

learning-disabled fourth, fifth, and sixth-graders. During this time, Dan initiated the first Educationally Handicapped program for the Evergreen School District. After discovering the need to increase access to mental health centers in Santa Clara County, among other issues, Dan decided to run for the Board of Supervisors there.

In 1972, Dan was elected to the Board, serving as a Chairperson for two of his three terms. As a Supervisor, Dan took local leadership on justice and gender and racial equality, health care access, environment, and transportation issues.

Dan never backed down from his lifelong fight against discrimination and injustice. He worked to bring in women, minorities, and individuals living with developmental disabilities to the workforce. For example, Dan appointed the first woman commissioner to the Fire Commission. He also garnered Board consensus regarding supporting workshops, job training, and a program to ease job access for the developmentally disabled.

During his tenure on the Board, Dan expanded his efforts beyond local leadership, representing Santa Clara County on regional and state-wide governing Boards and Commissions, including becoming a member and Chairperson of the Bay Area Quality Management District, and a member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Advisory Council of the State Office of Planning and Research.

In 1982, Dan was elected State Senator where he served for three terms. As a Senator, Dan authored legislation in a variety of areas including: comprehensive water plans for the State, water reclamation, conservation, consumer protection, people with disabilities, LGBT issues, and humane treatment of animals.

After leaving office, Dan worked as a Commissioner on the California Medical Assistance Commission with the Office of the Governor, working to enhance access to medical care for those in need.

Throughout his career Dan has been known for his stellar work ethic, incredible resilience, professionalism, and commitment to hard work in the best interest of the people. I wish Dan the happiest of birthdays, congratulate him on his impressive career, and commend him for his invaluable service to our community and the State of California. We have been lucky to have him.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues to pay tribute to the indelible mark my colleague and friend Representative MARCIA FUDGE has had on the Congressional BLACK CAUCUS during her time as our chairwoman in the 113th Congress.

She has been an outstanding chairwoman to the Congressional Black Caucus and I have been honored to serve under her fine leader-

ship. As the true embodiment of the “conscience of the Congress,” Chairwoman FUDGE has been a tireless champion for blue-collar workers, food stamp recipients, students, and communities of color. She has also been a staunch advocate for voter protection, job creation, and fair housing. As a dedicated public servant, she has continuously represented the needs of both her constituents and underrepresented Americans across this country.

Under Chairwoman FUDGE’s leadership, 14 members of the Congressional Black Caucus traveled to my district in September 2013 to honor the lives of the four little girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She has also traveled to my hometown of Selma on multiple occasions to commemorate the Selma-to-Montgomery March and Bloody Sunday.

On a personal note, Chairwoman FUDGE has and continues to serve as a great friend and mentor to me. I am inspired by her work ethic, problem solving spirit, and remarkable insight and knowledge. With these qualities and more, she has proven to be invaluable to not only the Congressional Black Caucus, but to the Congress as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Chairwoman FUDGE has led the Congressional Black Caucus with great character and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that all Americans are given equal opportunities to reach their full potential. Thank you, Chairwoman FUDGE for your service and astute leadership.

FALLEN MICHIGAN SHERIFF’S DEPUTY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deputy Grant William Whitaker who was killed in the line of duty on Sunday, December 7, 2014 in Stockbridge Township, Michigan. Deputy Whitaker was 25 years old and had been with the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office for one and a half years. Deputy Whitaker had previously served as a police officer with Stockbridge Police Department and Waterloo Township Police. Grant grew up with the drive to serve his community and found his calling in law enforcement. A native of Stockbridge, Grant went to Stockbridge High School where he played baseball. He was an avid outdoorsman who hunted deer, waterfowl and turkey. He enjoyed playing pool and golf and spending time with his nephews. It is tragic when any loved one passes, and to lose someone so young and so dedicated to his community is a terrible loss indeed. My thoughts and prayers are with Grant’s parents and family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote on Decem-

ber 10, 2014. Had I been present for roll call vote number 560, H.R. 1204, on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment for the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, I would have voted “yay.”

