's peers and university administrators have entrusted her with the responsibility to represent the student body in a variety of capacities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Manisha Heard for her remarkable, ambitious spirit to succeed academically as well as her continued drive to serve and address the concerns of her fellow peers through her appointed service within her church and college community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. THOMAS
SHARPE WILMETH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas Sharpe Wilmeth who will be awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award on Saturday, December 7, 2013.

Mr. Wilmeth was introduced to math and the concepts of math at a young age in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated high school at the age of 15 and went on to graduate magna cum laude with a degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1935. Mr. Wilmeth then worked for various businesses where he focused on increasing efficiency and productivity while reducing costs. In 1949, he and his brother started Scot Industries. Mr. Wilmeth used his engineering background and education to establish a metal honing business that produced better, more efficient and less expensive products, such as hydraulic cylinders, metal tubing, and metallurgy. He now lives in Daingerfield, Texas and after 45 years of success, Scot Industries has 13 different locations and has built an international reputation for quality and technological leadership in the areas of specialty metal bars and high pressure efficient metal tubing.

Since obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 15, Mr. Wilmeth has remained true

to his scouting promises of kindness, generosity, and sharing. As a lifelong entrepreneur and philanthropist, he continually contributes to his alma mater, Purdue University, and to the Boy Scouts of America, where both BSA councils in Indianapolis, Indiana and NeTse0 Trails have greatly benefited. With his background, it is evident Mr. Wilmeth deserves the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, acknowledging his achievements and success within his field and his outstanding record of voluntary service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Thomas Sharpe Wilmeth as he receives this prestigious award.

HONORING STEPHEN KLEIN

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, today, Stephen Klein, a long serving and widely respected Vermont public servant, is receiving the prestigious Stephen D. Gold Award from the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) here in our Nation's capitol.

The Gold Award is presented by NCSL, in conjunction with the National Tax Association and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, to an individual who has made a significant contribution to public financial management in State and local finance. Those who know the serious fiscal challenges our small State has faced in recent years know Stephen deserves this award, and much more.

Vermont has an unusual, perhaps unique, way of grappling with fiscal issues. The Joint Fiscal Office, directed by Stephen since 1993, is a non-partisan office providing financial analyses to the Vermont General Assembly. It serves the so-called "money committees"—Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Finance. It serves Republicans and Democrats. It serves the majority and minority parties. And during Stephen's tenure both parties have been in both positions.

Vermont, like most States, has faced contentious fiscal issues—school finance, health care funding, recessions, and conflicting and fiercely debated taxing and spending priorities. Yet through it all, with Republican and Democratic majorities and Republican and Democratic governors, Vermont experienced in Stephen an assured, creative, and honest leader who helped us—through good times and bad—balance our budgets, meet our priorities, and plan for our future.

Stephen Klein's accomplishments are significant: balancing budgets in a State without a balanced budget amendment, creating a process for all stakeholders to agree on revenue estimates, and establishing a matching endowment fund for the Vermont State Colleges, to name just a few.

But if his competence earned him universal respect, it is his personal qualities that have endeared him to all who know him—professional and emotional generosity, a twinkling smile and sense of humor, a hectic but focused energy, respect for his long serving and able staff, his humility, and his genuine respect for every legislator.

As hard as Stephen has worked for the State of Vermont, he has served in many other ways including as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and the Dominican Republic, a member of the Randolph School Board, and a director of the Hunger Mountain Food Coop. Blessed with a loving family—his wife, Pricilla, and his children, Elana and Jonathan—Stephen is a Vermonter who makes his fellow Vermonters proud.

REMEMBERING PRIVATE PAUL M.
JOHNSON

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As we remember the day that lives in infamy, we must stir our memory of those lost and whose sacrifice anchors Pearl Harbor's significance.

Private Paul M. Johnson was born in 1922 in Waterbury, Connecticut. The son of a popular Waterbury Police Detective, he lived on Greenwood Avenue, attended Mary Abbott Grammar School, graduated from Leavenworth High School and was a member of Beth-El Synagogue. His uncle, Private David L. Fannick, was killed on the battlefields of France in June of 1918, inspiring the formation of the local David L. Fannick Jewish War Veterans Post No. 91. Always wanting to be a soldier like his uncle, Paul enlisted on April 23, 1941. Sent to Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, he was assigned to the 40mm Bofors AA, Battery "E" of the 646th Coast Artillery.

During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Pvt. Paul M. Johnson did what he was trained to do. Pvt. Johnson ran to his station, Battery E, 64th Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft, and returned fire with his anti-aircraft guns. Pvt. Paul M. Johnson was wounded defending our Nation, and died the next day, December 8, 1941 at age 19 as a result of his wounds. Private Paul M. Johnson was the first soldier from Waterbury to give his life in World War II. His was a sacrifice we cannot repay, so it is our solemn obligation to give it honor. We do that today as we remember the cost of war, the price that is paid, and the promise that we must keep in defending and protecting this great Nation.

PEARL HARBOR

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, an event that changed America and catapulted this nation onto a world stage and into global conflict—World War II. At least 2,400 Americans lost their lives in Pearl Harbor and more than 1,000 were wounded. Each year, we remember the day that changed the nation, ignited the flame of freedom and inspired a generation to greatness. And while we seek peace in a tumultuous world, America remains ever vigilant and determined to be free. Pearl