

with sexual assault while serving in the military. According to the Defense Department's own estimates, roughly 26,000 individuals in our military will be sexually assaulted each year. Worse yet, only a small fraction of these victims will find the courage to come forward to report these incidents, all of whom must then possibly face sizeable retaliation or anemic prosecution.

Currently, sex-related crimes are subject to a traditional military chain of command, where a commander essentially has complete authority and control over the discovery process. This creates an opportunity for military commanders to protect perpetrators and even punish victims for speaking out.

Today, as the House begins consideration of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act, I applaud the efforts of Representative JACKIE SPEIER and other House Democrats to drastically alter the way that military sexual assaults are addressed. Representative SPEIER's amendment, which was rejected by House Republicans without debate, would have given prosecutorial discretion to the impartial Office of the Chief Prosecutor, limiting any opportunities for wrongdoing during this critical phase in the judicial process. Until consistent and effective processes are established to carefully consider any wrongdoing, members of our armed forces will continue to struggle with the shameful reality of widespread sexual assault throughout the military ranks.

Mr. Chair, mechanisms within the military structure must be implemented in force if we are to send the powerful message to these perpetrators that sexual assault will not be tolerated under any circumstances. We must stand behind our men and women in uniform, and provide them with the assurances that their voices will be heard, and that they will no longer have to live in fear of losing their livelihood in the process.

TRIBUTE TO ALFONSO "AL"  
STUDESVILLE, JR. AND HIS  
WIFE, JANET STUDESVILLE

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to two very special community leaders in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alfonso "Al" Studesville, Jr., and his wife, Janet Studesville, were killed in a tragic automobile accident on June 4th. The space they left behind will be incredibly difficult to fill.

Al devoted himself to community service and activism. He was larger than life—with a deep voice, rich laugh, and kind personality, Al touched the lives of many.

Born on January 9, 1946, in St. Louis, Missouri, Al made his life-long home in Madison, Wisconsin. A graduate of UW Madison, Al worked at Madison Light and Power (now known as Alliant Energy) for 18 years. He and Jan owned and operated a studio, Just Nails, and a training school, Just Nails Training Center, in Fitchburg, WI. After leaving Madison Light and Power, Al became a Student Services Career Counselor for Madison College, specializing as the Black Student Union Advisor and Minority Recruiter. Al also taught at Madison East High School for nine years.

Changing lives was a priority for Al. A member of the Jr. NAACP at the age of 12, Al participated in civil rights demonstrations through Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He continued his devotion to the African American community throughout his life. From leading what would become known as the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County to his involvement in local agencies such as the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute and the Urban League of Greater Madison, Al leaves behind a legacy of minority outreach and community involvement that cannot be overstated.

One of his crowning achievements was his critical role in founding the Madison chapter of 100 Black Men of America in 1984. Through 100 Black Men of Madison, Al helped establish an organization that area youth—especially young black men—could look to for leadership and guidance. By providing opportunities for health and wellness education, access to economic development programs, and involved mentorship, Al and the other members of 100 Black Men of Madison touched the lives of countless young men in our communities. Madison owes Al a debt of gratitude for starting this organization. His involvement proves that activism, dedication and compassion can have deep impacts in our community.

It was the combination of his inexhaustible drive to help others and his kindness, approachability and modesty that made him such an effective leader. It is one thing to lead by example alone, and quite another to take one's own life lessons and apply them directly to those in need.

Leader, mentor, confidant, father, husband; Al was all these things and more. He gave to our community, and though he never asked for anything in return, I suspect seeing the impact of his work on the lives of others served as just fulfillment.

Jan was no less involved in the community than Al. She ran their nail salon and training school that they owned jointly. She also worked as vice president for Women in Focus, a group that mentors minority students to increase literacy. The program provides \$2,000 scholarships to 13 students annually.

One of Al's favorite phrases was, "I will match energy with energy." And while the tragic loss of these two community activists is still fresh in the minds of those who knew them best, it is important to remember that Al's and Jan's energy is still here. Every person whose life they touched was enriched by that energy. And those recipients will in turn pay it forward to others. The duty falls to us now to pick up their mantle of advocacy, outreach, and kindness, and give our collective energy to those who need it most.