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 2015 will be an important year for the future of African democracy. Many countries on the continent will either hold or prepare for Presidential elections. If recent history is any guide, some long-serving African leaders will be tempted to alter constitutions or take other quasi-legal steps to extend their rule. I strongly encourage these leaders, including President Sassou-Nguesso of Congo-Brazzaville, to resist this temptation and to respect the will of their people.

Congo-Brazzaville has enormous natural resource wealth, including oil, minerals and timber. In 2014, the nation’s GDP will be an estimated \$12.9 billion. It has also received nearly \$2 billion in debt relief since 2010. However, it is ranked 142 out of 186 on the U.N. Human Development Index—in other words, human development is low. Political opposition is repressed, so discussion about governance and how to improve and deliver broader economic growth is limited.

In 2016, when it is time for the people of Congo-Brazzaville to go to the polls and elect a President, they deserve the chance to choose a new leader who will endeavor to deliver equitable growth to their country. According to the constitution, that should be their right—President Nguesso’s two 7-year terms will have expired. However, there are indications that he is considering amending that constitution so he is eligible to run again, further extending his 30-year long rule.

The events in Burkina Faso earlier this fall should give pause to any leader considering constitutional changes that would allow them to extend their rule. President Nguesso should allow the voters of Congo-Brazzaville to select a new leader and engage in real democracy—a process that involves a peaceful change in government.

Let 2015 be a year filled with peace and prosperity for the Congolese people. Let a legitimate, democratic transfer of power be the legacy of President Sassou-Nguesso. Let his actions serve as a model and inspiration for other leaders in the region. And let democracy and the rule of law prosper in sub-Saharan Africa.

HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF SERVING IN CONGRESS FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Like several members before me, as I prepare to depart, I rise to address this body in which I

have had the honor and privilege of serving for the past 18 years.

I thank God for His grace and guidance and for keeping me fit of mind and body, so that I could faithfully serve my constituents and our country.

I thank my constituents, the people of the Virgin Islands for their overwhelming support at every election from 1996 through 2012, and for their advice, counsel and their prayers during my tenure.

I thank the leadership under whom I have served—Republican and Democrat—for their support of legislation and the concerns of the people of the Virgin Islands. But I especially thank my Democratic leaders for their unwavering support and advocacy on my and my constituents behalf.

Special thanks to the leaders and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus from the first Chair MAXINE WATERS, all the way to our most recent Chair MARCIA FUDGE and all in between.

I have been successful in my ability to represent my district and to contribute to their health and wellbeing and that of all of the people of this country and beyond, because of their overwhelming support.

Being named as Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust gave me a national platform that allowed a non-voting member, from a Territory that many members could not locate on a map, the opportunity to influence not only local but national policy. And I thank the leaders and members of our TriCaucus partners—the Hispanic and Asian Pacific Caucuses—and my fellow Delegates for their support as well.

And above all I thank the very best staff anyone could ask for. Without them I could not have accomplished anything and my family who sacrificed so that I could serve.

In these 18 years I served on several committees: Natural Resources where I was a Ranking member on the Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee and chair of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Wildlife, Oceans and Fisheries; the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Homeland Security and finally with the Support of the CBC, I became the first delegate ever to serve on the exclusive Committee on Energy and Commerce. I particularly thank Chairwoman FUDGE, Assistant Leader CLYBURN and Leader PELOSI for that honor.

I have been blessed to serve in interesting times and during the terms of three presidents—Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama.

Even without a vote I participated in discussions on every major issue in these 18 years both in Congress and in each White House.

And I have been fortunate with the help and support of the many who I have thanked to have been able through increased rum cover over funds, forgiveness of disaster loans, enabling borrowing and helping to ensure territories were included in the recovery act to help stave off what would have been a far worse impact from the national and global recession.

My staff and I were able to increase funding for roads and provide new funding for wastewater treatment systems and other infrastructure repair. First responder funding reached unprecedented highs.

