

partner to the communities of northern New Mexico. He played a key role in expanding opportunities for research and development, the development of small and minority-owned businesses, technology transfer initiatives, math and science programs, and job training and development. He promoted these programs while advocating for stringent environmental regulations that protected the public. He also served as a member of the Los Alamos National Security Board of Governors.

Rep. Salazar honorably served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force and his community as a County Commissioner from 1964 to 1968.

Rep. Salazar is one of the longest-serving members of the state House of Representatives, having been elected 20 times and serving 40 years. He has been a champion for working class families. Rep. Salazar sponsored legislation to create Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, and led the effort to broaden the mission of the school to allow for four-year degrees. He has also served as chairman of the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District for decades. Rep. Salazar is one of New Mexico's foremost advocates for the state's senior citizens. In 1991, he led the effort to establish the nation's first Indian Area Agency on Aging, and in 2003, he sponsored legislation that created the New Mexico Aging & Long-Term Services Department, elevating the agency to Cabinet-level status.

Rep. Salazar's colleagues in the Legislature have turned to him through the years as a trusted mentor, known for his erudition and his principled approach to the most important issues facing the state. He is a quintessential leader who cares deeply for his family, his community, the Labs and the institution of the New Mexico House of Representatives.

Rep. Nick Salazar is a resident of San Juan Pueblo. He is married to Maria Ana and has three adult children, Yvonne, Earl and Gregory.

IN HONOR OF THE LITERACY
COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland ("LCMC") on its 50th anniversary.

In 1963, Elizabeth Kilgore, a county resident who recognized serious literacy deficiencies in her community, began working with community leaders, educators, clergy, and other concerned residents to develop an organizational plan and charter to create the LCMC. Utilizing only volunteers, and because 96% of Montgomery County residents spoke English as their first language, LCMC initially focused on improving the literacy skills of native-born citizens. In 1967, LCMC offered its first English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring program to serve the growing immigrant population in Montgomery County.

Fifty years later, LCMC, based in Rockville, Maryland, has developed into an organization of more than 800 volunteers, teachers and

staff. Now with 12 full- and part-time staff members, LCMC's programs include intensive classroom-based instruction taught by professional instructors, conversation classes, independent computer-based instruction, short-term "life-skills" classes, an online GED preparation program, and a workplace literacy program. In its 50 years of service, LCMC has provided literacy instruction to approximately 15,000 adult learners and has trained nearly 8,700 volunteer tutors. Its programs currently serve 1,500 adults each year.

In Montgomery County, where approximately 40% of the current population speaks a language other than English at home, the success of this program is critical. Nearly 15% of Montgomery County residents over age 5 speak English less than "very well." Twelve percent of children in Montgomery County public schools are enrolled in ESOL classes and are likely to have parents with limited English proficiency. LCMC also serves native-born adults who are able to speak English, but are unable to read and/or write.

Thanks to LCMC's outstanding work, many members of our community have been able to overcome the challenges posed by illiteracy, allowing them to participate more fully in the community and to improve their quality of life. In short, LCMC has transformed the lives of thousands of adults and families.

I am proud that LCMC is located in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating LCMC on its extraordinary accomplishments and extend to it all good wishes for continued success.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
STEVEN RUDDER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Brigadier General Steven Rudder is a man for whom I have great respect. During his time in Washington serving the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I have gotten to know BGen Rudder in his efforts to work with me to clear the names of two Marine pilots who were killed in a V22 crash.

Because of this issue, I have had many opportunities to meet with BGen Rudder over the past two years and have found him to be a man of great integrity and reason. He is a man who does all he can to help someone else.

He has served as a knowledgeable advisor to me and my staff and I believe our country is better protected because of leaders like him.

I will always be grateful for BGen Rudder's assistance and I wish him and his family all the best in their move to Japan. I know he will continue to serve our country with honor.

