

and Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) who distinguished herself in strengthening the bonds of friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and our country as well as by her work through the OAS in promoting peace and goodwill in our hemisphere. Ambassador Lovell will enter into retirement on December 1, 2014 having served her country for over thirty-one years, ten of which were spent in the roles of Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Washington D.C.

As Ambassador to the United States of America, Ambassador Lovell built bridges of understanding at both the executive and legislative branches where she consistently engaged officials on the imperative of implementing mutually beneficial policies. Beyond this, she earned the trust of the fourteen member independent countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to lead discussions with members of the legislative branch on issues ranging from energy through security and immigration to trade. Always active in promoting the rights of the underserved and the underrepresented, Ambassador Lovell was a passionate advocate for youth, afro-descents and women at the OAS. Propelled by the belief that young people are our investment in the future, she identified youth empowerment as the theme when she chaired the Permanent Council of the OAS. Her initiative was complemented by the thirty-four Foreign Ministers and Representatives of the highest policy making body of the OAS, the General Assembly, (the Thirty-Eighth Regular Session) who crafted a declaration, Youth and Democratic Values, that committed the hemisphere to strengthening the political, social and economic participation of youth in the democratic process.

During Ambassador Lovell's tenure, Antigua and Barbuda spearheaded the adoption of two landmark Conventions at the OAS that would help to eliminate racism and intolerance. These were the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention on All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. Furthermore, on the question of women's rights, Ambassador Lovell has championed women entrepreneurship and has worked against domestic violence.

Ambassador Lovell is an ardent believer in international cooperation and by forming partnerships with friendly countries; she has laid the groundwork in establishing a modern address system for her country that would lead to the better provision of government services such as the distribution of utilities. In 2010, Ambassador Lovell was bestowed a knighthood, the highest honor of Antigua and Barbuda for her services rendered in the field of diplomacy and carries the title Dame Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation. Ambassador Lovell has received commendations by the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore, the Maryland House of Delegates, the Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and the Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda. Under Ambassador Lovell's leadership, the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda had been selected as one of the top ten embassies in Washington D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Am-

bassador Lovell deserves to be recognized for a job well done and for her many years of service to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, the United States of America and the Organization of American States.

IN RECOGNITION OF N.E. REED ON  
HIS RETIREMENT AS EDMONSON  
COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of N.E. Reed. After serving more than 20 years as the Edmonson County Judge-Executive, N.E. will retire at the end of the year.

Prior to taking elected office in 1994, N.E. taught at Kyrock Elementary School, was an employee at Cutler Hammer and worked in the dairy industry doing quality assurance.

Throughout each of these jobs, N.E. has always been a fixture in the Edmonson County community. His list of accomplishments is long; from purchasing buildings to serve as the home of key local offices, to rebuilding others, N.E. has left his mark on Edmonson County. During his time as Chair of the Regional Development Board, N.E. expanded the county's buildings—all while leaving Edmonson County debt free. Basketball courts, playgrounds and walking trails are among the many additions he made by investing in local parks for the community.

Mammoth Cave, which covers a large part of Edmonson County, didn't become what it is today overnight. N.E. ensured that families who sold land to create the park were protected and that the land would be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

N.E.'s commitment and selflessness is clear to everyone in Edmonson County. But it is even more evident that by putting the people first, he has established a strong community that will benefit the entire region for years to come.

I am grateful for all of N.E.'s hard work and dedication to the people of Edmonson County. I wish him well on his retirement and look forward to continuing to work with him in the community.

HONORING "RAMBLIN' LOU"  
SCHRIVER AS HE RECEIVES THE  
2014 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Lou Schriver as he receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Known as Ramblin' Lou, the Tonawanda native's distinguished career in broadcasting is worthy of praise.

Born and raised on Young Street in Tonawanda, New York, Ramblin' Lou worked at his father's riding academy during his childhood. While he has earned national recognitions, he

has always remained close to his roots, doing all he can to promote the Tonawandas.