As a community, we will match your energy, Al and Jan. We have your memories and life's work to guide us along the way.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN  
DINGELL

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Representative JOHN DINGELL for his remarkable career and service to our country.

Last week, he celebrated an accomplishment that—like Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak—is likely never to be broken. Last week, JOHN DINGELL served his 21,000 day in the House of Representatives—and he is now the longest-serving member in the history of Congress. Not one of us in the House today has served a single day without having JOHN DINGELL as a colleague.

His influence goes far beyond his longevity. When I came to Congress in 1999, my goal was to join the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee that JOHN DINGELL chaired, shaped and made into a powerful force. He has helped to enact some of the most important laws of our time—from the Civil Rights Act to the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to Medicare and the Affordable Care Act. He is a champion of working people and a believer in the American Dream—creating opportunity for all.

Countless members of Congress have learned valuable lessons from JOHN DINGELL. One of the most valuable lessons I learned from Congressman DINGELL was how to question witnesses appearing before the Committee. He fights tirelessly to represent his district and his constituents. He has mentored generations of high-quality and devoted staffers. He has taught us that our job is not just about legislating, but about oversight—and he is known for his skills in both areas. His efforts have helped millions and have resulted in a more effective and accountable government for the American people.

I am grateful to have JOHN DINGELL as a friend and a colleague. I congratulate him on all that he has accomplished, and I wish him and his extraordinary wife Deborah all the best as he continues to serve the 12th Congressional District of Michigan and the nation.

HONORING ANDREA RUCKER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Ms. Andrea Rucker. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Rucker is the daughter of Myrtis Rucker of Yazoo City and Otis Rucker of Winston-Salem, N. C.

Ms. Rucker graduated from Yazoo City High School in the class of 2004 with honors and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Jackson State University in 2008, graduating Summa Cum Laude. After beginning her career as an Inclusion Teacher in the Yazoo County School District, Ms. Rucker earned a Master of Education in Elementary Education from Mississippi College in 2010, where she also graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Ms. Rucker is a Special Education Teacher at Bentonia Gibbs Elementary in the Yazoo County School District. She has taught for four years in the district and also served one year in the Plano Independent School District in Plano, TX. She recently earned the honor of being named Bentonia Gibbs Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Rucker is an active member of St. Stephen UMC in Yazoo City where she works as

a youth leader and communion stewardess. Andrea is also a member of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and appreciates the opportunity to have a positive impact on the community through activities sponsored by the sorority.

Ms. Rucker's philosophy on teaching can be drawn from Romans 12:6–9 which speaks of a variety of gifts that may be given to each of us. She believes that if one has been given the gift to teach, that person must teach well.

Having had countless examples of top notched, no-nonsense educators, including her mother, Ms. Rucker strives every day to teach well while remembering this quote from Henri Frédéric Amiel which states, "The highest function of the teacher consists not so much in imparting knowledge as in stimulating the pupil in its love and pursuit."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Andrea Rucker for her dedication to her community.

**CONGRATULATING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RODRIGO COUNCIL, NO. 44 ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many who have gathered this evening in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Rodrigo Council, No. 44—one of the original Councils of the Knights of Columbus. Described as the "strong right arm of the Church," Councils have long been an extension not only of the fraternal order, but of the Catholic Church as well. Today, Rodrigo Council focuses its effort in service of the needs of St. Bernadette's Church, St. Bernadette School, the parishioners, the local community and charitable organizations across the country.

As you may know, the Knights of Columbus was formed when a group of men, called together by Father Michael J. McGivney in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, vowed to defend their country, their families, and their faith. With strength in solidarity, security in their unity of purpose, and devotion to their cause, the Knights of Columbus has grown into the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization.

Just a few short years following the establishment of the Knights, membership had grown at such a rate that additional Councils were established. On June 6, 1888 the Rodrigo Council No. 44 was established. Welcoming any man, aged eighteen or older, of Catholic faith, this Live Council continues to thrive today. In addition to their support of St. Bernadette's and the parish school, members dedicate much of their time to raising funds to support social and civic services throughout the community. Just this year alone their annual banquet will benefit Mount St. John's, a residential treatment facility for at-risk young men; Emergency Shelter Services, a shelter for homeless men; The Camp, a summer camp for inner-city youth in New Haven; Life Haven, a temporary shelter for homeless preg-

nant women and women with children; Farnam Neighborhood House, a thriving multi-service neighborhood center which provides a continuum of services for people of all ages; and a local family in need of financial assistance because of an illness.

