

It is women like Ms. Douglas who make the United States what it is today. Their commitment to their communities and to their country continues to bring our Nation closer to realizing the ideals on which it was founded.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the women who have shaped our history, I remind my colleagues that while the month of March may come to an end, the fight for equality continues for our daughters, sisters, and mothers.

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARIAH JOHN  
McDOWELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Urbandale police officer Zachariah McDowell for his lifesaving efforts in the line of duty.

On Sunday evening, March 10th, 2013, Officer McDowell was on a routine patrol of Urbandale, Iowa when he responded to a report of a burning car in the parking lot of a nearby church. As Zac approached the car to investigate, he could make out only a human hand amid the consuming smoke that filled the vehicle. Officer McDowell wasted no time smashing in the passenger side window with his metal baton, entering the burning vehicle, and dragging the young accident victim to safety. There is no doubt that Officer McDowell's quick thinking and heroic actions saved a young man's life that snowy night.

Officer McDowell's entire professional life has been one of service and sacrifice. He began his law enforcement career by serving in the Iowa Army National Guard where he was recognized as the Iowa Soldier of the Year in 2006. Officer McDowell was honorably discharged from the military as a Staff Sergeant in 2011, after 12 years of service and two separate deployments to Kosovo in 2003 and Iraq in 2007. Today, Zac is a model member of the Urbandale Police Department and resides in Urbandale with his wife of seven years, Nichole, and their two children, Wesley and Maggie.

Mr. Speaker, Officer McDowell's instinct and brave actions to save a fellow Iowan embody the selfless attributes we all should strive for. His extraordinary display of heroism should give us all pause as we offer gratitude to the police officers across the country who put their own welfare at risk to make our streets and neighborhoods safer. It is a great honor to represent Officer McDowell and the City of Urbandale in the United States Congress, and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and thanking Officer McDowell for his outstanding performance and courage when it truly mattered most.

MARKING 192 YEARS OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 192nd anniversary of Greek

independence. I am proud to join the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues in saluting the Greek people for their valiant struggle in winning independence for their nation 192 years ago and in re-affirming the bonds between our two great nations and people.

On March 25, we mark the anniversary of the revolution that liberated Greece from the Ottoman Empire. As we do so, we honor the struggle and perseverance of those Greeks who believed in their right to govern themselves and willingly laid their lives on the line as they fought for democracy. The proud democratic traditions and philosophies of Ancient Greek civilization have served as a light of inspiration to many people and nations throughout history, including our own nation's founders.

For centuries, America and Greece have built an enduring partnership based on shared values. The countless contributions of the Greek people, both to their own country and as immigrants to the United States, and in my home state of New York, continue to leave an indelible mark on our two nations.

As with our own Independence Day, this anniversary of the birth of modern Greece reminds us of the sacrifices made by those who risk—and sometimes lose—everything in pursuit of the ideals and ways of life they hold most dear.

Today, in solidarity with Greece, we reaffirm those values and ideals and honor our freedom, democracy, and friendship with the Greek people.

INTRODUCING THE MARCH FOR  
MILITARY WOMEN ACT

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health, MARCH, for Military Women Act, legislation that will help our servicewomen gain the same access to reproductive health services as all other American women. It is deeply unfair that women who put their lives on the line for this country are denied the rights of the Constitution that they honorably defend.

Recent changes in policy have brought the treatment of military women more in line with the rest of women in America by allowing insurance coverage of abortion in the case of rape or incest. However, servicewomen are still not permitted to pay privately—using their own personal funds—for an abortion under any other circumstances. This policy is discriminatory, denying women in the military a Constitutionally protected right. Furthermore, it endangers the health of our servicewomen, who depend on their base hospitals for medical care, especially in countries where local facilities are inadequate or unavailable. More than 200,000 women (active service members, spouses, and dependents of military personnel) live on military bases overseas and rely on military hospitals for their health care.

Prohibiting access to abortions on military bases means that servicewomen may be forced to rely on unsafe local facilities. Failing that, a servicewoman would need to request permission from her supervisor to leave her

combat mission and return to the United States. This impairs the readiness of our forces who are quite literally on the front lines, and it should not be allowed to continue. Our servicewomen deserve the right to determine their own destiny, without risking their health unnecessarily.

I want to be clear that if this bill became law, no taxpayer dollars would be spent for abortion care at overseas military facilities, and the military's current "conscience clauses" would remain intact so that no doctor would be forced to provide abortion care against their will. Passage of this bill would simply mean that our military women have the same rights as all other American women when it comes to reproductive health services. It is an issue of equality and fairness.

Our servicewomen deserve to be treated as full equals, and to have the same access to safe reproductive health care as any other American woman. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support the MARCH for Military Women Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 55 I missed the vote due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

KEN SIMPSON—A NORTH  
CAROLINA AND AMERICAN HERO

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, if somehow America could combine in one human being all the qualities we admire in our fighting men—bravery, strength, skill, determination, loyalty, patriotism, and compassion for his fellow soldier—since the middle of the 20th century—its name would have been Kenneth Walton Simpson of North Carolina.

The list of men and women to whom America owes a debt of gratitude is long indeed, and prominent on that list is Kenneth Simpson.

This is a small expression of that gratitude to this honest-to-goodness American fighting man who, now an octogenarian, spent 23 years serving this country as a soldier, who performed his duties gallantly and with remarkable heroism, then retired without the array of military decorations that perhaps should have adorned the last uniform he wore.

The essence of this fighting man has been captured in a new book, *Warrior: From Grenades to Greeting Cards, the True Story of an American Fighting Man*, by North Carolina author Wilt Browning. Wilt is my constituent and friend and a noted journalist and author.