In 1947, Ramblin' Lou started a "Twin Cities" radio show on 1440AM in Niagara Falls, New York to honor merchants in the Tonawandas. He has performed many assemblies at Tonawanda High School to benefit various charitable causes and community members. Annually, Lou and Charlie Fleischman organized an annual benefit show for the "Twin Cities" for over 25 years. Since the introduction of Canal Fest in 1983, the Ramblin' Lou Family Band has performed at the iconic Tonawanda festival.

A lifetime member of Musicians' Local #209/106 of Tonawanda, Lou served as the president and general manager of WXRL Radio.

Ramblin' Lou is the recipient of many local and national honors. In 1978, he was inducted into the Walkway of Stars in the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee. Other honors include the induction into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 1996; the Distinguished Broadcaster Award from the Buffalo Broadcaster Pioneers in May 1998; the Tonawanda High School Distinguished Alumni Award in May 2002; serving as Grand Marshall for the Canal Fest Parade in July 2007; and election into the New York State Country Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the life and career of Ramblin' Lou Schriver. His broadcast excellence and promotion of his hometown are honorable, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING RETIREMENT OF  
POLICE OFFICER JOHN M. POPPE

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Officer George M. Poppe as he retires after more than 24 years of law enforcement service.

Officer Poppe began his law enforcement career in 1990 as a Police Officer with the City of Albany. On November 3, 1997, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. Officer Poppe served the community in various capacities that included Patrol, Violent Crime Suppression, and Major Crimes Investigation. Some of his most significant contributions to the Police Department have been the special assignments he held including Special Activity and Felony Enforcement (SAFE Team), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT Team), K-9 Handler, Firearms Instructor, and Field Training Officer.

Officer Poppe has received numerous commendations from citizens and coworkers, and he was awarded two Lifesaving Medals, the first in 2000 and the second in 2001, for his heroic intervention, exemplary performance and dedication to duty during two critical and life-threatening incidents.

Officer Poppe has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He is a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS "TOMMY"  
THOMPSON

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart today to honor an amazing life, and a legendary career. On November 6th, America lost one of the great innovators in medical technology and a dear friend of mine, Thomas "Tommy" Thompson. While Tommy Thompson may not be a household name, there is not one household in America who has not been touched by his life's work.

Tommy was a dynamic medical device innovator whose passion in life was to improve the human condition. And in this pursuit he was immensely successful. But Tommy wasn't content with his own successes, he wanted to make sure that the countless doctors, engineers and other innovators in this field also had an environment where they could develop medical breakthroughs. Tommy was the type of leader who didn't just point out problems, he tirelessly fought to fix them. In 1992, he joined with a group of innovators to establish the Medical Device Manufacturers Association to give the innovative and entrepreneurial sector of the industry a strong and independent voice in the nation's capital. What started as a handful of medical technology companies has grown to nearly 300 members across the United States. Under Tommy's leadership, the association helped drive countless policies and regulations that improved patient care and innovation. For the past few years, Tommy discussed the devastating impact the medical device tax was having on innovators trying to develop the cures of tomorrow. Tommy was also a tireless advocate to ensure patients and physicians had access to the technologies they needed, and worked to remove barriers and roadblocks so that they could obtain the best care possible. There is no question that medical technology innovators today are standing on the shoulders of Tommy and all the passion and hard work he dedicated towards improving the innovation ecosystem. To honor Tommy, I will continue to work to repeal this tax.

Tommy's passion also extended to helping organizations and individuals in his home state of Texas. He devoted countless hours to many of his favorite organizations there including the Fairhill School, the Foundation for Lovejoy Schools, and Phi Kappa Sigma at The University of Texas.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Betty and all his family and loved ones at this difficult time. We have all lost a great man whose love of improving patient care was second only to that for his family.

