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PAYING TRIBUTE TO COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR OLIVIA S.
WARNER FOR SERVICE TO OUR
NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Sergeant Major Olivia S. Warner, United States Army. Sergeant Major Warner left behind her hometown of Chicago, Illinois as an energetic young patriot and entered the Armed Forces in October of 1984. Olivia has provided unsurpassed and remarkable professionalism and exponential value to her beloved Nation ever since; we are all humbled by her service and devotion.

Sergeant Major Warner began her career in 1984 as a paralegal specialist stationed in Germany. Her relentless work ethic and commitment to excellence has driven and led her to a position as a Drill Sergeants Instructor where her exemplary conduct could be used to mentor and train the future warriors of the United States Army for generations to come.

As Olivia progressed throughout her illustrious and decorated career, she has excelled in a plethora of positions requiring great depth and responsibility; this has included expertly advising and managing the careers of subordinate Soldiers as part of the Army Human Resource Command, as well as advising the Staff Judge Advocate for the United Nations; United States Forces Korea, and the historic 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Olivia has demonstrated a natural ability to work efficiently and effectively, all while articulately directing others through periods of substantial uncertainty and duress in the defense of our Nation; especially during the last 11 years of conflict—the hallmarks of a true leader. As a result of her exemplary efforts and personal attributes, Sergeant Major Olivia S. Warner was hand selected by the 14th Sergeant Major of the Army, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, to serve as his Congressional Legislative Assistant to both the United States House of Representatives and Senate. Sergeant Major Warner is the first Sergeant Major in the history of the Army to serve in this role and capacity.

Staying true to form, Sergeant Major Warner has done an incredible job representing the United States Army at the strategic level to Members of Congress, senior executives in business and government, and their professional staffs. As all good things surely come to an end, the time has come for Sergeant Major Warner to move on from Capitol Hill, as she has been selected to serve in the office of the Inspector General at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. As she departs Washington, DC she will be surrounded by her husband, Army Sergeant Major (Retired) Keithly Warner, and her two wonderful children Dominique and Keith. Olivia will bring to her new post an unparalleled talent and capability supported by a loving and balanced family—a shining example of

how the true strength of our Nation is built upon by the core professionalism of our Soldiers and their families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPEFLYER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to celebrate the upcoming launch of the new CapeFlyer train route between Boston and Cape Cod.

The CapeFlyer train will make its first scheduled trip between Boston's South Station and Cape Cod on May 24, 2013. Created under a partnership between the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), the CapeFlyer will be the first scheduled passenger rail service to reach the Cape since 1996, as well as the first to connect Cape Cod to Boston since the last train departed Boston's South Station at 5:34 p.m. on June 30, 1959. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day this summer, the train will run between Boston and the Cape every weekend, and will offer amenities to its passengers such as free Wi-Fi service, concessions, and bicycle storage. Customers will have their choice of disembarking at either the historic Buzzards Bay Train Station or Hyannis Transportation Center, with further options to connect to numerous other destinations throughout the Cape.

The introduction of the CapeFlyer train will enable even more Massachusetts residents and visitors to make the most of all that Cape Cod has to offer, from its idyllic beaches and outdoor activities to its fine dining and shopping centers. The availability of rail service as an alternate mode of transportation will allow summer tourism on Cape Cod to remain high while reducing traffic congestion, making travel throughout the Cape easier and lowering local carbon emissions. The benefits that the CapeFlyer will bring to the region are numerous and diverse, and I have no doubt that it will prove to be a popular method of reaching the Cape.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to recognize the CapeFlyer rail service upon its initial trip between Boston and Cape Cod, and I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming this new rail line to the Massachusetts region.

CONGRATULATING MUIR OMNI
GRAPHICS ON 50 YEARS OF BUSI-
NESS IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a business in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Muir Omni Graphics started as a small family-owned silkscreen printing business. Today, they provide decals and logos for some of America's most well-known corporations, including Caterpillar, Verizon, AT&T, and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Don Muir had a vision in 1963 when he started Muir Omni Graphics. He saw a trend developing, with companies moving from hand-lettered markings to printed decals on their trucks and machinery. His first customers were Caterpillar Tractor Co., Montgomery Ward, a garbage disposal company, and Grim Reapers Motorcycle Club. By 1971, Muir was printing over one million decals and emblems every year and was the largest producer between Chicago and St. Louis.

The late 1970s and early 1980s were a difficult time for many businesses, and for the City of Peoria. While many businesses closed their doors and people moved out of Peoria, giving rise to the phrase, "Will the last one to leave Peoria please turn out the lights," Muir developed new business models to continue serving their clients. They not only weathered the economic downturn, but they thrived and were there in Peoria to welcome everyone back when prosperity returned.

Today, the great strength of Muir is that it is still run as a family business, and that family attitude extends beyond the Muirs themselves to their 42 employees. Muir is currently in the process of transitioning the business to employee ownership, demonstrating the great trust and confidence they have in their employees' abilities and knowledge.

I am honored today to be able to recognize this company for their half-century of service in Central Illinois. While they provide superior products and customer service to their clients, the story of Muir in a larger sense is a profoundly American story. The idea that a family in Peoria, Illinois can start a business that will then grow to become a part of the community and a profitable enterprise with global reach is the very essence of the American Dream.

