

Squadron while assigned in Vietnam, 1968; Man of the Year, NAACP, 1979; Honorary Doctorate, Virginia Union University, 1987; and the Gray Eagle Trophy, August 21, 1987–June 15, 1988.

LtGen Petersen has certainly accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife of 39 years, Alicia, and his children; Frank III, Gayle, Dana, Lindsey, and Monique.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, the United States Marine Corps, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant General Frank E. Petersen, Jr., an pioneering leader who, in addition to achieving the distinction of a number of “firsts” for African-Americans, has the respect, admiration, and affection of his fellow Marines and leaves behind an outstanding legacy of service and leadership in the Marine Corps of the United States of America.

THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we celebrated the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law by President Bush on July 26, 1990. Twenty-four years later, the ADA remains one of the most significant and comprehensive civil rights laws of our time. Its enactment affirmed our collective belief in America’s fundamental promise of equality and opportunity for all. Today, the ADA and the subsequent ADA Amendments Act—which I was proud to help pass in 2008—continue to open doors and ensure greater access, inclusion and justice for millions of people living with disabilities.

On this anniversary, we honor the civil rights pioneers who championed the ADA and express our sincere gratitude to those who continue the fight to fulfill its promise and expand opportunities for the entire disability community. As someone who has lived with the challenges of a disability since the age of 16, I know firsthand the positive impact the ADA has had on everyday activities for countless Americans. It has broken down barriers to education, employment and technology. It has made public transportation more accommodating, improved voting accessibility, and reduced the prevalence of discrimination throughout communities nationwide. I am proud future generations will live in a world that is more inclusive, more accessible, and increasingly recognizes the unique talents and abilities of individuals with disabilities.

As we celebrate progress, however, we must also acknowledge areas where we have not yet accomplished our goals. Equal employment opportunities and fully integrated community living has not been fully realized; recent data shows 31 percent of disabled individuals live below the poverty line and less than 34 percent are fully employed. It is more important than ever that we educate businesses and connect them with proper resources to create more employment opportunities. We must ensure that transportation is

available and accessible to everyone so they can get to their job, the doctor, or the grocery store. We must also address changes that accompany the modern age, such as fully accessible internet services. And we must ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to reaffirm our country’s longstanding role as a leader in global disability rights.

Clearly, our work is far from done. As we approach the silver anniversary of the ADA, I look forward to reaffirming our commitment to equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities everywhere.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,613,901,518,929.04. We’ve added \$6,987,024,470,015.96 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAKDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the firefighters and residents of Oakdale, Minnesota on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Oakdale Fire Department.

The department was started in 1964 in the garage of local resident Mr. Dean Arnt in what was then the undeveloped community of Northdale. Beginning with a volunteer staff of twelve people, an old Jeep, and an early 1950s model Ford fire truck, what the department lacked in physical resources, it made up in generosity and hard work. Thirteen local residents used their own money to send letters to residents getting the word out about the creation of the department and to ask for donations to build a fire station. A small station was finally built by the volunteer firefighters in 1967, and the department responded to 24 calls during its first year.

The area served by the Oakdale Fire Department has doubled in size since 1964 and the department has expanded with it. Now operating out of two, much larger fire stations, the department employs 40 paid-per-call and eight full-time firefighters. Many of the staff are trained as emergency medical technicians or paramedics who provide support 24 hours. The department now responds to more than 2,000 medical, fire, and rescue calls per year.

Despite its impressive growth, the Oakdale Fire Department still retains its commitment to

the community and stands as an example of the very best in public services funded by taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, the valuable efforts of the Oakdale Fire Department during the past five decades are commendable and worthy of recognition. In honor of many people who have built the success of the Oakdale Fire Department, it is a privilege to submit this statement in honor of its 50th anniversary.

HONORING JAMES RODARTE

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late James Rodarte, a lover of music and photography, and a passionate community leader in Southwest San Antonio. Mr. Rodarte served his community through his vocal advocacy for transportation solutions in Southwest San Antonio.

