

Day on the Hill," which brought local high school students to Capitol Hill to lobby on the behalf of legislation affecting high school students and their local communities. This experience enlightened and exposed young people in learning how their Congress works and inspiring them to move from the sidelines to the frontlines.

During his spare time in the evening and on weekends, Jacob advises and counsels young men in the local community. His selfless efforts did not go unrecognized as the leadership of Nu Sigma Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. voted and honored him as "Mentor of the Year 2010." As an additional testament to Jacob's long and exceptional service, the Free Masons bestowed on him their 33rd Degree, an honorary title granted to those Masons who distinguish themselves.

A native of Beaufort, South Carolina, Jacob graduated from Battery Creek High School and continued his education by earning dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Economics from Benedict College and an additional degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of visiting Beaufort, South Carolina and even attending the beautiful Gullah Festival. I was particularly proud to meet and become an honorary member of Jacob's welcoming family. He is truly a loving and dedicated family man—a proud brother, father, and grandfather. Jacob's son, Dexter, and daughter-in-law, Nikita, continue the family tradition of service as members of the U.S. Air Force. His lovely daughter, Mekala, is a high school honor roll student, ROTC member, athlete and dancer, and Jacob's handsome first grandchild, Brice, is the apple of his eye.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about how great a member of my staff and family Jacob Gillison was. I will truly miss him, his children, grandson, twin brother Esau, and brothers-in-spirit—Tyson and Glenn—but I wish him continued success in his new position and this exciting, next stage of his outstanding career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ACCESS TO HEARING HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2014"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Access to Hearing Healthcare Act of 2014. This important legislation will allow Medicare beneficiaries the option of going directly to a qualified audiologist for hearing and balance diagnostic tests. Medicare presently requires that beneficiaries with hearing loss or balance disorders obtain a physician referral before seeing an audiologist.

This referral requirement differs from other federal health agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Office of Personnel Management, which allow patients to directly access audiologists. Hearing impairment is one of the most common conditions affecting older Americans, with approximately 33 percent of adults aged 60 and over

and 40–50 percent of those aged 75 and over with hearing loss. Hearing loss among senior citizens, if left untreated, can result in isolation and depression.

We need to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can obtain audiology services in a timely manner. I ask that my colleagues support this important legislation.

HONORING THE GREATER BEACHES VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3270 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Greater Beaches Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3270.

Created in 1939, Post 3270 is Jacksonville's oldest continuous veterans organization. The First Coast is honored to have such a commendable organization that is committed to serving veterans, military families, and their communities.

The Veterans of Foreign War can trace its roots back to 1898, when the veterans of the Spanish American War and the veterans of the Philippine Insurrection joined forces and founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their members who returned wounded and sick after serving their country. At a time when there was no medical care or pensions, our country's heroes were often left to fend for themselves. As such, these individuals were compelled to do something about it. Taking matters into their own hands, they banded together to form what is now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Starting out with only three chapters, the Veterans of Foreign War continued to grow over the years with more than 2,000,000 members today. They have been instrumental in establishing the Veteran's Administration, creating the GI Bill for the 20th century, and developing a National Cemetery system.

I am honored to have such brave men and women in the 4th Congressional District of Florida. Not only have they served their country abroad, but they continue to serve their communities at home. Such service deserves praise and I wish them many more years of success. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute honoring the Greater Beaches Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3270.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of February 3, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

rollcall No. 32—On final passage of H.R. 1791—"yea";

rollcall No. 33—On final passage of H.R. 357—"yea";

rollcall No. 34—Motion on ordering the previous question on the rule—"nay";

rollcall No. 35—H.Res.470—"nay";

rollcall No. 36—On ordering the previous question on the rule—"nay";

rollcall No. 37—H.Res.472—"nay";

rollcall No. 38—DeFazio Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 39—Holt Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 40—On motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3590—"yea";

rollcall No. 41—On final passage of H.R. 3590—"nay";

rollcall No. 42—Napolitano Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 43—Matsui Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 44—Bera Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 45—Capps Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 46—Huffman Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 47—McNerney Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 48—Peters (CA) Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 49—On the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 3964—"yea";

rollcall No. 50—On final passage of H.R. 3964—"nay";

rollcall No. 51—Grijalva Amendment—"yea";

rollcall No. 52—Labrador Amendment—"nay";

rollcall No. 53—On the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2954—"yea";

rollcall No. 54—On final passage of H.R. 2954—"nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall vote No. 60 on an amendment to S. 25 to clarify that the reduction in the cost of living adjustment for military retirees applies only to those members or former members of an armed force who became a member of a uniformed service on or after January 1, 2014. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" and ask consent that my statement be included in the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 56—H. Res. 447—Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, had I been present, I would have voted "yes";

on rollcall No. 57—JOURNAL—On Approving the Journal, had I been present, I would have voted "yes";

on rollcall No. 58—H. Res. 475—On Ordering the Previous Question, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to

strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, providing for proceedings from Feb. 13, 2014–Feb. 24, 2014, had I been present, I would have voted “yes”;

on rollcall No. 59—H. Res. 475—On Agreeing to the Resolution, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, providing for proceedings from Feb. 13, 2014–Feb. 24, 2014, had I been present, I would have voted “yes”;

on rollcall No. 60—S. 25—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, and for other purposes, had I been present, I would have voted “yes”;

on rollcall No. 61—S. 540—On Passage to designate the air route traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center, had I been present, I would have voted “no”; and

on rollcall No. 62—H.R. 3448—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide for an optional pilot program allowing certain emerging growth companies to increase the tick sizes of their stocks, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

HONORING DR. JEFFREY
LEVENSON FOR HIS WORK WITH
SURGICAL EYE EXPEDITIONS

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jeffrey Levenson for his good will and compassion for his work with Surgical Eye Expeditions.