Muir is not only a business presence in Peoria, however. Andrew Muir, the president of the company, has given back to his community in a variety of ways. As a member of the Peoria Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, Andrew works to improve and enhance public education in Peoria through classroom grants. These grants have been used to purchase new technology, fund after-school art programs, and institute a drum program for a primary school, among other things.

Under Andrew's leadership, Muir Omni Graphics sponsored the West Peoria Jamboree Family Fun Run, a community event that raises donations for the West Peoria Habitat for Humanity, West Peoria Volunteer Fire Department, Lion's Club and other organizations. Muir also donates wooden screen frames and kid-safe scrap products to local community art programs, allowing teachers to lead activities that encourage and stimulate creativity among their students. The company was awarded the Peoria County Recycling and Waste Reduction Award for their efforts to constructively reuse scraps and recycle unusable byproducts.

These examples of the community service Muir and its employees provide to Peoria are just the tip of the iceberg, but they are demonstrative of the philosophy of giving back that this extraordinary company exhibits.

I congratulate the team at Muir Omni Graphics for their sustained dedication to sound business practices and quality work. I am confident that the next 50 years will see more exciting developments from Muir and that they will continue to grow and thrive in Central Illinois. Businesses like Muir are what make

Central Illinois an attractive place to live and work, and I wish them all the best as they move forward.

ARMY SERGEANT TIMOTHY L.
HAYSLETT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Army Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett who passed away on November 15, 2003, while serving with the United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Hayslett was born on May 17, 1977, to Guy and Mary Hayslett. After graduating from Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania, he enlisted and was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany. A husband and father of two daughters, Sergeant Hayslett planned to dedicate his career to the military. Prior to his passing, he had already spent eight years serving in the Army and had recently re-enlisted.

Sergeant Hayslett deployed to Iraq in May 2003. On November 15, he was patrolling the city of Baghdad when a grenade was thrown into his Humvee. Sergeant Hayslett and two other soldiers inside the vehicle were injured from the blast of the IED. Ultimately, Sergeant Hayslett perished from the wounds sustained in this attack. He had been scheduled to return to Germany in December.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who serve in our Nation's armed forces provide an invaluable service to sustain our country's freedom. Therefore, for his dedicated service and sacrifice to protect our great Nation, I commend Army Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett.

HONORING "DO THE WRITE THING
CHALLENGE" PARTICIPANTS IN
JACKSON, TN

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students from Jackson, TN who participated in the "Do the Write Thing Challenge." It was an honor to have these students visit me in Washington, DC.

The "Do the Write Thing Challenge" Program is geared toward students during some of their most trying years . . . middle school. This Program gives middle school students the opportunity to discuss and write about the violence they see in their communities, for some in their own homes and neighborhoods, and understand how it affects their lives. The goal is to help students recognize the causes of youth violence and make a commitment to do something about the problem.

I commend the efforts of the Jackson community and school system for working together to combat the destructive effects of youth violence. I am especially proud of all the students who joined the discussion by participating in the "Do the Write Thing Challenge" and made

a commitment to be a positive force in their communities and pursue a path of success.

HONORING 11 CONGRESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Eleven students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, contribute to a larger cause, all while making time for study and friendships. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognition for their efforts.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to honor these eleven students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures: Alyssa Haus, Becker High School; Brianna Vickerman, Big Lake High School; Isaac Darland, Dassel-Cokato High School; Trey Soukup, Delano High School; Eric Rapheal, Forest Lake High School; Diane Wertish, Immaculate Conception Academy; Hannah Zipoy, Kimball Area High School; Emily Kirby, Legacy Christian Academy; Michael Witschen, Monticello High School; McKenzie van der Hagen, Rocori High School; Isaac Eickhoff, St. Cloud Christian School.

It was best said by beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." These students are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota and in our Nation. We are looking forward to the successes they will have and the dreams they will follow and the places they will go.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, we were pleased to welcome the Hashemite King of Jordan, King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein to Washington a few weeks ago and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of our vital bilateral relationship. The United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan began their diplomatic relations in 1949, and have remained strong allies for over six decades. We collaborate closely with the Jordanians in multiple areas, including: security cooperation, economic development, humanitarian assistance and counterterrorism.

The timing of the King's visit is critical. The United States is working closely with Jordan to

address the humanitarian crisis in Syria, which becomes increasingly dire with each passing day. Jordan is hosting approximately 500,000 refugees, and that number grows by 2,000–4,000 refugees a day. Jordan faces tremendous economic and humanitarian pressures in the face of regional challenges.

Stability and peace in the Middle East hinges on a strong strategic alliance between the United States and Jordan. Jordan plays an important role in the Middle East peace process, having signed the historic Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty in 1994, normalizing relations between Jordan and Israel and establishing a partnership toward peaceful relations. Jordan is a strong advocate for moving the peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians forward, often reiterating the need for negotiations and offering to serve as a mediator and host for peace talks.

Under the leadership of King Abdullah II, Jordan is the voice of moderation and progress in the Arab world, and recently implemented economic and political reforms. Now is the time to reaffirm the United States' commitment to and friendship with the people and Government of Jordan. Therefore, I am pleased to submit a resolution to recognize and highlight the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East.

REINTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the contributions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 178 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planets' endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 29,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors