

of thousands of veterans and their families. I commend the work of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes to ensure that our nation's defenders are never forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631, I was unable to be present for H.R. 1402. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING BOBBY COX'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the long and accomplished career of one of baseball's all-time greatest managers, for Atlanta Braves Manager Bobby Cox.

On Monday, Cox was unanimously elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame by a 16-member committee, and will be inducted in Cooperstown this coming July.

Throughout his 29 years as a Manager in the Major Leagues, Cox became one of the winningest coaches of all time. He accrued 2,504 wins; the majority taking place during his 25 years leading the Braves. During that time, he brought an unprecedented 14 consecutive division titles, 5 National League championships, and the 1995 World Series pennant to Atlanta.

As a manager, Cox was respected by his players and kept only three rules—show up on time, wear your uniform correctly, and play hard. After the 2010 season, he retired from his job as the team's Manager, but still holds a role as a special assistant that allows him to keep being a part of the game he loves.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District and Braves fans everywhere, I extend my thanks to Bobby for the decades of entertainment and the legacy he brought to our great state. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on achieving the highest level of recognition possible in America's pastime. Go Braves.

CONGRATULATING DR. BERNICE DUFFY JOHNSON, IN RECOGNITION OF HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson on her 34 remarkable years of service to the students, faculty, and staff of North Carolina Central University, NCCU, located in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Johnson was raised on a sharecropper farm along with a large family that never benefited from a formal education. Her ascent to become one of the preeminent educators of our time serves as an inspiration to us all and is a testament to her lifelong commitment to bettering the lives of others through education.

Dr. Johnson's meteoric career trajectory is even more impressive as an African-American who made her way during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. As a 1963 graduate of what is now known as University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a subsequent graduate of a Pennsylvania State University graduate school, Dr. Johnson began her career in education teaching junior high school in Indianapolis.

In 1979, Dr. Johnson returned to the south as an adjunct professor at my alma mater, NCCU. Her exemplary career at NCCU embodies the best qualities of the Civil Rights Movement and shows the immeasurably positive influence a single individual can have when committed to helping others. While teaching at NCCU, Dr. Johnson earned her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and served in various capacities before being named NCCU's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The importance of Dr. Johnson's many accomplishments during her 34-year tenure at NCCU are beyond the pale. A small sample of Dr. Johnson's many contributions include helping design a \$36 million state-of-the-art science complex, helping six degree programs reach accreditation, and co-authoring a renowned textbook that received \$6 million in research funding from the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson for her exceptional leadership and dedication to educating future generations of leaders. Of the many accomplishments in her career, I know her greatest pride is positively impacting the lives of more than three decades of NCCU students.

Dr. Johnson's legacy is built on hard work and determination and she is an example to which the next generation of educators should aspire. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Dr. Bernice Duffy Johnson's many achievements in her 34 years of service to NCCU.

IN MEMORY OF LEROY TYSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Leroy Tyson. Leroy, or "Tyson" as he was better known in our office, served as a custodian in the Day Cleaning Division of the House Office Buildings. He began his service with the Architect of the Capitol, AOC, on August 6, 2007, where he worked around the clock to help maintain the U.S. Capitol buildings.

Over the past several years, I came to know Tyson through his kindness, hard work, and exceptional service. He became a great friend to me and my office, and touched the lives of all those who had the pleasure of knowing

him. Tyson brought an energy and commitment to excellence despite his ongoing struggle with cancer. He prided himself on being here every day, living his life as normally as possible, and consistently making it a point to ask how everyone else was doing. In the midst of chemotherapy and in the days leading up to his untimely passing, Tyson always had a sense of humor and checked in often with our office to share a laugh.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a great man. I feel truly blessed to have known him, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Tyson family during this difficult time. May Leroy Tyson's memory serve as a reminder to show our appreciation to each other while we still have the chance.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF JENNIE MIRZA ESHOO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jennie Mirza Eshoo who passed away on November 27, 2013, in Turlock, California at the age of 98. Born in Chicago, Illinois on July 17, 1915, to Aghassi and Martha Mirza, Jennie was the first-born in her family of five sisters and two brothers. She graduated from Waller High School in 1934, and was accepted to the University of Illinois. Though she was unable to attend college due to the Depression, she devoted herself to lifelong learning. She was an avid reader of biographies, history, the National Geographic, Smithsonian, her local newspapers and many other publications. Most of all, she cherished her Bible and its words nourished her soul over a lifetime.

Jennie married Paul Eshoo on September 22, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois. In October, 1936, they bought a farm in Turlock, California, where they farmed wine grapes, walnuts, and chickens.

Jennie was a homemaker for many years, and later in life she took a position at Stanislaus State University when it first opened, and later worked as a teacher's aide. She enjoyed traveling and was able to visit the Holy Land and Europe twice. She was extremely active in and deeply devoted to her church, St. John's Presbyterian, where she served as Elder, Clerk of the Session, Delegate to the Stockton Presbytery, and many other leadership roles.

Jennie was a charter member of the Assyrian American Civic Club and was honored in 2011 as the Club's oldest charter member. She volunteered until the age of 90 for the Emanuel Medical Center Auxiliary, and was a member of the Senior Citizens of Turlock. She volunteered for decades as a poll worker, dedicating herself to one of the great manifestations of a democracy, voting. Her life was devoted to Christ and her community, and she served as a role model for all who were privileged to know her.

