

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mae Elizabeth Robinson for her accomplishments and contributions. The life of Mae Robinson serves as an example of excellence to those in her life, and her legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING MICHAEL LEE PLEZ

**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 pay honor to Mr. Michael Lee Plez; a community advocate and unsung hero for the children on the west side of Tallahatchie County.

Michael is a minister by trade, but a father of many, not just his own but all children. His passion and love to help children comes from his own childhood story. He was raised in a single parent home, where his mother was also his father. He joined the West Tallahatchie Mentor Male Involvement organization to encourage children at an early age by reading to them and participating in educational and fun activities. His colleagues and community members saw this passion in him and voted him as President of the Board for the Tallahatchie County Headstart Center. There was a lack of male involvement in the lives of children in the county, so, Michael reached out to the men and fathers and got their commitment and support on his efforts to increase male involvement. And, now the word on the street is that he has been successful in doing so because he led the charge as the model. Michael got the men to donate their time, skills and money to this worthy cause. Male presence began to increase in activities during school, after school and even on weekends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero for the children on the west side of Tallahatchie County, Mr. Michael Lee Plez.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fifty-six African-American students whose bravery and determination resulted in the University of New Orleans being the first university in the American South to open as a fully integrated institution of higher education. This year is the 55th anniversary of that historic moment in my district.

Established in 1956, The University of New Orleans was originally called Louisiana State University in New Orleans, or LSUNO. Classes began in September 1958 with a total of 1,460 students, all freshmen and double the number originally anticipated. Of that total, fifty-six African-American students registered to attend LSUNO that fall.

Four years after the Supreme Court struck down "separate, but equal" in the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, there were still some who would seek to deny these

students admission to the public university. Civil rights activists led by Alexander Pierre Tureaud, an attorney for the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during the civil rights movement, and Ernest V. "Dutch" Morial, who later became a two-term New Orleans mayor, brought suit in federal court to allow black students to attend LSUNO. While the local branch of the NAACP sought to prepare the African-American students for their groundbreaking efforts, leaders of the White Citizens Council of Greater New Orleans worked to provide harassing and degrading conditions for the students on a daily basis. Some of the African-American students were not able to endure such conditions for many weeks, while others remained in place for a few semesters. One of them, Mrs. Louise Williams Arnolie, still managed to graduate within four years.

The students encouraged one another throughout the painful process. LSUNO's classrooms and campus were integrated, but its privately managed dining hall barred African-Americans. The students petitioned the LSUNO administration to end the cafeteria's contract. Following continued pressure from attorneys Tureaud and Morial, as well as student boycotts, Dean Homer Hitt gave the cafeteria's managers an ultimatum in the fall semester of 1960: Either serve all students or give up the lease. The company chose to give up the lease, and every part of the university was by then integrated.

Today, the University of New Orleans is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the most ethnically diverse public university in the state. Let us never forget that this remarkable diversity did not come easily. I would like to acknowledge the names of those fifty-six brave and determined individuals who enrolled at the University of New Orleans in 1958: Brenda Holman Allen, Vincent A. Angeletta, Louise Williams Arnolie, Charles P. Breaux, Yvonne Buckles, Dorothy M. Caulfield, Janice E. Coleman-Sawyer, Laurence Crawford, Shirley M. Crawford, Claudine Curtis, Crystal M. Davis, Samuel Dugar, Josephine Eli, Wilson (Willison) Fleming, Harold L. Fontenette, Ferdinand J. Fortune III, Phillip L. Fortune, Geneva M. Gambrell, Jo Ann Gaskin, Charles S. Gibson, Peggy M.C. Jackson, Shirley M. Jennings, Alvin F. Johnson, Ervin C. Kinsey, Daniel J. Lewis, Sylvester Lyle Jr., Ernestine M. Lyons, Rosalee McKinley, Rosemary J. McLean, Doris J. Mackey, Lucy Madere, Rose Mary Mays, Priscilla L. Metoyer, Phillip F. Mitchell, Joseph L. Narcisse, Gwendolyn A. Norman, Audrey M. Page, Walter L. Peck, Marilyn J. Phillips, Nelson J. Pierce, Samuel G. Poplus, Geraldine Reimonenq, William Ricks, Patricia R. Robinson, Ronald Shiloh, Charles W. Smith, Mildred T. Smith, Warren A. Smith, Jacquelyn M. Stansberry, Gloria Stokes, Angela A. Vaughn, Jennie F. Warmington, Algie V. Williams, Charles K. Williams, Joseph L. Williams, and Ellis Wilson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634, I was unable to be present for

S1471, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF DEAN MAXWELL MITCHELL

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong and heartfelt appreciation of Mr. Dean Maxwell Mitchell, who has served as my Chief of Staff and Press Secretary since I was first sworn in to Congress in 1997. As he prepares to retire from more than seventeen years of service to my staff and me to the State of North Carolina, and to our nation, it is only appropriate that he be honored today.

A native of Quitman, Georgia, Dean graduated from the University of Georgia in 1986. He moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for U.S. Representative Charles Hatcher for eight years, during which time he rose from Staff Assistant to Legislative Assistant to Legislative Director, and ultimately served as his Chief of Staff. Before joining my office, he also worked as a Government Affairs Representative at King & Spalding Law Firm.

Upon my election to Congress in 1996, I knew I wanted to select an ethical, effective, intelligent Chief of Staff and Press Secretary who would serve the people of Eastern North Carolina with honor and kindness. Not only did I find those qualities in Dean, but I also found a friend and brother in Christ whom I have not only depended upon, but also admired.

For the past seventeen years, Dean has served as Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in my Washington office, which serves North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District. In his two critical roles, Dean has acted as my chief advisor on policy, communications, political matters, budget, and personnel; he has successfully managed the day-to-day operations of five congressional offices and twenty-one employees; he has instituted a number of effective outreach initiatives to assist constituents; he has supported our democracy by keeping the people of Eastern North Carolina informed about the work we do on their behalf. Not only this, but he has personally helped thousands of residents of the Seventh District with a wide range of requests, from the simple to the complex. On countless occasions, he has gone far beyond the obligations of duty for our constituents and staff.

Over the course of seventeen years, Dean has held his position of leadership with integrity, grace, and a spirit of giving. He has demonstrated an enduring and enthusiastic dedication to public service that makes him worthy of this recognition. Mr. Speaker, as Dean Mitchell's service to the Seventh Congressional District comes to a close, I ask you to join me in applauding his hard work and unwavering leadership.

May God's blessings always be upon him and his dear wife, Maggie, as well as his sons, Campbell, Henry, and Porter.

HONORING SETH MARTIN  
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 Seth Martin Heronemus. Seth 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.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth 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, Seth contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
VICTORY BELL AND CHUCK JEFFERSON

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Victory Bell and Chuck Jefferson, who were recently honored by the Booker Washington Center in Rockford, Illinois.

Vic Bell and Chuck Jefferson have both been incredible leaders in the Rockford community for decades. The first African-American elected to the Rockford City Council, Alderman Bell served for 38 years before retiring in 2009. During his years representing Rockford's most diverse ward, Bell helped increase diversity throughout city government and fought to bring economic development projects to all of Rockford. He was an inspiration and a mentor to many who have since entered public service or joined the City Council and, in 1999, he was named one of the Rockford Register Star's "100 people of the Century."

Chuck Jefferson has been serving as State Representative for Illinois' 67th District since 2001 and is currently the Assistant Majority Leader in the State Assembly. After completing six years of service in the Army, Representative Jefferson moved to Rockford with his wife and began his career in public service. He has been involved in numerous community organizations over the years, including the New Zion Day Care Center, United Way and the Rockford Sportsmen Golf Association, which organizes after-school programs for underprivileged youth.

The Booker Washington Community Center in Rockford is Illinois' oldest African-American community center. It hosts an impressive array of programs for people of all ages dedicated to art, music, violence prevention, education and much more.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to again congratulate Vic Bell and Chuck Jefferson and thank the

Booker Washington Center for recognizing their many years of dedicated service to the people of Rockford.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DAVID ROMAN

**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 David Roman of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. Major Roman and his wife Dymphna will be moving on from his present assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, New York.

Army Congressional Liaison 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.

In November of 2004, Captain Roman reported to his first operational duty assignment as a Platoon Leader with the 1st-501st Attack Helicopter Battalion during their rotation to the Unit Fielding and Training Program at Fort Hood, Texas in my Congressional district. Upon completion the unit was reflagged to 4th-227th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. In 2006, Major Roman deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom and served 14 months in the Baghdad area of operation. Upon redeployment in 2008, he reported back to Fort Rucker, Alabama for the Aviation Captains Career Course.

In 2008, Captain Roman returned to the 4th-227th and took command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company. In April 2009, he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom for a second time. He then took command of C Company and served under operational control of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force before moving to Al Asad Air Base in the Anwar Province. Due in no small part to his leadership, Captain Roman's company provided valuable reconnaissance and inflicted significant damage on enemy forces.

In 2011, Dave served as an Army Fellow in the office of Congressman Silvestre Reyes representing residents of El Paso and Fort Bliss, Texas. During that year he also earned a Masters in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University. In January of 2012, he arrived in the House Army Liaison Division where he assumed his role as a Legislative Liaison and continued to honorably serve as a conduit between the Army and Congress for two years.

His great work has not gone unnoticed. During Major Roman's distinguished service to this nation, he has earned awards and decorations including: the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Army Parachutes Badge, and the German Proficiency Badge (Gold Award).

Mr. Speaker it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Roman and his wife

Dymphna, who is a former Staff Sergeant in the Army and currently serves as a Department of the Army Civilian. I wish them the best as they continue to serve our great nation and proceed to the next chapter in their remarkable careers.

ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katarina Morton of Pearland High School, who earned All-American honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. She is the first Pearland ISD volleyball player to be named an AVCA All-American.

Katarina is among 100 of the nation's top high school senior volleyball players who represent 33 states and 90 high schools. In order to receive this distinction, she was first nominated by Pearland Lady Oilers head coach John Turner. Coach Turner has commented on Katrina's passion, incredible work ethic and love of the game. It is clear that these three attributes have served Katrina well.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, it's an honor to recognize Katarina Morton and her accomplishment of earning All-American honors. We are all very proud of her and wish her the best of luck at Kennesaw State University.

THANKING DAN STRODEL FOR HIS  
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the conclusion of the first session of the 113th Congress, Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I join together on behalf of the House of Representatives to express our most sincere gratitude to Mr. Daniel Strodel for his nearly three decades of outstanding dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives.

Since 2010, Dan has been tapped by both Republican and Democratic leadership to oversee nearly every administrative aspect of the House—a true testament to the overwhelming bipartisan confidence in his capabilities. During his tenure as CAO, Dan not only ensured the continuity of daily operations, but he spearheaded major internal reforms and IT modernization projects that significantly improved the House's IT security, operational efficiency, financial accountability and transparency.

Prior to his tenure as CAO, Dan worked for the Committee on House Administration, U.S. Capitol Police and the House and Senate offices, including the Clerk of the House and the House and Senate Sergeant at Arms, in multiple capacities for the betterment and safety of the House community. As a senior advisor to the Committee, Dan provided invaluable counsel on operational matters related to the CAO, where he first started right out of college.