

account for an estimated 3.3 percent of my home state of New Jersey's total private-sector employment. More than one-sixth, or 17.2 percent, of all manufacturing workers in New Jersey depend on exports for their jobs.

But U.S. exports have suffered during the global economic downturn because traditional markets, such as in Europe, are buying fewer U.S. products. According to the USITA, we are the largest importer of African goods, receiving 20.2 percent of the continent's total global exports. However, U.S. exports to Africa fell sharply during the height of the global recession. From 2008 to 2009, U.S. exports to Africa dropped 45 percent from \$78.3 billion to \$42.8 billion.

According to statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau, African exports to the United States since AGOA took effect in 2001 increased from \$25.4 billion to \$66.9 billion in 2012—an increase of more than 262 percent. By far, petroleum exports from Africa led the way with more than \$28.6 billion in 2012. Meanwhile, Census Bureau statistics showed that U.S. exports to Africa increased from \$12.1 billion in 2001 to \$32.8 billion in 2012—an increase of 271 percent. Consequently, while U.S. exports to Africa showed a robust increase since the inception of AGOA, the U.S. trade deficit with Africa increased from \$13.3 billion in 2001 to more than \$34 billion last year.

The five most popular import sectors for African countries are: machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum products (including lubricating oils, plastics and synthetics fibers), scientific instruments and food products. That means that small and medium companies across the United States have commercial opportunities available in exporting goods and services to African countries. The African Development Bank estimates that one out of three Africans is considered to be in the middle class—that's nearly 314 million Africans who have escaped poverty and can now buy consumer goods, including those from the United States.

In the supermarkets and department stores that have sprung up across Africa in recent years, there are some American products already on the shelves, but there is space for more contributions from U.S. producers. Companies such as Proctor and Gamble have long realized the potential of African markets. Two years ago, Wal-Mart, the world's largest retail outlet, purchased South Africa's Massmart and its 288 stores in 14 African countries.

The Economist magazine created a significant buzz within the U.S.-Africa trade community two years ago when it announced that six of the world's 10 fastest growing economies in the first decade of this century were in Africa: Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Rwanda. In the following five years, The Economist projected that seven of the top 10 fastest growing global economies would be African: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia.

Whether or not you agree with the popular slogan—Africa Is Rising—markets on the continent are attracting foreign trade and investment in increasing amounts. It is not only China that has its sights set on African markets. Countries as diverse as India, Japan, Brazil and Turkey all see the potential of selling their products in Africa.

The Anglo-Dutch consumer goods giant Unilever has long considered Africa a lucrative

environment for consumer sales, earning a fifth of its profits in Africa until the 1970s, when it turned its main commercial attention to Asia. Now Unilever is back in Africa in force, selling \$3.7 billion of everything from soup to soap. Frank Braeken, head of Unilever's Africa operations, said African consumers are underserved and overcharged. To meet the continent's need for personal care products for African skin and hair, Unilever developed its Motions range of products.

At our hearing on this legislation last spring, we heard from Luster Products, which produces items that fit that description. There is little reason why this company and other U.S. producers can't follow suit and meet the needs Unilever says are now unmet.

We will hear today from four witnesses with expertise on the opportunities and challenges faced by U.S. companies in trade with countries in Africa. We expect to learn why U.S. exports to Africa have not kept pace with U.S. imports from Africa and find out what Congress can do to better balance U.S.-Africa trade.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TROOP ONE OF BRIDGETON

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, today I extend my personal congratulations and the recognition of the U.S. House of Representatives to Troop One of Bridgeton, NJ, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary as a chartered member of the Boy Scouts of America. Organized by Percy W. Owen in February 1913, Troop One has been honored by the national headquarters as one of the country's oldest troops with continuous service. It is the oldest charter in South Jersey with a roster of former scout masters and scouts exceeding one thousand.

Individual skills and societal benefits of scouting are well-known, with countless youth across the country becoming better citizens due to their experience. Leadership, ingenuity, integrity, compassion and cooperation are invaluable life skills that each scout is encouraged to learn and bring forward into their lives. Troop One, however, has always gone above and beyond those standard goals.

