

nation's finest schools, filled with eager and curious students and passionate and engaging teachers. In Illinois's Tenth District, our communities are strong, in part, because of excellent educational institutions like this.

It is at schools like Greenbriar where students are engaged and encouraged to explore their interests. Here, the wide array of literature, language and math programs challenge students and help them expand their minds.

With schools like Greenbriar, Tenth District students are building foundations for success in this ever-changing, competitive 21st Century.

The education Greenbriar Elementary School students receive not only helps position them for future success, but also prepares them for a lifetime of learning.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to honor Greenbriar Elementary School here today, and I am so proud to have such excellent schools in the Tenth District. I congratulate Greenbriar once again on receiving this distinguished award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was participating in a Congressional Delegation trip to South Africa to honor the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 3521—The Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

2. H.R. 1402—VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING ROSLYN M. BROCK

#### HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, Roslyn M. Brock is Chairman of the National Board of Directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She made history in February 2010 when she was unanimously elected as its 14th Chairman. She is the youngest person and fourth woman to hold this position.

Brock is currently employed as Vice President, Advocacy and Government Relations for Bon Secours Health System, Inc., in Marriottsville, Maryland. Prior to working at Bon Secours, Brock worked 10 years in health programs at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

She graduated magna cum laude from Virginia Union University; earned a master's degree in health services administration from George Washington University, an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. In

May 2010, she received an honorary doctorate degree from Virginia Union University.

Brock has been a servant leader with the NAACP for more than 27 years. She is a Diamond Life Member of NAACP and joined the Association as a freshman at Virginia Union University where she was elected President of the Youth and College Division from the Commonwealth of Virginia. One year later, she was elected as a Youth Board Member from Region 7 representing the District of Columbia, Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1988 as Vice Chairman of the NAACP Board Health Committee, her advocacy for quality, accessible and affordable health care for vulnerable communities resulted in the National Board's mandate of a health committee for all units in its Constitution. In 2012, she initiated and led the Board's historic policy decision to support marriage equality and to implement The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative.

An expert grant writer, Brock has secured millions in philanthropic support for the NAACP. From 1999–2010, Brock chaired the NAACP's National Convention Planning Committee. In this role, she led the Committee to institute fiscal policies that resulted in the Annual Convention becoming a profit center for the Association with average yearly net revenues of one million dollars. For nine years (2001–2010) she served as Vice Chairman of the NAACP National Board. In 2005, Brock created the NAACP Leadership 500 Summit. The Summit's goal is to recruit, train and retain a new generation of civil rights leaders to the NAACP. Since its inception, Leadership 500 has contributed more than \$1.5m to the NAACP to support its civil rights programs.

Brock is a member of the Board of Trustees of The George Washington University, Kellogg Global Advisory Board, American Public Health Association, American College of Health Services Executives, Association of Healthcare Philanthropy, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The LINKS and a former Trustee of the Catholic Health Association of the United States of America.

Brock's leadership skills have been recognized by several national publications and organizations. In 2012, she was the convocation speaker at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and featured as the February 6, 2012 NBC Universal iVillage Woman of the Week. Brock was awarded the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award by The George Washington University; the September 2010 issue of Essence magazine listed her among the "40 Fierce and Fabulous Women Who Are Changing the World"; Black Entertainment Television's (BET) 2010 "Black Girls Rock," honored her in its inaugural broadcast and she received the 2010 National Urban League's Women of Power Award.

Brock participated in the 2008 U.S. Department of Defense's 75th Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) reserved for American leaders interested in expanding their knowledge of the military and national defense. She was a guest lecturer on "Alleviating Global Poverty" in Rome, Italy at the 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr. Conflict Resolution Conference. From 2003–2005, Brock was a Young Leaders Fellow with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations to build cross-cultural understanding and professional networks with young Chinese leaders.

Brock's goal in life is embodied in an African proverb, "Care more than others think is wise, Risk more than others think is safe, Dream more than others think is practical, and Expect more than others think is possible."

#### ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reducing Long-Term Unemployment Act, to address one of the lingering workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our long-term unemployed—and to spur economic growth. While millions of Americans are unemployed, my bill targets those particularly hard hit by unemployment. In November 2013, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was 4.1 million, which accounted for 37.3 percent of the total unemployed population.

To make matters even worse, the unemployed now face employment discrimination and employers are reluctant to hire the long-term unemployed because of the length of their unemployment. Therefore, my bill provides a necessary incentive—a \$5,000 tax credit for employers against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. The tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase hiring and wages, which would inject demand into the economy. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer—government, non-profit and for-profit—pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly rather than annual basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would "increase both output and employment," through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address today's unusually stubborn unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed. This group deserves better. The long-term unemployed are also at risk for losing their unemployment benefits without an extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program before December 28, 2013. I ask the House of Representatives to support this bill because it targets this too-often neglected group of Americans.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of December 2nd 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Monday December 2, 2013: rollcall No. 612: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3547, "yea"; rollcall No. 613: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3588, "yea"; rollcall No. 614: On Approving the Journal, "aye."

Tuesday December 3, 2013: rollcall No. 615: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 255, "yea"; rollcall No. 616: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2719, "yea"; rollcall No. 617: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1204, "yea."

Wednesday December 4, 2013: rollcall No. 618: On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 429, "nay"; rollcall No. 619: On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 429, "nay"; rollcall No. 620: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 1105, "yea"; rollcall No. 621: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1105, "aye"; rollcall No. 622: On Passage, H.R. 1105, "aye."

Thursday December 5, 2013: rollcall No. 623: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 624: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 625: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "No"; rollcall No. 626: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 627: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "aye"; rollcall No. 628: On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 3309, "No"; rollcall No. 629: On Passage, H.R. 3309, "aye."

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRAVINGS BAKERY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cravings Bakery of Allenhurst, New Jersey on its 25th Anniversary. Cravings Bakery continues to provide quality products and outstanding customer service to the local community.

Wanting to share her passion for cookies with others, Jan Walker opened Cravings Bakery in the fall of 1988. She met her husband, Stu Kramer, while working at the bakery through his aunt, a customer. Less than a year later they were married, and they've been working in the bakery together ever since.

The bakery offers a variety of homemade baked goods, including cookies, muffins, scones, danish, brownies, cakes and pies. It also offers coffee, cappuccino and lattes, which are enjoyed by a group of regular customers known as the "Coffee Clatch."

Its exceptional desserts and service make Cravings Bakery a premier establishment for

the Allenhurst and surrounding communities to enjoy. For 10 years in a row, Cravings Bakery was voted "Best Desserts" in Monmouth and Ocean Counties by the readers of the Asbury Park Press.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Cravings Bakery on its 25th Anniversary. Jan and Stu's hard work and commitment to quality are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

## REFORMING OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the time to reform our broken immigration system is long overdue. Our system does not meet the needs of families or businesses. I have met with people throughout our district to understand what our uneven, unfair, and unjust immigration system costs our businesses, our families, and our society at large—a cost to our national ideals, as well as a cost in dollars and cents. I have joined the group of dedicated activists who have for nearly a month been fasting on the National Mall, in the shadows of the Capitol, to call attention to the plight of the 11 million individuals who are Americans but for a piece of paper. The time is now to bring them out of the shadows.

My colleagues may have noticed, as have various advocacy groups, that I have not signed on as cosponsor of H.R. 15, the legislation that has recently taken shape as the leading immigration reform bill. The fact of the matter is that we can, and we should, do better. I do support strongly the legislation authored by my friend and colleague from Arizona, Representative RAÚL GRIJALVA. It is a strong, progressive approach to reforming our broken system.

In fact, the Grijalva bill is superior to H.R. 15. It targets and prioritizes border enforcement in an intelligent way to where and how it is needed most—to protect us from serious criminals and terrorist threats. It improves conditions for immigrant detainees and protects family unity by prohibiting separation of families with children. It protects workers' rights and keeps immigration enforcement in the hands of the appropriate authorities—the federal government, not local police.

Whatever legislative vehicle immigration reform takes, it must contain a legal, controlled pathway to citizenship for the undocumented immigrants who keep our economy moving and to repair a tear in our social fabric. It must promote family reunification by reducing two decade-long family backlogs and reuniting spouses, parents, and children to together pursue the American Dream. It must build on the success of President Obama's Deferred Action program and incorporate DREAMers—those who were brought to the U.S. at a young age through no wrongdoing of their own—into the mainstream of American society so they can continue to make beneficial contributions not only to our economy, but to our diverse society. It must satisfy the needs of American employers. And it must ensure

smart, targeted, and reasonable immigration enforcement that protects American society from serious criminals and real threats.

H.R. 15 is not the bill I would have written—nor do I believe it is the bill that will ultimately become law—do not want to appear to be delaying reform. I call upon Speaker BOEHNER and the Republican leadership to immediately bring to the floor for our consideration legislation to reform our immigration laws.

When it comes to something as important as fixing our broken immigration system, we should not settle for less than the American people deserve.

## CONGRATULATING KATHY LONG

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, a long-standing community leader whose commitment to Ventura County has been immeasurable over the years.

Currently serving her fifth term as Supervisor to Ventura County's 3rd District, Kathy's dedication to the residents of Ventura County is reflected in her extensive work as a public servant. Since first being elected to the position in 1996, Kathy has made it her mission to strengthen our economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and create a safe community for all families. Her lengthy career in public service shows her unwavering passion for representing Ventura County and its residents, as well as always advocating for the region's best interests.

Kathy's lifelong work has always embodied the true definition of dedication, public service and community. She currently serves as the Board of Supervisor's representative on the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County where her efforts focus on the economic development of Ventura County through the attraction, preservation and expansion of local businesses. Kathy was most recently elected as their Board of Directors Chair for 2013.

Over her career of more than 16 years as Supervisor, Kathy has taken on many leadership positions and has effectively represented our community's needs and prosperity. She served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 2000, 2005, and 2010.

To honor all that she has done for Ventura County including her extensive work and advocacy for a strong and vital economy, the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chambers of Commerce Alliance has recognized Kathy with the Lawmaker of the Year Award. This is a fitting and well-deserved accolade that represents the caliber of work that Kathy performs on a daily basis. Kathy's pledge to the economic vitality of Ventura County and the strengthening of our workforce makes her a fitting recipient of this honorable recognition.

I have personally known Kathy for many years and I am pleased to join the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties Chambers of Commerce Alliance in honoring my friend and colleague, Supervisor Kathy Long.