Jennie was preceded in death by her husband Paul Eshoo and her sister Esther Aziz. She leaves four children; Peter and Genny Eshoo of Buffalo Grove, Illinois; George Eshoo of Menlo Park, California; Agnes and John Williams of Livermore, California; Alice and

Dale Pollard of Turlock, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. As Jennie was being taken to her final resting place, the family received the sad news that her sister, Julia Alexander, had just passed. She is now survived by two sisters and two brothers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a patriot. Jennie Eshoo was a woman who served her community, her church and her country with great dedication, and today the entire House of Representatives extends its condolences to all her family.

HONORING KIARA L. WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambitious and talented young woman, Ms. Kiara L. Walker. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to achieve greatness.

Ms. Walker, a native of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, made her embark on this journey of life January 9, 1990. She is the youngest of 6 children by Eldridge and Anne Walker and second oldest child of Delores Myles.

Ms. Walker graduated from South Delta High School in 2008 where she was the Valedictorian. During her 4 year matriculation of high school at South Delta, Kiara devoted herself not only to academic excellence, but also community involvement, mentorship, and other extracurricular activities. She was a section leader (trumpets) and member of the South Delta Marching Band for many years, inductee and board member of the SD Chapter National Honor Society, as well as, student council, peer counselor, and elected Vice-President of her senior class. In 2005, Kiara was a chosen ambassador and is now a reoccurring volunteer facilitator each summer at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference (HOBY) at Millsaps College. She was also listed in Who's Who Among High School Students.

Ms. Walker is a founding member of the Mayor's Youth Council of Rolling Fork, an active member of local 4-H Club, and partner with local elected officials to host many community events throughout the year, such as, the local Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Children's Day Fest and Thanksgiving/Christmas dinners for the elderly. At an early age, she was instilled with the morality of always sharing her many gifts and talents; therefore, she tutors elementary students.

In May 2013 Ms. Walker earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Healthcare Administration. Kiara was a recipient of the Valedictorian scholarship, a student of the WEB DuBois Honors College, and inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She's a former member of Tiger P.R.I.D.E. Connection, Pre-Health Society, American Chemical Society, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBECHE), Interfaith Gospel Choir, and the JSU Concert Chorale. Also during her undergraduate progression, she has studied research in the areas of Molecular Biology and

Computational Chemistry and has been a part of scientific publications in assistance with mentor professors.

Ms. Walker's philosophy on life can be drawn from Matthew 19:26 which states, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." This is a key verse that she understands.

Therefore, she honors her Christian values and strives daily to become a better servant leader. She is a faith member of Mt. Lula Baptist Church in Rolling Fork, MS where she serves in the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Kiara L. Walker for her dedication to her community and mankind.

HONORING CHARLES J. O'LEARY
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Charles J. O'Leary, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this month.

A current resident of Tonawanda, Mr. O'Leary was born and raised on the City of Buffalo's West Side and has both witnessed and endured some of the city and the nation's most tumultuous times. Born on December 12, 1933, Mr. O'Leary knows the true nature of what it is to be resilient in times of hardship, and in effect, what it means to be a true American.

Mr. O'Leary proudly served my hometown and its residents as a dedicated public servant throughout his 37 year career with the City of Buffalo Fire Department. He completed his courageous tour of duty in 1993 as Captain of the renowned and respectfully remembered Engine 10 at Ohio and Ganson Streets in our most historic, industrial waterfront community.

As impressive as his valiant professional life, Mr. O'Leary is to be commended for his commitment as a caring and active family man. In addition to celebrating this birthday milestone, he and his wife Elinor will soon be sharing their 60th wedding anniversary—a mark representing Mr. O'Leary's devotion and dedication as a husband and father to six children—Charles, Robert, Kevin, Eileen, Patrick and Paul. Mr. O'Leary now enjoys quite the extended family, with 20 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of Charles J. O'Leary. His good works, devoted public service and gifts as a family man will be celebrated with those whose lives he has so deeply influenced on December 20, 2013 and I am pleased and proud to offer sincere congratulations and best wishes to this good and faithful servant on this most happy occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAGDAD, FLORIDA
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bagdad, Florida Volunteer Fire Department and recognize the selfless service, sacrifice, and dedication of its members, past and present, in protecting the citizens of the Northwest Florida community.

Formally established in 1963, the Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department was initially founded in 1962 as a Fire Rescue team of ten men led by Chief Dan Fowler. Despite having little equipment and no firehouse, this team of dedicated individuals was inspired by the need for a department to provide for the safety and rescue needs of Bagdad and the surrounding Santa Rosa County community. Bagdad Elementary School opened its doors as a meeting place for the volunteers to discuss business and other issues, while the Florida Department of Forestry provided the team's first truck that was stationed at the Chief's home. With the continued support of the local community and to meet the growing needs of its citizens, the department built its first firehouse in 1965 on donated land and acquired a second fire truck. A third truck was acquired in 1975, and the 1980's brought the deployment of a pager system and acquisition of a fourth and more modern fire truck. Today, the department comprises 25 volunteers, 2 Class-A 1,000 gallon pumpers, an E-1 rescue truck, an E-1 brush attack truck and a 17.5-foot rescue boat.

Throughout the course of Bagdad Volunteer Fire Department's fifty-year history and transformation, what has remained constant is the clear vision of the required capabilities needed to successfully meet the safety needs of the growing community, as well as, the passion and dedication of its numerous volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bagdad, Florida Volunteer Fire Department. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of the volunteers for their faithful service and wishing them and the department continued success.

HONORING EVAN JOSEPH
HERONEMUS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Joseph Heronemus. Evan 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 218, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Evan 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, Evan