

the SourceAmerica network, Mr. Chamberlin has provided critical leadership on a number of new employment initiatives, including the establishment of the Institute for Economic Empowerment, the Pathways to Careers Employment Initiative, and the AbilityOne Design Challenge for assistive technology. In addition, he has helped to expand SourceAmerica's outreach to the private sector through new partnerships with large corporations and franchise organizations. Those efforts are particularly important for preserving work opportunities given the current constraints on federal agency budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished military service and career accomplishments of Mr. E. Robert Chamberlin, and I want to personally commend him for his commitment to safeguarding the rights and opportunities for all Americans, especially those with significant disabilities.

HONORING JACOB P. COGLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob P. Cogley. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jacob P. Cogley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF FETHULLAH GÜLEN

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the exceptional work of Fethullah Gülen. Mr. Gülen has long stood as a pillar of peace and humanity and as a model for opposition in the face of rising dictatorship.

A respected member of the Pennsylvania community, Fethullah Gülen has worn many hats throughout his life. A vocal leader of the Turkish civic movement, Mr. Gülen has been forced to live in a self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania for fear for his safety.

The founder of the 'Gülen Movement,' Fethullah Gülen has long been a voice of reason in a world of turmoil. Widely known as a highly-respected leader, he has encouraged Turkish citizens to vote for those who are respectful to democracy and the rule of law,

rather than one party or another. He has consistently promoted a moderate blend of Islam in a time of growing radicalism and is well known for his global network of educational establishments, extending to over 140 countries. His views promote a tolerant Islam, emphasizing hard work and education, as well as building bridges between the Muslim and Western world and science and religion.

While the global community looks to Turkey with both growing concern and enduring hope, it is my honor to commend Fethullah Gülen for his tireless efforts to promote the ideals of peace, democracy, an educated electorate, and the human rights of the Turkish people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL SMITTCAMP

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Earl Smittcamp who passed away on the morning of October 20, 2014 at the age of 96. Earl's passion for farming and education exemplify the meaning leadership.

Earl was a prominent agriculture business leader. He alongside his wife Muriel, founded Wawona Frozen Foods which currently leads the industry in development and distribution of fruit and fruit products. A 1939 graduate of Fresno State, Earl recognized the value of hard work and education and spent his time giving back to his community.

Earlier in his life, Earl honorably served our country in the U.S. Marines Corps during World War II. Upon his return, he and his wife purchased her father's 200 acre fruit ranch. Their small business went on to dominate the frozen food market, making Wawona Frozen Foods one of the oldest peach processors in the U.S.

Wawona Ranch flourished into a full agricultural operation ranging from fruit farming, packing, frozen-food production to food processing. Earl's sons Bob and Bill manage the business. The Smittcamp's success made a \$2 million donation to Fresno State in 1997, possible. This generous donation helped establish the Smittcamp Family Honors College. The Honors College offers a rigorous academic program for top students. The Smittcamp Family Alumni Center was also later established and opened in early 2000.

In addition to his businesses, Earl also received the following government appointments: Sixth Acting Disaster Governor of California by Governor Ronald Reagan from 1966 to 1972, served on the California State Board of Agriculture from 1970 to 1972, was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon to the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition in 1969, served as chairman of the Federal Farm Credit Board in 1971, and finally in 1976 Earl was appointed to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Regulatory Programs.

In 1993 Earl's hard work was recognized by The Fresno Chamber of Commerce's Leon S. Peters Award. Other awards include Clovis' Outstanding Citizen in 1962, Fresno State's Outstanding Alumnus in both 1963 and 1980. In addition, Earl was inducted into the Frozen Food Hall of Fame in 2005.

Earl met his wife Muriel at Fresno State in 1940 and the two happily married. In 2009 he

was preceded in death by his wife. They are survived by their four children and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Earl Smittcamp. Earl's children, grandchildren, relatives and many friends have an outstanding role model that they will hold in their hearts forever. His presence will be greatly missed but his legacy will surely live through the Smittcamp family's deep commitment to supporting the community and the university.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 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 \$17,955,187,358,115.74. We've added \$7,328,310,309,202.66 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING BEULAH LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON ITS PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the New Haven community and all of those gathered this evening in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Beulah Land Development Corporation—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization.

Dedicated to making a difference in a distressed community, the Beulah Land Development Corporation was founded in 1994 with a simple mission—to improve the quality of life for area residents through providing homeownership opportunities for families, the creation of affordable housing for seniors, and supporting innovative economic development initiatives. BLDC also seeks to empower community residents by providing or acting as a gateway to programs and initiatives that provide education, technical and financial assistance to repair and beautify their homes, improve their economic status, and prepare for a sustainable future.

Over the course of the last two decades, BLDC has invested millions in the revitalization of blighted properties. The Orchard Street Townhouses and additional revitalization of several properties along Orchard and Henry Streets have enabled first-time homebuyers to realize their dreams. The Walter S. Brooks Elderly Homes, named in honor of one of the founding members of BLDC, provides safe, affordable rental units for our seniors. Looking to the future, BLDC has recently worked to redevelop a brownfields site where they plan to

provide accessible community based health services.

