

RECOGNIZING MR. FLOYD  
BENNINGHOFF'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Floyd Benninghoff, who reached the milestone of his 100th birthday on June 12th, 2014.

Mr. Benninghoff was born in Hamlet, IN as 1 of 9 brothers and sisters and spent most of his life as a Hoosier. He is the father to Ronald Benninghoff and Lynn Kline, a grandfather to 5 grandchildren and a great grandfather to 14. During World War II he served his country as an airplane technician, then spent the next several years as a delivery driver for the Jewel Tea Company before retiring from Sears. He is well known by his family and friends for his love of music and his guitar playing abilities.

I am honored to wish Mr. Floyd Benninghoff a very happy 100th birthday and to recognize his admirable life. On behalf of Indiana's Second District, I am proud to recognize Mr. Benninghoff's birthday and life and wish him good health and many more birthdays.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
ACHIEVEMENT OF ESCAMBIA  
HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JUNIOR RE-  
SERVE OFFICERS TRAINING  
CORPS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Escambia High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) for placing first in this year's Navy League NJROTC drill team competition. This outstanding achievement is evidence of the hard work and dedication of the Escambia High NJROTC program.

After a year of three to four hour long practices after school, a combined 15,000 hours of community service required to satisfy NJROTC standards, and months of local and regional competitions, the "Gator Elite," as they're known, beat out more than 600 other NJROTC programs to achieve the highest honor and bring this prestigious recognition back to Northwest Florida.

In addition to the normal academic coursework, the members of Escambia High's NJROTC program were required to comply with rigorous procedures to maintain discipline through uniform inspections and strict grooming standards, while also mastering the core components of drill team exercises, through marching practice and adroit handling of rifles in showmanship fashion. The "Gator Elite" achieved these tasks with the highest degree of excellence, as evidenced by their first place performance at the NJROTC national championships.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to congratulate the Escambia High NJROTC "Gator Elite"—Corey Abercrombie, Joshua Aguilar, Alexander Apin, Nigel Archer-Shee, Alexis Cannon, Michael Cox, Faith Doby, Audrey Ferrand, Emerald

Francis, Julia Freeman, Ruben Gardner Jr., Christopher Gibson, Cassandra Harrison, Katelin Hayes, Daniel Helms, Thalezondra Hill-Dowdy, Matthew Holmes, Brenda Jernigan, JoseRafael Kaibigan, Angelique Le, Jared Lyon, Jason Mitchell, Andrew Nicolle, Austin Odell, Jeremiah Renfro, Destiny Seladones, Jimmie Simmons, Alfonso Sosa, Antonio Stone, Brian Thompson, Kenny Tu, Alphonso Williams, Erik Williams, Nicholas Willig, Alex Wilson and Brieonna Wilson and their instructors, LCDR Eddie Thompson (USN, Ret.), SCPO Ruben Gardner (USN, Ret.), and SGTMAJ Andre Francis (USMC, Ret.). My wife Vicki joins me in wishing them all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIE WILSON,  
CHAIRMAN OF OMAR MEDICAL  
SUPPLY COMPANY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2014*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 27th, 2014, Dr. Willie Wilson celebrated the 27th anniversary of Singation, his nationally syndicated gospel television show at the Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Morgan Park, where Apostle William A. Ellis is Pastor and spiritual leader.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Wilson, not only for the longevity of this production, but also for his business success and for his humanitarian work with faith-based organizations.

Dr. Willie Wilson is no ordinary man. He is basically a man of great religious faith. Self educated, self made, high school dropout, multi millionaire business man, a great philanthropist who contributes somewhere in the area of a million dollars annually to small churches and provides financial support to many other charities.

In addition to running his businesses (Omar Medical Supply Company), he serves as Chairman and Chief Fundraiser for the Chicago Baptist Institute, a college level educational and training institute for clergy and lay individuals who want to learn how to more effectively practice Christian principles and practice in their everyday lives.

Dr. Wilson is well known for his hobby and passion for singing gospel music. On practically every Sunday afternoon, he, along with his gospel singing group and orchestra can be found at a small church singing gospel music, after which he always leaves a sizeable donation for the church.