Mr. Rodarte was born August 12, 1959, to James and Anita Rodarte. He inherited his witty sense of humor from his mother and the two were often caught laughing at their own private jokes. He was adored by his sisters Debra, Diane, Denise, and Dori. Mr. Rodarte attended Ivanhoe and David Crockett Elementary Schools, Edgewood Middle School, and graduated from Kennedy High School in 1978.

Mr. Rodarte had a lifelong passion for music and photography. Every Christmas growing up he turned the family living room into a photo studio, sweetly providing a family portrait as his yearly gift. As an adult he volunteered his time taking pictures of Edgewood High School activities and received particular joy from taking photos of all athletic teams.

A talented musician, Mr. Rodarte played the trombone, drums, and bass guitar. He particularly enjoyed playing his five-string bass with conjuntos. Mr. Rodarte played with the legendary San Antonio Marching Band, and though diabetes may have prevented him from marching, he didn’t let his condition stop him from participating. He would drive the “chase vehicle” behind the band. Whenever a musician tired, they could pull out of the ranks and get into his vehicle to rest for a while.

Mr. Rodarte combined his love of music and photography by taking pictures and videotaping Tejano performances, especially during San Antonio’s yearly Fiesta celebration. He would upload performances to YouTube for the local community to enjoy.

The legacy that Mr. Rodarte will most be remembered for was his dogged campaign to provide relief for the citizens living in the Zarzamora Street and Frio City Road area from traffic delays caused by train traffic. These daily delays force the community to wait longer than 30 minutes while the trains inexplicably stop in the middle of this residential neighborhood.

Mr. Rodarte spearheaded the community’s demands for a solution. He was a constant presence at City Council and Commissioners Court meetings, presenting a plan to build an overpass to provide relief to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the life of James Rodarte, a lover of music and photography, and a dedicated community leader.

HONORING JEANNINE BAXTER FOR  
HER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT  
THE DU QUOIN STATE FAIR

**HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Jeannine Baxter who is returning for her 25th year as the First Lady of the front office at the Du Quoin State Fair.

Since its beginning in 1923, the Du Quoin State Fair has brought joy and entertainment to generations of families in Southern Illinois and throughout the entire Midwest. And for a quarter of the fair's history, Jeannine Baxter has been greeting fair goers, workers and visiting dignitaries with grace and her ever present smile. Jeannine's love of the fair is infectious and her knowledge and professionalism ensure that everything runs smoothly so everyone is sure to have a good time.

While Jeannine has been at her post for a quarter of a century, the 84 year old shows no sign of slowing down. She worked for 20 years at Illinois Power Company in Du Quoin where her professionalism and enthusiasm proved as much of a joy for customers and staff of that utility company as for the fair goers and staff of the Du Quoin State Fair.

The Du Quoin State Fair opens on Friday, August 22, which has been declared Jeannine Baxter Day at the Fair and Jeannine will serve as Grand Marshal for the opening day parade.

In addition to her work at the fair, Jeannine is active in the community in other roles. She has served for many years on the Du Quoin Park Board, working to improve her home town with recreation and opportunities for young people. She has also worked as an election judge for many, many years and has been a welcoming face both on Election Day and at early voting hours for her neighbors as they participate in the electoral process.

Jeannine has been blessed with a large family, including eight children, 25 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Her family is a source of great joy for Jeannine especially since they are able to get together for a family reunion every year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Jeannine Baxter well and serving her for her quarter of a century of service at the Du Quoin State Fair.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FORRESTRAL COMPLEX REDEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I introduce the Department of Energy Forrestral Complex Redevelopment Act to direct the General Services Administrator (GSA) to redevelop this site using its authorities to enter into public-private partnerships in accordance with the National Capital Planning Commission's (NCP) Southwest (SW) Ecodistrict Plan. The Department of Energy (DOE) Forrestral Complex is located at

1000 Independence Avenue SW., and has the potential to serve as a gateway to renewed development in this section of the National Mall area in downtown Washington. For many years, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management have expressed concern about excess federal property, wasteful spending, energy efficiency, and space utilization practices. This bill, which would maximize use of valuable, centrally located land for public and private uses, responds to this concern.