Perhaps what is most special about BLDC is that it is a family affair. The Brooks family have been and continue to be dedicated community activists. Bishop Theodore Brooks and his late brother, Walter, seeing a real need, opened the doors of BLDC as a way to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Today, BLDC is still led by President and CEO Bishop Theodore Brooks and his son, Darrell, works tirelessly by his side. They understand that a home is not simply a place to rest your head—it is a source of comfort and security for families. By making these investments, they are not only leading by example, they are empowering residents and inspiring a renewed pride in and commitment to their community.

For their many invaluable contributions to the Dixwell neighborhood and the New Haven community, I am honored to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Brooks, his son Darrell, the Brooks family and the staff and supporters of the Beulah Land Development Corporation as they celebrate the organization's platinum anniversary. I have no doubt that even as they celebrate this special occasion, their vision and leadership will continue to make a difference in our community and in the lives of others for many more years to come.

CONGRATULATING MERLE
SIDENER ACADEMY FOR HIGH
ABILITY STUDENTS, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate the Merle Sidener Academy for High Ability Students in Indianapolis, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that the Sidener Academy is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While 420 schools nationwide received nominations, only 287 were chosen as National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Since opening its doors in 2008 as a magnet school for Indianapolis' gifted and talented students, the Sidener Academy has grown to

nearly 400 students and offers a 2nd–8th grade curriculum. The school was named in honor of Merle Sidener, a prominent figure in the Indianapolis community. After making a successful career in journalism, Sidener eventually served as the President of the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at the Sidener Academy give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to the Sidener Academy. I am very proud of you.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JUSTICE MARVIN BAXTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to recognize Justice Marvin Baxter for his honorable service to the state of California. For decades, Justice Baxter served as a dedicated leader who willingly and unselfishly gave his time and talent to make our state a better place.

Marvin Baxter was born in Fowler, California on January 9, 1940. He grew up on his family farm as a second generation American. All four of his grandparents emigrated from Armenia in the early twentieth century. After graduating from Fresno State, he went on to the University of California's Hastings School of Law, where he earned his law degree in 1966.

Justice Baxter began his lifelong career in law in 1967 as a Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. Two years later, he continued on at a private practice focusing on civil law. Justice Baxter worked with the firm Andrews, Andrews, Thaxter, Jones & Baxter for 14 years before he moved back to public service acting as Appointments Secretary to Governor George Deukmejian. In that capacity, Mr. Baxter advised the Governor on judicial and executive appointments.

After working in the Governor's office for five years, Mr. Baxter was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal for the Fifth District. In 1991, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Subsequently, in 2002, Justice Baxter was elected by the California voters to serve an additional 12 years as associate justice.

Throughout his career, Justice Baxter has been a part of many landmark decisions. He is known amongst his peers for being straightforward and clear headed in the courtroom. Colleagues will miss the most senior Supreme Court justice for sound feedback they could regularly count on.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Justice Marvin Baxter for his service to the state of California. Although his time on the California Supreme Court has come to an

end, Justice Baxter has made a lasting impression and we commend him for his hard work and dedication.

HONORING AIXA TORRES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Aixa Torres, a tireless advocate for New York's working families. Born in Santurce, Aixa moved with her parents and sisters to New York City in 1955. Attending public school, she graduated from Central Commercial High School as a certified Bookkeeper. She has lived for over 50 years in the Lower East Side (LES) with her siblings Silvia, Aurea and Arthur.

In 1971, Aixa married the late George Carmona, Jr. and had two children, George III and Liza Noemi. She still lives in the LES with her daughter and grandchildren Mia Noemi and Elijah Michael Daniel.

Aixa has committed her life to caring for her community. For more than three decades she assumed leadership roles on numerous committees and boards for various organizations in the city including parent associations and Action for Progress Adult Day Care center. For twenty-two years she has advocated for District 1 families.

Aixa was elected President of Alfred E. Smith Resident Association in 2010, representing over 4,300 tenants in twelve buildings. Now serving her second term as president, Aixa has stood out as a courageous, committed and caring fighter for Smith residents. She has worked to end neglect and abuse by city agencies, helped stop attempts to develop luxury apartments on open spaces, while caring for residents in the crisis of Hurricane Sandy.

During her tenure as president she and the association have received citations from the New York City Council and recognition from the New York State Assembly and Senate for her work on behalf of Smith residents. Aixa was honored by the New York City Council Women's Caucus at the Inaugural #WOMENLEAD Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, this month, Aixa will be retiring from her post as a District 1 Family Advocate. While she is leaving her position with the New York City Department of Education, anyone who knows Aixa recognizes she will certainly remain an active and welcome voice in our community. Today, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting someone who has been a champion for New York residents and a stalwart defender of our city's families—Aixa Torres.

IN MEMORY OF RICK RICHARDSON

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a great Georgian, patriot, and personal friend—Rick Richardson, who passed away on November 14th from a sudden stroke.