clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 1 silver oak leaf clusters and 1 bronze oak leaf cluster), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 3 bronze oak leaf clusters), National Defense Service Medal (with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters), Multinational Force and Observers Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

Eric had a truly commendable career, of which he, his wife Susan Marie, and his two sons Garth and Evan should all be very proud. Notably, he made the difficult sacrifice of serving both the United States as well as the higher power of God. I would like to wish him and his family all of the best in his future service and retirement from the United States Army and New York National Guard.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 2013 VSIP RETIREES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the staff that retired through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer 2013 voluntary separation incentive payment program, for their collective years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives: Sharyn Alexander; Kenton Armas; Timothy Babcock; Gerald Bennett; Frederick Bowles, Jr.; Lorenzo Braye; Elery Caskey, Jr., Tredway Childress; Alessandro Cusati; Mark Dalton; Thomas D'Amico; Sandra Durham; Estanislao Field; Jerry Gallegos; Terry Hancock; Monroe Holliway; Barbara Holmberg; Alfredda Horton; Richard Hughes; Trevera Jackson; Christine Jensen; Stephen Johnson; Eric King; Thomas Mako; Russell Malone; Roy McLeod; Gwendolyn Melvin; George Moore; Ronald Mullvain; Thoa Nguyen; David Peebler; Robert Ransom II; Alan Richardson; Willie Roane; Delma Rutkowski; Joe Taylor; Alvin Thompson; Ben Vann; Robert Watson.

These individuals are acknowledged and commended for the hard work, dedication, professionalism, and spirit of public service that each contributed to the operation of the House. On behalf of the Office of the CAO and the entire House community, I am proud to stand before you in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF CORALIN FEIERBACH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Coralin Feierbach for 14 years of outstanding service on the Belmont City Council, serving as mayor in 1999, 2007 and 2011. Coralin was first elected in 1995 for one term. She joined the council again in 2003 and has served continuously since that date.

Coralin's hands-on and passionate style make her one of the most memorable leaders in Belmont. She always strives to see the side of residents, and works hard to ensure that their interests rather than the interests of others are the central focus of the council's deliberations. She will listen to Belmont residents on any topic, at any time of the day or night.

Coralin has been a longtime advocate of open space. She first made a name for herself in the community in the mid-1970s when a plan to build housing on Sugarloaf Mountain in San Mateo on the border with Belmont was proposed. She and others won the fight to protect open space and Coralin has spent much of her life since protecting the Belmont hills from development.

During her tenure on the council, she was instrumental in getting both Measure F, the Hillside Preservation Ordinance, and the Slope Density Ordinance, passed. She assisted in the acquisition of 35 acres in San Juan Canyon which are now permanent open space. The canyon was slated to have 1,000 homes built and Coralin helped reduce the number of lots for homes down to about 60. She succeeded in preserving the land for its beauty and recreational purposes, making it a sanctuary for the area's wildlife and residents.

She also worked on a revision of the city's tree ordinance, the smoking ordinance, design review, code enforcement, the noise ordinance, construction time limits and green initiatives. Literally, if you look at the lush trees and canyons that distinguish Belmont, you see Coralin's clarity of purpose throughout the community.

Coralin served during some of the most difficult economic times for Belmont. She always wanted a balanced and fair budget. She worked hard to prevent Caltrain's evolution from changing the character of the community, and her service did not begin with the council. Coralin served on the Planning Commission from 1986–1987 and 2001–2003.

Coralin has a Bachelor's in Mathematics from San Francisco State University and did two years in the graduate program in mathematics at San Francisco State. She was a software developer and part owner of a software development firm.

In her well-deserved retirement, Coralin is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Gary, their daughter and grandchildren. And she plans to take music classes at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont and to start a quartet as she plays classical piano.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Coralin Feierbach for her outstanding public service to the residents of Belmont. She has preserved and nurtured the city's spirit in order to produce tranquility amidst the urban din, and a small town appeal that makes Belmont a gem on the San Francisco Peninsula.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, the weather delayed my arrival to Washington DC for the afternoon votes, and I missed rollcall No. 630, or H.R. 3521. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3521.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) FUNDING AND THE IMPACT OF SEQUESTRATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, for leading this important bi-partisan discussion on the benefits of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the dire impact that sequestration is having on NIH, its grantees, and our nation.