In addition to traditional activities, Troop One has long instilled a dedication to public service in their ranks. Throughout the past century, that dedication has been exemplified in Troop One's commitment to the greater Bridgeton community and the success of past scouts in their adult lives. From military officers and educators to medical professionals and business leaders, the critical life skills of such distinguished members in our nation can be traced back to their time at Troop One.

I join with the greater Bridgeton community and Boy Scouts across the country in congratulating Troop One for an outstanding one hundred years. As your impressive past is well-documented, it is your contributions today and to the youth of the future that reinforce your legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE FALLEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO LIVED OR SERVED IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BETWEEN 1922 AND 2012

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the sixteen fallen law enforcement officers who lived or served in Prince William County, Virginia, between 1922 and 2012. I commend the Prince William County Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (PWCCPAAA) for their memorial and tribute service for these fallen heroes.

The PWCCPAAA was founded in 1993 under the leadership of former Police Chief Charlie Deane. The Association hosts a National Police Week and facilitates citizen training programs to promote interaction between the Police Department and county residents.

I would like to join the PWCCPAAA in memorializing the law enforcement officers who lost their lives protecting the public from harm and danger. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the fallen law enforcement officer who lived or served in Prince William County between 1922 and 2012:

Justice of the Peace Thomas Semms Meredith; July 22, 1922; Prince William County Circuit Court, Virginia.

Trooper Jackie M. Bussard; May 5, 1970; Virginia State Police.

Officer Paul T. White Jr.; October 27, 1973; Prince William County Police.

Investigator Claude Everett Seymour; April 25, 1975; Virginia State Police.

Trooper Johnny R. Bowman; August 19, 1984; Virginia State Police.

Sergeant John D. Conner, III; July 24, 1988; Manassas City Police.

Officer Philip M. Pennington; November 22, 1990; Prince William County Police.

Trooper Jose M. Cavazos; February 24, 1993; Virginia State Police.

Special Agent William H. Christian, Jr.; May 29, 1995; Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Detective John M. Gibson; July 24, 1998; United States Capitol Police.

Officer Marlon F. Morales; June 13, 2001; Washington D.C. Metropolitan Transit Police.

Second Lt. Francis Joseph Stecco; October 25, 2008; Fairfax County Police.

Special Agent Chad L. Michael; October 26, 2009; Drug Enforcement Administration.

Special Agent Forrest N. Leamon; October 26, 2009; Drug Enforcement Administration.

Officer Paul Michael Dittamo; October 30, 2010; Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Chris Yung; December 31, 2012; Prince William County Police.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these sixteen fallen law enforcement officers. I extend my personal appreciation to the Prince William County Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association for their continued dedication to strengthening the relationship between the Police Department and county residents. With this tribute, we honor the memories and lives of the officers and the sacrifices made by them and their families to keep our community safe.

HONORING JOHN AND GWEN  
SLOOP

**HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. John and Mrs. Gwen Sloop on the occasion of their retirement after 27 years of devoted service to First Presbyterian Church.

As senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, Virginia, Dr. Sloop is a true spiritual leader dedicated to his flock. A powerful preacher, he is a man "on fire" for Jesus. He has been a champion for global missions and has lead dozens of others to follow him into the missionary field. He has been actively involved in Presbyterians for Renewal, the Presbyterian Coalition, the Confessing Church movement and has served on the board of the Presbyterian Outreach Foundation.

Mrs. Sloop has earned a reputation for her selflessness and kindness, routinely demonstrated by her outstanding work with children. Along with her husband, she attended Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Boston before transferring to Columbia Seminary in Atlanta, graduating in 1973. For 13 years they served the growing congregation of the Lithonia Presbyterian Church in the suburbs of Atlanta.

The Sloops are passionate about seeing the Presbyterian Church renewed and growing again. Under their stewardship, First Presbyterian has grown to more than 1,100 members and more than 500 attendees for Sunday services since they were called there in 1986. They are loving parents to three children and devoted grandparents to five grandchildren.