And even though we were unsuccessful in our efforts to get state like treatment for the territories in the Affordable Care Act, I count as one of my most important legacies is the

fact that working with my TriCaucus colleagues I was able to include many provisions for us that will enable coverage, service and protections for the four and a half million of us, as well as health equity and other provisions that benefit all Americans.

I had the privilege of working with others to create and maintain the Minority AIDS Initiative, to improve Ryan White, to expand the Children's Health Insurance, and to create the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH.

There is more, but most of all I am proud of the individuals and families we have helped in our district and Washington offices.

We helped resolve immigration, veterans, military, TWIC card, VICORP, social security, and Homeland Security issues, some involving saving jobs or getting them thousands of dollars they were owed. We were not 100% successful, but we always pursued the issues on behalf of our constituents to the nth degree.

So again to everyone who voted for me, who supported my efforts and who helped to provide the tools for a better life for the people of the Virgin Islands, thank you.

I will forever be grateful to all of you and will always consider it the highest honor to have been able to serve the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and my country for 18 wonderful years.

RECOGNIZING NIU'S LEADERSHIP ON CAMPUS SAFETY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Northern Illinois University from my district for its proactive leadership in creating safe, supportive living-learning communities by protecting all students from sexual assaults.

I commend NIU President Doug Baker for convening a Task Force on the Violence Against Women Act to bring together students, faculty, staff, administrators, public safety officials, and the DeKalb community on this important issue. To illustrate this collaboration, I would like to insert a student perspective into the RECORD offered by the President of NIU's Student Association.

Their hard work resulted in the Task Force Report which contains recommendations that enhance NIU's efforts in the prevention of sexual assault, provide support for sexual assault victims and survivors, and strengthen policies and processes related to student conduct and reporting. I am proud to say NIU is among the first universities in the nation to conduct such a comprehensive and public review.

My constituents' health and safety is a top priority. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hard work of NIU's Task Force and look forward to continuing to work with NIU on our shared commitment to campus safety.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

One of the most memorable days in a parent's life is the one in which they send their child off to college. Parents can only hope the well-being of their child is in good hands. It is our duty as decision makers in the university community to make sure we have a safe environment for our students. This is why as President of the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Student Association, I reached out to groups across campus, from the NIU Police to our Health Enhancement Department, to collaborate on a White House-initiated campaign called "It's On Us". The It's On Us campaign mobilizes students and advocates for their awareness of responses to and prevention of campus sexual assaults, a pressing issue facing our nation today. I commend everyone involved with the campaign for making a positive change to our campus culture.

It is exceedingly important to note this student-led movement is the bottom-up companion to a top-down approach by the university administration. I recognize and applaud the efforts of NIU President Doug Baker and his administration for their proactive approach to addressing sexual assaults on campus, embodied in the work of the Presidential Task Force on Violence Against Women Act. This task force and the report created from it will play a crucial role in the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and community members. It makes me a proud student to see NIU as one of the national leaders paving the way on such significant issues. Judging by the energy felt around campus, I believe my fellow students agree.

JOE FRASCELLO,
President, STUDENT ASSOCIATION,
Northern Illinois University.

HONORING COMPAÑEROS EN SALUD/PARTNERS IN HEALTH, NFP

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, a not-for-profit grass roots organization in Aurora, Illinois that is celebrating its 15th Anniversary.

Since 1999, Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, NFP has provided assistance for members of the Hispanic community and other diverse groups to ensure equal access to health care and other social services in the Fox Valley. I would especially like to recognize Dr. Lulu Blacksmith, Compañeros en Salud's founder, for her dedication and leadership of the organization.

Through programs such as the Latina Health Festival, the Men's Health Festival, and Language Access Healthcare, Compañeros en Salud has become an important resource for our community. Since its founding, the organization has been expanding its focus into areas such as mental health and diabetes, while still offering high quality service to those who need assistance the most.

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health, NFP as it celebrates its 15th Anniversary.