The strength of any community lies within the willingness of its members to make a difference. Over the course of its 125-year history, the members of Rodrigo Council No. 44 have exemplified community service. Through their faith and their commitment, they have enriched the lives of others and made our community a better place for our families to live, learn, and grow. Today, as they celebrate their 125th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone by any measure—I am honored to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to their members, past and present, for their invaluable contributions. They have set a standard of service to which we should all strive.

**CONGRATULATING SCRIPP'S NATIONAL SPELLING BEE SEMI-FINALIST, ALIA ABIAD**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alia Abiad, who recently participated in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee.

Alia Abiad is a 7th Grader from McClure Junior High School, and a resident of my hometown of Western Springs, IL. In addition to being a skilled tennis player and violinist for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, her recent performances in local and national Spelling Bees have demonstrated that she is a driven, exemplary student.

Alia diligently practices her spelling independently and with her parents every day. She also gains her edge by reading books intended for an audience well beyond her age.

Alia initially won the title of best speller at McClure Junior High, and then went on to win the Cook County Spelling Bee. In these competitions, she maintained a perfect record, spelling every word correctly.

Most recently, she competed alongside 280 of America's top spellers in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. She advanced to the semi-finals, correctly spelling 'peccadillo,' 'quiddity,' and 'hypnopompic,' before her run ended.

Alia's achievements are a reminder of how preparation, practice, and perseverance produce solid results, even when facing difficult challenges. I call on all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alia Abiad, and her parents, for her tremendous accomplishments, and her commendable performance in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee.

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST VIRGINIA'S CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK**

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2013*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 50th Anniversary of West Virginia's

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. Anyone who has ridden the eleven miles of rail in this unique concept for a park in my home State can attest to its instant attraction and appeal on so many fronts. Bundled in those few short miles are a multifaceted story of industrial might and hardworking souls that combined to make a significant contribution to the Nation's logging and lumber history. Rail enthusiasts will enjoy historical steam powered locomotives, a switchback track system to assist the trains in conquering steep elevations, and the remaining vestiges of past equipment used along the rail. Everyone will enjoy the scenic bliss and wonder of the natural beauty in which this relatively small short line, but prospering railroad is nestled in Pocahontas County.

What began with lots of hope, but little publicity, drew an extraordinary maiden seasonal crowd of 23,000 interested visitors fifty years ago to this majestic mountain and manmade wonder. Set in the midst of the State of West Virginia's Centennial year of celebration, skepticism surrounded future success.

However, since those early days, Cass has not only endured, it has prevailed as a magnet for the region's economy. Many heads, hands and hearts have been instrumental in the growth Cass has enjoyed over the last five decades.

First and foremost, there is a small contingent of dedicated and experienced Cass employees who deserve several trainloads of thanks for keeping the trains moving up and down the mountain. They are a talented bunch. Faced with broken or worn out train parts, parts not stocked nor even manufactured in decades, they set about the task at hand. Applying their honed skills and sheer ingenuity, without benefit of blueprints or plans, for 50 years day in and day out, they have kept history alive.

Perhaps no more enthusiastic group of individuals has devoted greater labors of love than the members of the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association. From sizeable restoration projects to tender loving care of collective memories of life in yesteryear, these essential partners are key to Cass's lifeblood. Operating Railfan Weekend each spring, the crew draws from the deep roots that extend from its debut weekend in 1965, but with every new year, they offer visitors something new and unique to reward their trek. And, certainly, they play a more than significant role in keeping the ever evolving horizon of West Virginia's most unique state park on track.

Mr. Speaker, I offer hearty congratulations to all those who have and are taking part in a fifty year journey that continues to gather steam and glory to celebrate an important chapter in our country's past. May the lessons preserved from our past continue to help guide our next half century. And may the chorus of Cass's steam whistles always sound a welcoming note for the Nation to pay Cass Scenic Railroad a visit.