GSA and DOE have been assessing the needs of the DOE and any costs and benefits associated with disposing of the assets at the complex. In the last few months, GSA released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for two of its properties in close proximity to the DOE Forrestral Complex, the Cotton Annex and the GSA Regional Office Building, which are part of the SW Ecodistrict Plan. Portions of the Forrestral Complex lie between these two parcels, and their redevelopment will aid the in the realization of the SW Ecodistrict Plan, which has been embraced by the NCP and the District of Columbia.

Redevelopment of the Forrestral Complex will enable mixed-use development, and it would accommodate the uses agreed to in the SW Ecodistrict Plan. The plan includes a modern headquarters for DOE that combines reduced but more efficient utilization of federal government office space, more sustainable practices to preserve energy and water, and the possible location of a nationally significant museum or memorial. In addition, it would bring the SW Ecodistrict closer to fruition.

I urge my colleagues to support this timely, important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER PETER T. COURTNEY ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND TO OUR NATION

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Commander Peter T. Courtney, on his retirement after 24 years of Commissioned Service to the United States Navy and for his extraordinary dedication to duty and to the United States of America.

I have worked with Commander Courtney personally over the past five years—first in 2009, when he was a Defense Legislative Fellow assigned to my office, and then for three years as the Deputy Director, Appropriations Liaison in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller). I would like to share with you some highlights of his fine career.

Commander Peter Courtney graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. Following Commissioning and flight school, he was designated a Naval Flight Officer. He reported to his first sea assignment aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) flying the F-14 Tomcat. He then transferred to Navy Fighter Weapons School for duty as a

TOPGUN Instructor. He later reported to Fighter Squadron Thirty Two (VF-32) aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) and participated in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and direct action missions during Operation DESERT FOX. After he completed his Master of Arts degree at the Naval War College he reported to USS *George Washington* (CVN-73) participating in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM.

Peter served with distinction in a variety of assignments ashore: as Aide to then Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark; Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management & Comptroller) as a Congressional Appropriations Liaison; and with Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Staff for the Naval Aviation Enterprise, including Adversary Aircraft Requirements, Acquisition Reform, and Manpower Planning and Resourcing.

After completing a Military Legislative Fellowship, Commander Courtney reported to his current assignment as Deputy Director Navy Appropriations Matters Office where he helped the Department of the Navy achieve their financial and legislative goals. For nearly four years, Commander Courtney has demonstrated exceptional leadership and foresight, engaging Members of the Appropriations Committee and its Staff to provide information essential to resourcing the Navy for its role as the world's dominant sea power. In an increasingly difficult budget environment, Commander Courtney provided essential support in shepherding three Navy budgets through the appropriations process. Peter served our Navy and nation with integrity, insight and dedication. My office, the subcommittee staff, and I have found him to be a pleasure to work with and all respect his professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Commander Peter T. Courtney for his extraordinary dedication to duty and steadfast service to this country throughout his distinguished career. We wish Peter, "Fair Winds and Following Seas," as he leaves the Naval Service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION ACT OF 2014

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 28, 2014*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act, a bill that would bring much needed resources to cleaning up toxic pollution in the Columbia River Basin. The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest. The River and its tributaries provide significant ecological and economic benefits to the Pacific Northwest and the entire United States. Historically, the Columbia and its tributaries have constituted the largest salmon-producing river system in the world, with annual returns peaking at 16 million fish.

The Columbia River was designated an Estuary of National Significance in 1995 and a Large Aquatic Ecosystem (LAE) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006. Yet it remains the only LAE to receive zero