NIH makes important discoveries that improve health and save lives.

Thanks in large part to NIH-funded medical research, Americans today are living longer and healthier lives.

Life expectancy in the United States has increased and disability in people over age 65 has dramatically decreased in the past 3 decades because of the important research taking place at NIH.

NIH is also a job creator—it has created hundreds of thousands of high-quality jobs by funding scientists at universities and research institutions in every state across America and in countries around the globe.

These investments have led directly to better outcomes for cancer patients and increased the effectiveness of the treatments we have for HIV, influenza, diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's, and hundreds of other diseases and disorders that affect millions of Americans.

More than 80% of NIH's budget goes to more than 300,000 research personnel at over 2,500 universities and research institutions.

In fiscal year 2013, Ohio received $777 million in NIH funding.

And my district, the third congressional district of Ohio, received 581 NIH grants, worth over $248 million.

NIH has historically funded the largest amount of federally funded research within my district at The Ohio State University.

In 2012, NIH funded approximately 25% of the overall research expenditures at The Ohio State University.

NIH grants went utilized on collaborations between The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital to accelerate basic scientific discoveries into life-saving medical advances.

In particular, the discovery of microRNAs, small cellular molecules involved with biological regulation, is now known to play a pivotal role in the growth and spread of prostate, ovarian, colon and lung cancers, as well as other diseases.

NIH grants were also provided to The Ohio State University to establish a research center devoted to the study of tobacco use patterns, research that will help the Food and Drug Administration put science behind its new role in regulating tobacco.

NIH funds investigators in my district, at Nationwide Children's Hospital, to study gene therapy as a treatment for spinal muscular atrophy, the most common genetic defect that results in infant mortality.

At Nationwide Children's Hospital, NIH funding makes possible important clinical trials of viral therapy for solid cancer tumors in children, testing of new agents against childhood tumors, research to prevent and treat infant prematurity, and the furthering of understanding of the mechanisms of autism prevention.

In fact, the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital is ranked 6th for NIH funding among free-standing children's hospitals in the United States.

Hyper Tech Research, Bertec Corporation, Battelle, and BioOhio—all of these outstanding companies in the third congressional district of Ohio benefit from NIH research funding for biotechnology, drug development, medical devices, and health care.

But, just as NIH dollars that flow to Ohio help grow the state's economy, a reduction in those dollars have hurt us.

On March 1, 2013 sequestration required NIH to cut 5 percent—$1.55 billion—of its fiscal year 2013 budget.

These drastic cuts affected all NIH programs, projects, and activities—every single area of medical research was negatively affected.

NIH now has approximately 700 fewer competitive research grants.

They now have approximately 750 fewer new patients in their clinical center.

The development of more effective cancer drugs is being delayed.

Research on a universal flu vaccine is being delayed.

Research on prevention of debilitating chronic conditions is being delayed.

These delays are proof that sequestration has significantly undermined medical progress across all disciplines of research on the full spectrum of diseases and conditions.

We cannot continue to compromise our nation's future economic growth and security by blindly cutting federal investment in areas that are critical to our nation's ability to innovate and compete in the global economy.

As much as half of U.S. economic growth since World War IIs a result of technological innovation, much of which resulted directly from federally-funded scientific research.

The private sector, which requires rapid returns in investment, relies on the federal government to fund basic scientific research.

Sustained support for federal research, education, and student aid programs pay dividends by building human, scientific and technological capital for our nation.

We cannot afford to let the United States fall behind other countries, such as China, in such important areas as scientific research and innovation.

Our government must show a clear commitment to sustained funding of scientific research across the disciplines so that our nation can compete globally and we can build a better America for future generations.

Sequestration is not the answer to our nation's fiscal problems.

I urge my colleagues to oppose further cuts to nondefense discretionary programs.