May God continue to bless the Rudder family, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MARINE PFC OSCAR A. MARTINEZ AND NAVY MASTER-AT-ARMS 2ND CLASS MICHAEL J. BRODSKY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two American heroes, Marine PFC Oscar A. Martinez and Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (MA2) Michael J. Brodsky, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. They are the first residents of the City of North Lauderdale, Florida to be killed while serving in the Armed Forces since it was founded 50 years ago, and I am truly honored to have had the privilege to represent them in Congress. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of these two young men for their loss.

PFC Oscar Martinez was born in Dallas in 1984. Originally from El Salvador, his family settled in South Florida in 1987. Oscar's mother died when he was a child, leaving him and his three younger siblings to be raised by his uncle, Rene Martinez, and the children's grandmother, Maria Marta Mendez. According to his sister, Morena Martinez, Oscar dreamt of being a Marine ever since he was little, and was determined to be the best at what he did.

Oscar joined the Marine Corps in 2003, shortly before graduating from North Lauderdale High School, and was assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Camp Pendleton, California. Sadly, he was killed on October 12, 2004 when a mortar fired by insurgents exploded at a U.S. base where he was eating with his unit in the Iraqi province of Anbar. He was just 19 years old.

MA2 Michael Brodsky, of Tamarac, Florida, enlisted in the Navy in 2001, following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He was stationed in the security department at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan from 2002 to 2005 before earning the award of Distinguished Graduate from the Military Working Dog Course at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Mike also served at Naval Support Activity (NAS) Bahrain. In December 2010, he was assigned to Navy Region Southwest Security Detachment in San Diego, California.

On July 7, 2012, Mike was on patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom when his unit started taking fire. He rushed to protect his dog Jackson by putting him back in the truck as he was trained to do, and then returned to the fight. It was then that Mike stepped on the pressure plate of an improvised explosive device (IED), and the blast took both his legs. In critical condition and unresponsive, he was flown to Germany where doctors tried to save him. On the morning of July 17, 2012, Mike was awarded the Purple Heart. Tragically, the 33-year-old died from his injuries on July 21, 2012 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He is survived by his daughter Natalia, parents Debra and Steven Brodsky, younger brother Corey Brodsky, and grandfather Stanley Brodsky.

Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2013, the City of North Lauderdale will be dedicating a fallen soldier statue in memory of PFC Oscar Martinez and MA2 Michael Brodsky, who gave

their lives in order to protect freedom and democracy around the world. As we recently observed the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War and over 11 years of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, we must remember all those who have fallen in service to our great country. Our nation owes them, as well as the millions of brave servicemen and women who have served and continue to serve, an eternal debt of gratitude. Their service will not be forgotten.

HONORING DEBBIE ZELMAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie Zelman, a truly inspiring woman from South Florida. Five years ago, Ms. Zelman was a successful attorney, wife, and mother, when she heard those life shattering words that she was diagnosed with Stage IV stomach cancer. The doctor gave her only a 50/50 chance to live after one year and only a four percent chance to live after five years. It's been four years now, and I am proud to say Debbie is with us today, beating the odds every day.

Debbie is not alone in her struggle against stomach cancer. This terrible disease is the most common form of cancer in the world. Every year in America, 21,000 Americans are diagnosed with stomach cancer, and it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women in this country.

After receiving her diagnosis, Debbie was frustrated to find little information on her disease and fewer options for treatment and support. Fortunately, she persevered and got treatment. Today, she is not only a cancer survivor, she is an advocate.

In 2009, she founded Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer, which provides a voice for the victims of this under-recognized and under-funded disease. Initially working in South Florida, Debbie's Dream has grown into a national organization that provides support and awareness for patients and their families. During their 4th Annual Night of Laughter, Debbie's Dream raised \$21,000 for stomach cancer research.

In honor of her inspiring fight against cancer and her tireless advocacy, I am pleased to recognize Debbie Zelman and wish her continued success in this important endeavor.

RECOGNIZING MS. SHIRLEY ISON-NEWSOME

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shirley Ison-Newsome, the departing Assistant Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District. Ms. Ison-Newsome will retire after 37 years of dedicated service.