As a practicing ophthalmologist for over 30 years, Dr. Levenson has dedicated his career to giving the gift of sight. At the age of 51, Dr. Levenson underwent cataract surgery to restore his own vision loss. Realizing firsthand the devastation of vision loss, Dr. Levenson reached out to California-based Surgical Eye Expeditions, a nonprofit humanitarian organization that recruits volunteer ophthalmologists to perform free, sight-restoring surgery throughout the world.

In 2009 Dr. Levenson traveled to Peru for his inaugural trip performing multiple cataract surgery. Since then, he and his wife, Dr. Ilene Levenson, have traveled to Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico performing multiple surgeries for those less fortunate. In a typical week long trip the ophthalmologists are able to perform 20 cataract surgeries. While we are fortunate here in the U.S. to have the latest specialized technology and equipment for cataract surgery, Dr. Levenson had to rely on a low-tech approach that he learned by watching other ophthalmologists online. And while this

may have been more difficult to perform, Dr. Levenson has given the gift of sight to many patients that thought they would never see again. And with their appreciation his patients have thanked him in different ways, one from Peru giving him a goat and in El Salvador, two live chickens.

Dr. Levenson has served our local community with pride, working with the Riverside Park Surgery Center, Baptist Health and St. Vincent's HealthCare in Jacksonville. In addition Dr. Levenson has worked with the Vision is Priceless Council, a volunteer nonprofit in Jacksonville that provides free vision and glaucoma screenings, eye-care education, and injury prevention. The Council's Cared Vision Program, “Gift of Sight,” provides cataract surgery for 20 people a year who are completely blind and unable to afford the surgery. Dr. Levenson serves as the Council's Medical Advisor and donates more than 100 services to the Cared Vision Program all while regularly volunteering at vision clinics throughout the community.

Jacksonville is honored to have such an amazing humanitarian as a part of our community. The gift of sight is priceless and I commend Dr. Levenson on his compassion and his work to help those in need both at home and abroad. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute honoring Dr. Jeffrey Levenson.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
DEDICATED SERVICE OF THE
HONORABLE RAY WILSON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and dedicated service of the Honorable Ray Wilson of Northwest Florida. Mr. Wilson was Okaloosa County's longest serving sheriff, and he is known throughout the area for his intelligence, his unwavering commitment to fairness and upholding the law, and his determination to serve and improve his community. All of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Mr. Wilson was born in Campton, Florida, and was a lifelong resident of Okaloosa County. After graduating from high school and serving in the United States Army, Mr. Wilson returned to his native Okaloosa County and decided to run for sheriff. Law enforcement was in his blood, as his father, Lester Wilson was the Crestview Chief of Police. At the age of 28, Ray Wilson was elected, becoming the youngest sheriff in Florida history.

Despite his young age, Mr. Wilson's astuteness and commitment to service were immediately evident. He genuinely loved serving his community and had an extremely successful 20-year career. Thanks to this kind of determination, he helped lead a truly first-class sheriff's department that made Okaloosa County a safer place for all residents and visitors. In fact, Mr. Wilson's impact on the history of Okaloosa County was so strong that he was bestowed a Civic Leader Award by the sheriff's department in 2012, more than 35 years after leaving his post.

In addition to his service and leadership in law enforcement, Mr. Wilson was a man of great faith and a minister of the Gospel. He was also a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is an honor for me to recognize the life and service of the Honorable Ray Wilson. My wife Vicki and I send our prayers and condolences to his wife, Virginia; children, Stuart, Scott, and Sharon; his six grandchildren; and numerous great and great-great grandchildren.

HONORING O'CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Black History Month and to recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans to my congressional district in The Bronx. African-Americans have made countless contributions to and sacrifices for this great nation, and nowhere is this more visible than in New York City.

As the Representative of the Fifteenth Congressional District of New York, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to get a firsthand account of the work and contributions of Ms. O'Cynthia Williams to our community, and I am proud to recognize her hard work and dedication to The Bronx.

Known throughout New York City as a champion for education equity, Ms. Williams has dedicated her professional life to developing reforms and initiatives that improve the quality of education at New York City's public schools. As a mother of six New York City Public School educated children, she has very keen understanding of what a quality public school education is.

As a Parent Leader & Organizer with the New York City Coalition for Educational Justice, and a founding member of the United Parents of Highbridge, Ms. Williams has dedicated countless hours to traveling across New York City and educating parents on the importance of parent engagement, parent leadership development training, and how to make principals and teacher more accountable.

Last year, Ms. Williams won an important victory for a neighborhood in my district. While working alongside the United Parents of Highbridge, her dream of establishing Highbridge's first middle school came to fruition. The Highbridge Green School, the Bronx's first “green” school, opened its door at the start of the 2013–2014 school year. For the first time in the history of this part of my district, the young men and women of Highbridge will no longer have to travel across several neighborhoods in order to get to their middle school. And Ms. Williams played a vital role in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. O'Cynthia Williams, an important advocate for a better future for children in The Bronx and throughout New York City.