Simpson's story is the stuff of heroism, American style. It is as though he was from childhood destined to be a fighting man, and in his post-military career his fighting spirit remarkably wound up shaping an American industry in the second half of the century.

Ken once was perhaps the youngest American fighting man since the Civil War. At the age of just 14, he talked his way into the fight when World War II was raging. When the Navy found out that this seaman assigned to the destroyer escort USS *Edwin A. Howard* was far younger than he had claimed, they put him ashore in the Philippines. He spent two months hitch-hiking his way back to North Carolina in something of a Huckleberry Finn odyssey. He still calls that journey the greatest adventure of his life. "What young boy wouldn't love an adventure like that?" he still asks today, puzzled that most of us would find such a challenge daunting indeed.

Ken wasn't about to let a little thing like age keep him from serving his country, and when he turned 18 he legally signed on once again, this time in the Army. His fighting days had only just begun. He rose through the ranks as an enlisted man and then an officer, a man's man in charge of men. It was during the Korean Conflict that the rare commitment and courage of this man was most remarkable. Again and again, he led his men into battle and never lost a one though he on several occasions personally braved enemy fire to return to the battlefield to rescue wounded fallen comrades. Once wounded himself, he was ordered by doctors to recuperate far from the sounds of battle. He refused to leave his men, and returned to the front lines once again and to more battles.

To this day, Ken carries in his aging body the shrapnel from twice having been blown up by grenades, and he bears the scars that testify to the fact that he has faced and survived many battles.

He served our country for all those years as a military man, and then he served his fellow Americans as something of a rogue in the greeting card industry. And he did that so well that his efforts saved two major national companies from disappearing prematurely at the hands of corporate raiders and kept hundreds of Americans at work for years in the greeting card industry.

Simpson lives a quiet life now in a home atop Walker Bald, a tall mountain in western North Carolina, which he shares with his wife Laura. Though his steps have slowed and his hearing is no longer as keen as it once was—despite the concussions of nearby exploding grenades of the past—he remains the epitome of an American fighting man.

And America owes Kenneth Walton Simpson and fighting men such as him our sincere appreciation. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I am proud to bring his story to light through this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to highlight Wilt Browning's outstanding book about an outstanding North Carolina and American hero.

#### TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER SOMA

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jennifer Soma for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jennifer Soma oversees product development and new initiatives in the individual disability insurance business for Principal Financial Group Inc. In this role, Jennifer serves as a liaison between the operations, quality assurance and information technology facets of the business. Outside of the office, Jennifer spends nearly 30 hours a week in various volunteer roles to make her community better. One of Ms. Soma's biggest passions is her dedication to animal welfare. Before working for Principal, Jennifer worked for the Animal Rescue League of Iowa in numerous roles including major rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Iowa flooding. Ms. Soma certainly takes her causes home with her as she shares her Ankeny home with her four senior rescue dogs and continues to advocate for animals through her efforts at Iowa Voters for Companion Animals/Iowa Friends of Companion Animals. Also a big supporter and alumnus of Drake University, Jennifer currently chairs Drake's Graduate Student Advisory Council. Last year, Jennifer's numerous volunteer efforts earned her the recognition of the U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award—Gold Level for volunteering more than 1,000 hours of her time. In all facets of her life, Jennifer is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jennifer in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Soma for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

#### HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE PREPARING FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to welcome and acknowledge our national and international visitors to the International Centennial Planning Conference. The conference is being hosted by the National World War I Museum, located in Missouri's Fifth District, on March 22–24, 2013. With the recent enactment of Public Law 112–272 to establish a World War I Centennial Commission, it is vital that the exchange with our historical counterparts begin.

This was the first global war, declared on July 28, 1914, after the assassination of Arch-

duke Franz Ferdinand. The United States entered the war in 1917 and concluded with the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918. The world would never be the same as the ramifications changed nations, warfare and technology. The reality of war comes with the understanding of its effects, not only geographically but on the military and all of the people who endured the suffering of war.

Representatives and scholars from the allied nations of Australia, France, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and Belgium will join representatives from the United States to exchange ideas on international planning for the Centennial. This workshop will foster coordination of commemorating these historical events and rediscovery of our combined involvement in World War I. The lessons of war will be discussed and viewed through an international prism to obtain a better understanding of how the "War to End All Wars" impacted and changed the course of history.

In Kansas City, we have progressed as a city under the flame of the Liberty Memorial. The Liberty Memorial stands as a testimonial to the past and a quest for our world living in peace. Since my time as Mayor of Kansas City, I have considered the Liberty Memorial and now the National World War I Museum a treasure worth fighting to protect and preserve.

As the World War I Centennial Commission's twelve members meet to plan for the commemorative events across our nation, it will do so under the flame of the Liberty Memorial and benefit from the work garnered from this planning conference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in wishing the participants of the International Centennial Planning Conference success in their collaboration. There is a lot of work to do in honoring and commemorating the history from our first global war.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2013*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of Greek Independence Day, in recognition of the courageous revolution that freed the people of Greece from the Ottoman Empire and established the modern Hellenic Republic. We come together to recognize Greek Independence in advance this year because the U.S. Congress will not be in session on March 25th.

There is no doubt that Greece's struggle for freedom from the Ottoman Empire is one which inspired the world. Carrying out a bold and inspired revolution, the people of Greece set an example for others in the region and globally. Their commitment to genuine self-determination made it possible for millions to determine their own future rather than continue a pattern of subjugation.

And, since establishing diplomatic relations with the United States, Greece has joined our own country in many cooperative endeavors, including during World War II in the fight against fascism. Today, the United States and Greece are not only partners in commerce,