Ms. Ison-Newsome has a long history as an educator and administrator within the Dallas ISD. She first began her work with the Dallas ISD during the 1970s, helping to lead further

efforts to desegregate schools. Ms. Ison-Newsome's role within the Dallas ISD evolved quickly, as she assumed the role of principal of the Harry Stone Middle School, and then later as Area 2 Superintendent.

Ms. Ison-Newsome has contributed substantially to building Dallas ISD's academic program. She has frequently been recognized by her colleagues and outside organizations for her extensive work in education.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Ison-Newsome for devoting much of her life to the students of the Dallas ISD. I wish Ms. Ison-Newsome well in her retirement and her future endeavors. Public education is absolutely critical for our future generations, and having devoted educators as part of the public education system is an asset for the sound development of our youth.

HONORING FAITH ORAKWUE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Faith Orakwue is a senior at Lamar Consolidated High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

What role should the government play in our lives? This is an issue that I have often mulled over during my years as a young adult, and, at different times, I offer varying answers regarding this particular issue.

The American government was an institution created by the people and for the people, so it seems logical that the people should maintain ultimate control over the government, right? However, the Articles of Confederation helped to disprove this theory quite a bit—without the strong backing of a central government (ultimately acting as a backbone), the states acted according to their whim and the nation was weak and in ultimate disarray. The Constitution later came in and created a stronger central government, which helped to establish a more cohesive structure to the nation.

The point I am trying to make is that government should be resilient and diligently involved in the welfare of its people in order to create a nation that works to promote the well-being of all of its people. In order to do this, the government has to be involved, and that means being present in all issues, even personal and moral ones. The thing is, once a person is sworn into a public office, they are there to promote the well-being and advancement of the American people. In order to do this, government has to temporarily put aside their own views and beliefs and truly work towards the choice that is best for the American people. For example, had Lyndon B. Johnson listened to other Southern governors who despised African Ameri-

cans and allowed their thinking to cloud his judgment, African Americans may not have received their rights until much later in history, because, at that time, integration was not a favorable idea/belief. Or, if the government had not ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, women would not have total control over their bodies. And, although I may not necessarily agree with abortion, it is definitely not in my place to dictate whether a woman should have a baby or not, and it is not in the government's place to tell the American people they cannot do something (that does not hurt others) simply because it goes against their moral beliefs.

The United States is an amalgamation of different cultures, viewpoints, and ideas that works to create the nation we call America. And, in order to preserve that order and openness that we are famous for, the government has to be both strong and involved in the issues that concern us. However, in order to be truly effective, a country's government has to be both strong and unbiased, an institution truly working for the betterment of its people.

THE CLAIMS LICENSING ADVANCEMENT FOR INTERSTATE MATTERS ACT (CLAIM) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Claims Licensing Advancement for Interstate Matters Act, known as the CLAIM Act to help consumers save millions of dollars in insurance costs and create more jobs.

Under current law, independent claims adjusters face a hodgepodge of inconsistent state regulations that only serve to delay the prompt adjustment of claims for natural disasters, car accident victims, and other tragedies in life. Independent claims adjusters must take a license examination in each state in which they work. This requires adjusters to take time off from their job and travel to each state in which they seek a license. This is a costly burden on the claims adjusters, the companies that employ them, and ultimately, the consumer. Sadly, it is the consumer who currently pays for these costs in higher premiums.

Today, it is my pleasure to re-introduce a bill that would end this costly burden. The CLAIM Act would lead to a process that would provide independent claims adjusters licensing reciprocity so their home-state license is valid in any other state.

The CLAIM Act would also provide specific relief during a natural disaster. In areas designated by the President of the United States as a "Disaster Area," independent claims adjusters who meet certain criteria would be eligible to adjust claims for losses notwithstanding the state where the adjuster is licensed.

To be clear, the CLAIM Act does not create a new federal law and does not "federalize" the insurance industry. The CLAIM Act respects states' rights to continue to regulate insurance. Rather, the CLAIM Act would urge the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to adopt a model licensing standard for state regulation for independent claims adjusters that each individual state would adopt. The CLAIM Act would make sure that