The point of fiscal responsibility is to invest in these critical federal programs in order to provide a better life for all Americans, especially our children who are our future researchers and inventors.

Sustained investments in NIH are essential so that our nation can train the next generation to make tomorrow's health discoveries and to continue America's scientific leadership.

The work done by NIH helps grow our economy, improve our health, and has made our nation stronger and more secure.

We should not weaken them.

IN HONOR OF MR. LARRY HORTON'S RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Larry Horton, Senior Associate Vice President and Director of Government and Community Relations at Stanford University, as he celebrates his retirement from a long and distinguished career. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this individual who has contributed so much to Stanford University.

Mr. Horton joined Stanford University in 1970, and has served in a number of positions including Assistant and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Associate Director of Government Relations, and Associate Vice President for Public Affairs. In addition, from 1976 to 1977, he participated in the President's Executive Exchange Program in Washington, where he served as an assistant to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. His achievements at Stanford include the 2000 Community Plan/General Use Permit, the Mayfield Development Agreement and the conclusion of the Trails Agreement with Santa Clara County.

A true Cardinal, Mr. Horton earned both his B.A. in political science, and his M.A. in history, from Stanford. Following graduation, he served our country in the U.S. Army, with two years in Western Europe during the Vietnam War era. Through his years at Stanford, he has seen history unfold on the campus, and helped to shape Stanford's policies in areas vital to the University's success, including housing for women and minorities, federal patent legislation, federal research-funding policy, federal immigration and national security issues, and significantly, land use issues.

At Stanford's 2013 commencement, Mr. Horton was honored with the Kenneth M. Cuthbertson Award For Exceptional Service to Stanford University. This award was truly deserved, and Mr. Horton will leave Stanford University for the better from his 54 years of service to the school. Following his retirement, Larry will certainly maintain a busy schedule pursuing his passions of opera and theater, golf, travel, and enjoying a good book.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Mr. Larry Horton during his tenure at Stanford University. As Mr. Horton, family, friends, and colleagues celebrate his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FISHER HOUSE: A HOME AWAY FROM HOME, FOR AMERICA'S HEROES AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this Christmas Season of giving to recognize The Fisher House, an organization that has built sixty-two homes for our wounded warriors and their families. The Fisher House is a place of recovery where families can be reunited with their loved ones as they fight the battle to overcome the scars of war. As a home away from home, The Fisher House provides safe haven and helps relieve the financial hardships that families relocating to be with their wounded loved ones face. The Fisher House Program was founded in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher in Rockville, Maryland. They are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide. Kenneth Fisher is currently carrying on his Uncle Zach's legacy as acting Chairman. I submit this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell in their honor.

FISHER HOUSE—BECAUSE A FAMILY'S LOVE IS GOOD MEDICINE

A . . .
A Home . . .
A Home Away . . .
A Home Away From . . .
A Home Away From Home!
And when our heroes come back home . . .
From war and battlefields of honor bright to which they belong.
Back from that most dreaded cost of war . . . .
all in such pain and heartache to endure . . . .
As such a battle up ahead them so lies before,
for all these families in this new war!
Broken all in such places.
With scars upon their faces . . .
With arms and legs missing in all places . . .
With operation after operation,
as this they so face this!
As they can not so be alone . . .
For they so need a place of refuse where they can get strong . . .
A place that they can call Home!
A Home Away From Home,
where they can all belong!
Can grow!
A place where healing is so strong!
A place where their loved ones can hold them tight . . . .
and encourage them both day and night!
A place to ready them for this new battle,
this new fight!
A place of refuse and of rest!
A place where they can but be their best!
A place that which helps their fine heart's crest!
A place which brings them to recovery and nothing less!
A place where they so all belong!
So they know that they are not alone!
A Home Away From Home!
Just like a love song!
Because all of these families come from afar!
As they put their own lives on hold . . .
because that's who they are!
Such quiet heroes one and all,
who so shine like the stars!
Because they make their loved ones who they are!
All In This Home Away From Home from afar!