A man among men, a giver from his heart, and a leader of leaders.

I commend and congratulate Dr. Willie Wilson as he and his friends celebrate 27 years of Singation.

DENOUNCING USE OF CIVILIANS  
AS HUMAN SHIELDS BY HAMAS  
AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANI-  
ZATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 107, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the State of Israel as it defends itself against rocket attacks launched by Hamas.

These deadly rocket attacks launched from Gaza into Israel by Hamas against unarmed civilian populations are deserving of the condemnation of this House and the international community.

Mr. Speaker, since the most recent air-strikes began, hundreds of persons—Israelis and Palestinians—have been killed and many hundreds more injured.

No sovereign nation can be expected to stand idly by while unprovoked acts of violence are perpetrated against its citizens by terrorists or foreign entities.

Israel has, as do all countries under the law of nations, the right to exist and the right to self-defense. This means Israel is allowed to take all necessary, appropriate, and measured actions required to keep its people safe. Hamas should cease using their fellow citizens as human shields.

But at the end of the day, the peace and justice we all seek will come from the parties acting in good faith to find a just and lasting peace that recognizes Israel's right to exist, renounces violence and terrorism, and achieves the two-state solution.

Among the most important things that can be done to bring peace and the two-state solution into being and to halt the suffering is for the Administration to redouble its efforts to mediate a peaceful resolution of the conflict and for the President Mahmoud Abbas to exercise stronger leadership in rallying and uniting the Palestinian people under the banner of peace with justice.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn launching rockets into civilian populations. In addition to death and destruction, such attacks instill fear and cause suffering to innocent men, women, and children.

Finally, I offer sympathies for the loss of life among the Israelis and the Palestinians.

As the great theologian St. Augustine reminds us, "peace is the necessary condition in which people can be free to work out their eternal destiny."

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF  
JOHNPAUL JONES

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2014*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnpaul Jones for his distinguished architecture, his commitment to honoring our natural world and cultures, and his accomplishments as a recipient of the 2013 National Humanities Medal.

A Bainbridge Island resident of 43 years, Johnpaul Jones has enriched our community and historical awareness through his holistic approach to space design. Locally, he has earned the title of "Island Treasure" for his help in designing the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial and the Waypoint Park on Bainbridge Island. In designing the gorilla exhibit and the elephant house at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, Mr. Jones' unique approach pioneered a movement to design more natural habitats for zoo animals.

Mr. Jones' design philosophy is deeply rooted in his Cherokee-Choctaw ancestors. Johnpaul Jones' projects have demonstrated an ingrained respect for the natural world and native landscapes and for enhancing awareness of the indigenous people, cultures, and the communities in which they inhabit. This philosophy is apparent in his celebrated design of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.

Mr. Jones has received multiple honors and awards for his work including the American Institute of Architects Seattle Medal, the Executive Excellence Award from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Oregon, his alma mater.

Most recently, President Barack Obama honored Johnpaul Jones with a National Humanities Medal. The National Humanities Medal, introduced in 1997, honors individuals and groups whose work has enhanced our nation's understanding of the humanities and expanded our citizens' involvement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects. Johnpaul Jones, the first architect to be honored with this award, was one of ten who received the 2013 National Humanities Medal for his work in broadening our nation's cultural understanding and awareness through his architecture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by again applauding Johnpaul Jones for his environmentally conscious and culturally reverent architecture and for his commitment to our community. From our nation's capital to the beautiful city of Bainbridge Island, Johnpaul's work preserves our nation's stories for generations to come. I am honored to recognize Johnpaul Jones today in the United States Congress.

#### HONORING FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIONAL DEFENSE CADET CORPS

#### HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2014*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard work and dedication of students in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District who participate in Franklin County High School's National Defense Cadet Corps in Winchester.

Once again, these students were Senior National Finalists in the 34th Annual National Energy Education Development Project's Youth Awards.