I have had the privilege of attending First Presbyterian Church under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. Sloop. I know them to be dearly beloved by the entire congregation. Though they will be truly missed, we know they will continue to inspire many more followers, just as they have inspired my family and me.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize Dr. and Mrs. Sloop. Their generosity and commitment to leaving this world better than they found it is an inspiration to us all and deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate them on their retirement and wish them continued success and happiness in the next chapter of their lives together.

HONORING THE DUGAS FAMILY OF  
IBERIA PARISH FOR THEIR  
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service of the Antoine and Emma Dugas Family, who selflessly served as aircraft spotters during World War II in Iberia Parish, Louisiana. Their dedication to country, spending countless hours watching the skies of our Gulf Coast as a first line of defense against an aerial assault, deserves our thanks and recognition.

Emma and Antoine Dugas moved from the Atchafalaya Basin area to Lake Dauterive, Iberia Parish, in 1927 following the great floods that predated our Louisiana levee system. At the advent of the war, due to the rural, isolated location of their home, the family was approached by the U.S. Army Air Force to serve as aircraft spotters. This required studying and memorizing various types of aircraft by sight, filling out reports of their surveillance and calling in any observations of aircraft they might spot in the skies. The family faithfully carried out this duty from June 24, 1943 until the war's end in 1945.

Until now, Antoine and Emma Dugas, and their children, Claude "Nook" Dugas, Mabel "Pie" Broussard, Melba "Eunice" Dugas Verret, Antoine "Tan" Dugas, Jr., and John Gabriel "Creed" Dugas, have received no special recognition for their service. Today I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and thank these citizens for their service and hold them up as an example of sacrifice and dedication in service of our country.

This month, on May 19, 2013, the Dugas family will come together at Lake Fausse Pointe State Park—significant due to its approximate location as a midpoint between the Bayou Chene area where the family lived in the basin, and the Lake Dauterive area where the family moved to build their first home on land. As they remember their family history, we thank them for their service and commend them on a job well done.

DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER,  
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 2013  
NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM  
AND LIBRARY SERVICE

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, California will be presented with the 2013 National Medal for Museum and Library Service by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In recognition of their outstanding public service and dedicated community outreach to the families, schools and residents of Orange County, the Discovery Science Center will be given one of our nation's highest honors in the area of arts and humanities.

The Discovery Science Center exemplifies the innovative ways in which a museum can strengthen our communities and foster the creative and educational integrity in our youth. The humanities are an important part of our national fabric and institutions like the Discovery Science Center are inspiring, educating and leading our nation's future.

Congratulations Discovery Science Center and thank you for making Orange County proud.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MPS  
AWARENESS DAY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the National MPS Society for their 38 years of supporting families while searching for cures for this genetic disease. Mucopolysaccharidosis or MPS is a group of genetically determined lysosomal storage diseases that render the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates. The damage caused by MPS on a cellular level adversely affects the body and damages the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system. MPS often results in intellectual disabilities, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span. Symptoms of MPS are usually not apparent at birth and without treatment; the life expectancy of an individual affected begins to decrease at a very early stage in their life. Research towards combating MPS has resulted in the development of limited treatments for some of the MPS diseases.

I ask my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing May 15, 2013 as National MPS Awareness Day. This is an important time during which the MPS disease community will help increase the awareness of this devastating disease, as well as supporting research to improve treatments, find cures and receive early diagnosis. The MPS families are encouraged to reflect and support each other and to reach out to those families who have lost loved ones to MPS. By wearing their purple ribbons and sharing these ribbons within their community, they are increasing public awareness about this disease. This date is also the start of the National MPS Run/Walk season along with other local community activities to raise awareness along with money for research and for family assistance programs. I commend the National MPS Society and their many volunteers for an unwavering commitment to bring about awareness of this disease and to continue to advocate for federal legislation to streamline the regulatory processes and to speed effective treatments and cures for their loved ones. More must be done to find cures and effective treatments, but let us reflect on the importance of this day. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commemorating National MPS Awareness Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS  
HOME LOAN REFINANCE OPPOR-  
TUNITY ACT OF 2013

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Home Loan Refinance Opportunity Act of 2013. This bipartisan legislation improves the federal Qualified