

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

contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Joseph Heronemus for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632 I was unable to be present for H.R. 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

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IN MEMORY OF RONDAL K. MOORE

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rondal K. Moore, of Aurora, Colorado, who passed away from a stroke on November 12th at age of 71. Rondal was born on May 25, 1942 in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the son of Clarence Delmer and Golden Viola Moore. In 1961, he graduated from Wheeler County High School in Fossil, Oregon. He went on to serve in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War on board the aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea* as well as duty in Rhode Island at the Naval War College. In the spring of 1963, he married Nancy E. Heily and on March 29th of this year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Rondal began working for United Airlines in 1966 and spent decades in the field of de-icing until retiring in 2003 after 37 years. He held multiple patents for inventions in both information and system operations as well as software products used in the process of de-icing. His inventions and patents are still in use today in order to help determine check time for de-icing fluid, which allows for safe airline travel during inclement weather. My thoughts and prayers go out to his surviving family member including his wife of 50 years, Nancy Moore, of Aurora, Colorado; his son, Jason Moore, of Chula Vista, CA; his daughter, Sondra LaValley, of Aurora, CO; and his sister, Carol Ellis, of Kennewick, WA.

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HONORING LINDA HOWARD JOHNSON

**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 tell the story of an unsung hero. Often times the neighbor next door goes unnoticed because of their ability to quietly go about life helping others without any nudge

from the outside to do so, the only nudge they get is the one that is in their heart to do what needs to be done. Mr. Speaker her name is Linda Howard Johnson and she lives in my district, Mississippi Second Congressional District. People in the community call her "Mama or Grandma."

Linda's start in life helped to shape the road she would travel later in life. As a young child, she was given away to be raised by a woman not related to her, Ms. Clara Tanzy. As a child she was constantly changing elementary schools and places to live. Her mother wanted change and a better life for them, so she chose Tutwiler, MS. Tutwiler was the answer they needed to end their roller coaster ride. Linda said it was the first time they were able to call an apartment home, just for the two of them. The stability gave her the grounding she needed to focus on school, being a child, being a little girl, making friends, and all those things important to a child.

Linda went on to attend Coahoma Junior College in 1978 and 1979, where she played basketball. The team won the regional level basketball competition among three states, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas and advanced to compete at the national level in Kansas City in 1979. In fact, she credits basketball for having taught her the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. As a mother, Linda instilled that same value in her children, Claretta, Lazerick, and Ramona and her grandchildren, Tashayla, Raileigh, Savannah, Diamond, and Courtney. All three of her children went to college and are successful in their careers. Linda's children are constantly trying to encourage their mother to move away but she reminds them, "Tutwiler grounded me and contributed to who I am, so this is my home and extended family, so I'm here to stay and help someone else." I'm pleased that Linda has decided to stay in Tutwiler and help someone in need.

Linda is constantly giving back in many ways. She is a teacher's assistant in the local school district and a bus driver for the district as well. In addition, Linda serves as a basketball coach for both the West Tallahatchie School District and the Tutwiler Community Education Center. She says what she does is not much but it is what she loves, "helping family," because Tutwiler is her family.

Linda has helped raise eight children. She comes to their aide because she recognizes those same issues that occurred in her life rising in theirs. So, she steps in to try and curtail those circumstances or prevent them from occurring in their lives. Linda recalls the story of child who came from a family that hadn't had a female to graduate from high school in twenty years, well Linda got involved in the child's life from birth and nurtured her through high school until she graduated, thus breaking the chain. She invited a 17 year old young man struggling to get out of the 8th grade, who had no one to guide him, so she invited him to come live with her only if he promised to finish school. The young man got his GED and that was better than nothing. In fact, there have been situations in which Linda has taken in entire families consisting of the husband, wife, and children. She says her house is not the Hilton but it's a home and she's willing to share it with those in need at no charge.

Linda says "I don't know, to me it seems like I need my community and my community

needs me and that's why I tell my children I can't move away, I'm at home and a mother's place is at home."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero of the Tutwiler Community for stepping up to the plate and influencing many lives, Ms. Linda Howard Johnson.

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TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN TRUAX

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major John Truax of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Truax and his wife Alaina will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison and will soon be reassigned as a Cyber Operations Officer for the Army National Guard.

Army Congressional Liaisons officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

Following his graduation from Valley Forge Military College in May 2001, Major Truax was commissioned in the Army National Guard as an Engineer Officer. Major Truax reported to his first operational assignment with Charlie Company, 276th Engineer Battalion in West Point, Virginia where he served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer. Following a period of reorganization across the Army, Major Truax transferred branches and became a Military Intelligence Officer.

He left his civilian career in management and sales to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2007 to June 2008. During his time in combat, John was responsible for providing security and Area Response Forces in Northern Kuwait as a staff officer in HHC, 2-183 CAV before assuming command of Alpha Troop. After returning from his tour in Kuwait, Major Truax remained on active duty and was assigned to the Army National Guard Materiel Programs Division in Arlington, Virginia. At the completion of an exceptional four years there, he was selected to represent the Army National Guard in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Legislative Liaison.

Major Truax's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Major Truax over the last year. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending his dedication to service and the sacrifices he and his family have made. We wish him, his wife Alaina, and their children Xander and Margaux all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment in the United States Army.