They were presented the award in Washington, DC, on June 23, 2014. The cadets were recognized for their excellence in environmental education. This year's projects included studying the feasibility of Compressed

Natural Gas as an alternate energy source. The Elk River Public Utility District contributed by providing benefits and a demonstration including test driving of their CNG vehicles. The students increased their knowledge on solar power production by visiting the Duck River Electric Municipal Cooperative solar farm.

One of their most unique recycling efforts not only saved 22 trees but promoted literacy among elementary school children. The cadets sponsored a community wide book drive called "Ride for Reading." This is a national effort to deliver free books to Title I schools. The Cadet Corps delivered 1,472 books to Cowan Elementary School by bicycle. Every elementary student received five free books. The cadets once again recycled cooking oil that was turned into biodiesel by Winchester Utilities for city equipment. The cadets were recognized on the field during a University of Tennessee home football game and awarded a \$1,000 grant for their recycling efforts as part of the Good Sports Always Recycle program.

These are just some of the projects these energetic students undertook to make an impact on their community and promote environmental education this school year. It is always a pleasure to see our young people are civically engaged. Each student's individual drive has led them to great accomplishments. I want to thank them for their dedication and wish them the best as they continue in their educational pursuits. I am proud to represent these fine young people and their friends and families in the United States Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING FOUR-TIME STATE CHAMPIONS RILEY RAMBO AND TAYLOR LYCKMAN

#### HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2014*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Riley Rambo and Taylor Lyckman from Menard, Texas on their historic 1A Mixed Doubles Tennis State Championship, on April 30th—a noteworthy accomplishment in and of itself.

While any state championship is impressive, this duo made U-I-L history by being the first mixed doubles team to win the title four years running.

Over the course of their high school careers, they have exemplified hard work, perseverance, and tenacity; and have become hometown heroes because of it. They are role models inspiring the younger generations of Menard.

Riley and Taylor are not your normal doubles team. They are not just teammates or friends; they are cousins. They are family. They have grown up together, competed together, and won together. I can only imagine the overwhelming excitement and pride their entire family feels from this accomplishment. I encourage them to savor their historic feat and wish them all the best in their bright futures.

Again, I congratulate Mr. Rambo and Ms. Lyckman on their historic fourth Mixed Doubles Tennis State Championship title.

#### HONORING RALPH FERTIG

#### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2014*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Ralph Fertig from Santa Barbara County, who passed away suddenly on July 18, 2014.

Ralph was a devoted community leader and advocate for sustainable transportation in the Santa Barbara community. He was also the perennial renaissance man, having graduated from Penn State in 1961 with a degree in art and architecture before studying painting and ceramics at Cranbrook Academy of Art, earning a master's in mathematics from the University of Michigan, studying photography with Ansel Adams, and finally earning a second master's degree in photography from the Chicago Institute of Design in 1970.

Ralph came to the Santa Barbara community in the early 1980s to work on graphics and marketing for a computer communications company. It was during those early days in Santa Barbara that Ralph rediscovered his love of bicycling and began commuting by bike to work every day.

It wasn't long before Ralph became known in Santa Barbara as an effective civil advocate for the bike community. In 1991, he joined a group of local cyclists to form a group eventually known as the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition to advocate for the improvement of road and trail conditions. He also began publishing a monthly newsletter that, for the next 20 years, would be the voice of the bicycle community and a powerful force on behalf of pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Ralph made it his mission to attend every local transportation planning meeting to bear witness to the need for more space on the roads for bicycles, and he did this with perseverance, intellectual honesty, and respect. Ralph served as a member of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition for more than 20 years, attending many bicycling conferences all over North America. In 1998, Ralph single-handedly brought the Pro Bike/Pro Walk conference to Santa Barbara, attracting 540 participants from around the country. He was involved with crafting the City of Santa Barbara's Bicycle Master Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and a regional Bikeway Signage Program.

Ralph was keenly aware of how transportation projects impact environmental quality and social equity. In 2010 the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation, or COAST, recognized Ralph with its biggest honor, the Barry Siegel Award, for his contributions to Santa Barbara County in the field of sustainable transportation.

I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Ralph's friends and family, and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exemplary American and Santa Barbara County resident.

#### HONORING ROSS ERWIN HANNA

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2014*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to Ross