At one time or another everyone wonders what kind of legacy our lives might produce, and what it is that future generations may say about our brief time here on Earth. Tommy never said it—he was too humble and too magnanimous—but I will: Tommy Thompson was a legend and a leader in the medical device industry, allowing patients around the world to live longer, healthier lives. He gave so much of his time, treasure and talents, never expecting anything in return. Whether helping a local school or giving time to mentor an engineer just starting in the field, Tommy

cared about people and improving this world. That is his legacy. That is what he will always be known for. That is a legacy anyone would be proud of, and we will be forever grateful for all that Tommy did on behalf of patients and innovators.

Thomas "Tommy" Thompson led a life dedicated to that old-fashioned notion that if you're focused on helping others, you truly can change the world. Tommy did change the world, and we are all better off thanks to his selfless passion and generosity.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MIKE  
MCCALL ON HIS RETIREMENT AS  
PRESIDENT OF THE KENTUCKY  
COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Mike McCall. After more than 15 years serving as the President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Dr. McCall will retire in January 2015.

KCTCS, a network of 16 colleges located throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky, currently educates more than 92,000 students. Kentucky's Second District is fortunate to be the home of three of those campuses—Owensboro Community and Technical College, Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College and Elizabethtown Community and Technical College.

During Dr. McCall's tenure, KCTCS has grown to be the largest provider of post-secondary education in the Commonwealth. Today, KCTCS represents nearly 50 percent of all undergraduate college students, serving more than 5,000 businesses and training more than 52,000 employees on an annual basis.

Dr. McCall has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, but it is Kentucky that is the real winner. Dr. McCall's career dedicated to better serving community and technical colleges has been one that will create a lasting impact on the Commonwealth. I wish Dr. McCall well during this new phase of his life and know that KCTCS will continue to grow and prosper.

HONORING MARK E. SALTARELLI  
AS THE 2014 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Mark E. Saltarelli as he is recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Mr. Saltarelli is a practicing attorney and former acting City Court Judge, whose dedication to public service and the law is commendable.

A graduate of the University of Buffalo and Syracuse Law School, Mr. Saltarelli practices at Saltarelli and Associates, P.C., in the city of Tonawanda. He is a trusted attorney whose sound legal advice has helped many in the community for decades.

In addition to his legal work, Mr. Saltarelli has leadership roles in many non-profit organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, the Tonawanda Club, the Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas, the Riviera Theatre, Gateway Harbor, Inc., and Buffalo's Franciscan Center. Mr. Saltarelli is involved heavily in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council and their school board. While the school is in danger of closing, Mr. Saltarelli has joined with many in the community in an attempt to keep the school open.

A family man, Mr. Saltarelli enjoys spending time with his wife Marcia and their two children, Rachel and Mark Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the accomplishments of Mark Saltarelli, the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas Citizen of the Year. I congratulate Mr. Saltarelli on this honor and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING STEP AFRIKA! ON  
ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 2, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Step Afrika! on its 20th anniversary, which will be celebrated on December 4, 2014.

Founded two decades ago, Step Afrika! was originally created as a cultural exchange program with the Soweto Dance Theatre of Johannesburg, South Africa, and has grown to become an internationally recognized dance company.

Stepping is a uniquely American art form that originated on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the art of stepping. Step Afrika! promotes an appreciation for stepping through performances and arts education programs in the District of Columbia, across the rest of the United States and around the world.

Step Afrika! specializes in the use of stepping as an educational tool for young students. Step Afrika! brings stepping and its associated values of teamwork, commitment and discipline to students in classrooms, non-traditional dance venues and performing arts venues. Step Afrika! introduced stepping to the Kennedy Center's Teaching Artist program in 1998, and served as the first step group for the Washington Performing Arts' Concerts in Schools program. In 2005, Step Afrika! earned its first DC Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education, in acknowledgement for its expanding role in arts education. Step Afrika! brings stepping to more than 20,000 students each year.

Step Afrika! is also globally renowned. The organization serves as an official Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department. It has represented the United States and countries around the world including South Sudan. Step Afrika! has also provided moral, welfare, and recreation programs for service members overseas in Bahrain and Djibouti.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Step Afrika!