

the earth." In response, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed legislation in 1879 that made Washington's Birthday a holiday for District federal workers. The holiday was extended to all federal workers in 1885.

Sadly, the celebration of President Washington's unparalleled role in American history has been lost and I believe Congress has unwittingly contributed to this lack of historical understanding by relegating Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February to take advantage of a three-day weekend. It is time to change the focus of the holiday from celebrating sales at the mall to celebrating the significance of President Washington's birth and the birth of our nation. I urge the House to take up this bill and pass it.

**RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED  
CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF  
DEMETRIS A. SAMPSON**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. DeMetris Sampson as she retires after 25 years of illustrious service from the Dallas-based law firm, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Ms. Sampson was the first African-American woman named as partner at the firm, and she epitomizes the characteristics of a true servant-leader. It is often said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others. I dare to say that DeMetris has found herself twice over.

DeMetris Sampson has provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. She has displayed a constant commitment to serving those whose life she has impacted through varied activities—from serving as president of the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys. She has been involved extensively with programs, such as Emerging Young Leaders and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

DeMetris Sampson is not only a leader; she is a person of incredible intellect who possesses the ability to build alliances with people and groups from diverse backgrounds and varying interests. She is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Trinity Chapter of Links, Inc. No matter the organization or affiliation, integrity has always been the central element of Ms. Sampson's work. She can always be counted on to do what is right. She is a champion of justice and offers a resounding voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ms. Sampson has received numerous awards for her dedicated service, including the 2012 Legacy of Service Foundation Award.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of DeMetris A. Sampson. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the City of Dallas for years to come. I want to extend a personal thank you, and a thank you on behalf of the wonderful people of the great City of Dallas. Thank you DeMetris for your outstanding example. As you retire, you deserve to reflect

upon your career with great pride in a job well done. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Sampson for her outstanding professional achievement and dedicated service.

**TRIBUTE TO JAMES PITTS**

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2014*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to James Pitts, who passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2014. As one of the key researchers in understanding the dangers and repercussions of air pollution, his contribution to the state of California, and the world, will not be forgotten. James will be truly missed, as a dynamic and passionate advocate, educator, mentor and friend.

Six months after James was born in Salt Lake City on January 10, 1921 to Ester and James N. Pitts, the family moved to Los Angeles. It was not until James' studies in high school at Manual Arts High School that he found his passion for chemistry. He took this enthusiasm for science to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he graduated with a bachelor's in chemistry in 1945 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1949. Following his graduation, James' passion for teaching began to take shape. In 1954, James began as a founding professor at the University of California, Riverside, focusing his research on fundamental photochemistry. James led the efforts to establish the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center at the University of California, Riverside and served successfully as its director for eighteen years.

James began his air pollution research in the 1950s during a time when the nature and dangers of smog were still unknown. Through James' findings, he was able to influence groundbreaking Southern California air policy and clean air regulations that drastically improved the state's environmental health, and the health of California residents. The research carried out by his team provided much of the scientific basis of California's forward-thinking policies and regulations which have been widely adopted both nationally and internationally. Throughout his tenure, James also managed to find time to co-author nearly four hundred scientific works, and became such an authority in the scientific world that he was constantly visited by scientists, politicians and international leaders from around the globe. His extensive work in this field earned him numerous accolades from the United States Congress, the California State Assembly, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the State Air Resources Board, and the Coalition for Clean Air.

James Pitts was an energetic advocate who made a true difference in the state of California and through his efforts, he ultimately impacted the world for the better. As an educator at both University of California, Riverside and University of California, Irvine, his enthusiasm for chemistry was contagious. James instilled many of his students with an unrelenting desire to improve the environment and prepared these future generations of scientists to better the world for many years to come.

James will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions

to the community, and love of family. James will also be remembered for his love of the outdoors. James took advantage of everything the environment had to offer, which was clearly reflected in his life's work. James is survived by his second wife, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts and his three daughters from a previous marriage, Linda Lee, Christie Hoffman, and Beckie St. George as well as his former wife, Nancy, six grandchildren and their families. I extend my condolences to James' family and friends; although James may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. The bill would make a minor change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would give the D.C. Courts and PDS authority to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts to their employees. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to their future administrative and budget needs. The sequester and other budgetary pressures are a factor in the need to offer employees who are eligible for retirement the incentive to retire. The D.C. Courts and PDS would like the flexibility to extend such offers to their employees. In particular, many of the jobs that the D.C. Courts are trying to fill require specialized skill sets and buyout authority would help to make the administration and operations of the court more effective and efficient.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has held that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. While federal agencies and federal courts have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, PDS and the D.C. Courts have not been expressly permitted to provide these types of payments to their employees. PDS and the D.C. Courts seek the same buyout authority in order to manage their workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**MARYLAND 6TH DISTRICT COUNTY  
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JOHN K. DELANEY**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2014*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the following Teachers

for being named Teacher of the Year in their counties, each of which is in Maryland's Sixth District:

Mrs. Dana Reinhardt: Teacher of the Year Allegany County Public Schools, 3rd Grade, George's Creek Elementary School.

Ms. Erin Doolittle: Teacher of the Year Frederick County Public Schools, Pre-K, Hillcrest Elementary School.

Mr. Ryan Wolf: Teacher of the Year Garrett County Public Schools, Math, Southern Garrett High School.

Mrs. Jane Lindsay: Teacher of the Year Montgomery County Public Schools, 8th

Grade Reading and English, John Poole Middle School.

Mrs. Courtney Leard: Teacher of the Year Washington County Public Schools, 2nd Grade, Fountaindale Elementary School.

There are few callings more important to society than teaching, and these teachers have shown extraordinary skill, commitment, and ingenuity in the classroom. Dana Reinhardt, Erin Doolittle, Ryan Wolf, Jane Lindsay, and Courtney Leard have made a difference for their students and made their communities stronger. Their example is a reminder of the great

work done by teachers across Maryland and around the country. Every child in America deserves teachers like this and schools that position them to succeed as adults.

It was my sincere honor to meet with them in the U.S. Capitol and hear their perspective on the major issues in education today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these Teachers of the Year for their tremendous achievement.