

teaching supplies improve the educational experience of over 825,000 kids per year.

We wish to congratulate Ms. Mary Simon on her impressive and impactful career and commend her years of service to the San Jose and the Bay Area community generally. Continued efforts and innovation in education of generations to come must be one of our top priorities as a nation, and Ms. Simon's efforts in this area are invaluable.

Ms. Simon worked to create a place where teachers could come together for the support and respect for the important, essential work that they do for our children. Because of Ms. Simon's vision, creativity, and dedication, RAFT will continue to make a positive impact on our educators and students. Ms. Simon's service has made our community a better place, and she will be dearly missed.

GARY WINK

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gary Wink for his induction into the Jefferson County Business Hall of Fame and for his outstanding career in the Golden business community.

Gary served for 22 years as an executive and President and CEO of the Golden Chamber of Commerce. During that time, the membership of the Chamber more than doubled. Gary expanded the Golden Fine Arts Festival into an event ranking in the top 50 festivals in the nation, and he developed the Golden Farmers Market, one of the finest in Colorado.

Gary's leadership at the Golden Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in securing a thriving business climate that Golden continues to enjoy.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gary on his contributions to the Golden business community and his well-deserved honor from the Jefferson County Business Community.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE  
PAUL CLYMER

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, State Representative Paul Clymer is a principled leader, a man of character, veteran, and strong advocate for the citizens of the 145th legislative district of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. We honor his service to our country, state and community, as we also recognize his leadership in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he chairs the Education Committee and is a member of the Gaming Oversight Committee. Representative Clymer plans to retire at the end of the year, having served in state office for 34 years. An avid historian, he was responsible for developing funding strategies for the restoration and preservation of 85 of 147 Civil War monuments on the historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania battlefield. Additionally, he is chairman of the committee working to preserve the historic integrity of the

state Capitol building, its architecture, furniture, paintings and artifacts. On these and other issues important to the people he represents, namely, open space, farmland preservation, public transportation, gaming, veterans affairs, business and jobs, Representative Paul Clymer rises above the crowd, and in so doing, has set an outstanding example for others to follow.

HONORING GRANT BESS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Bess. Grant 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant 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, Grant has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

CONGRATULATING THE LEMONT  
HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY  
CHEERLEADING SQUAD ON WIN-  
NING THE 2014 MEDIUM DIVISION  
ISHA CHEERLEADING STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lemont High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad. On February 8th, the squad competed in the 2014 IHSA Medium Division Cheerleading State Championship at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington, IL and placed 1st in their division. I appreciate all of the incredible hard work and dedication this squad has put into their performance and would like to congratulate them on this tremendous team achievement.

The Lemont High School Varsity Squad comprises 19 members which includes Seniors: Madison Detres, Emily Durham, Gianna Letizia, Miranda Neumann, Rebecca Peraino, Kelsey Tate, Gianna Turek, and D.J. Wohead, Juniors: Easton Kral, Reann Kwasneski, Elly Lambert, Nicole Markley, Stephanie Markley, Kayly Norris, Samantha Palumbo, Jenna Polk, and Samantha Walus, Sophomores: Erin Cliff and Katelyn Papierski, and Freshman: Caitlyn Henry.

This squad under the guidance of head coach Dave Erlenbaugh, has had a very successful competition season leading up to the ISHA Cheerleading State Championships. No-

table wins include their 1st place finish at both Sectionals and the Winter Meltdown Competition.

Lemont's varsity squad has made 9 consecutive final appearances at the IHSA State Championships and won the title in 2009, 2010, and 2011. This most recent win only adds to their excellent competition record.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this impressive accomplishment made by the Lemont High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad and to congratulate them on their state championship win.

RECOGNIZING CAMDEN COUNTY,  
GEORGIA

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Camden County, GA in light of their recent designation as a Coast Guard Community. Camden is the first county in the nation to be given this distinguished distinction, as it normally only is given to cities. Camden, however, is such a great supporter of the Coast Guard, its personnel, its families, and its mission that the award was given to the county as a whole.

Camden County is incredibly rich in history. Founded on February 5, 1777, it is one of the oldest counties in Georgia. It was named for Charles Pratt, Earl of Camden, who was an Englishman in favor of the American Independence. Modern day Camden County includes the cities of St. Mary's, Woodbine, and Kingsland and is home to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. Kings Bay is the Atlantic Fleet's home port for U.S. Navy's ballistic missile nuclear submarines, the Ohio-class. It also is home to Cumberland Island National Seashore, a National Wilderness Area.

With this honor, Camden County and its cities join 15 other cities to earn this designation, but Camden is the only to be labeled a Community. The designation was supported by the Congressional committees that oversee the Coast Guard and by the Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Coast Guard plays a major role in insuring the safety and security of Camden County and the Georgia Coast. Two teams are stationed in Camden County: the Maritime Force Protection Unit, which protects Navy assets at Kings Bay, and the Maritime Safety and Security Team 91108, which was established following the 9/11 attacks.

This honor would not have been possible without the strong support of many groups in Camden County. The Camden Partnership, which was created to support both Navy and Coast Guard members in Camden, made visits to 210 congressional offices to support restoring the Coast Guard budget when the group faced budget cuts. The Coast Guard Community of Camden organizes events and programs in support of Coast Guard members and families. The local Navy League awards its Coast Guard Sailor of the Year, and the Chamber of Commerce supports a military member of the month.

Camden County is a proud community and a model for the nation. I consider myself fortunate to represent such an incredible group of

people, and I am thankful for the hard work and tireless dedication they display for the men and women who protect us.

DR. CYNTHIA STEVENSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dr. Cynthia Stevenson for her outstanding contribution to the Jefferson County School District and her induction into the Jefferson County Business Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognizes area businesses, individuals, organizations and civic leaders from past and present that significantly impacted and contributed to the Jefferson County community.

Cindy has been a part of Jefferson County schools most of her life as a student, a teacher, principal and superintendent.

As a result of her leadership, Jefferson County Schools thrived. Her dedication and commitment to providing the highest quality education to our kids will benefit our community for years to come. I am proud to call Cindy my friend and thankful for her public service.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Stevenson on her contributions and I am deeply grateful for the legacy of excellence she has given to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE EVENTS OF  
FEBRUARY 26, 1996

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and people all over the world in recognizing the tragedy which occurred on February 26, 1992 in the small Azerbaijani town of Khojaly. The attack resulted in the deaths of 613 Azerbaijani civilians and is one of the most devastating acts of violence in the South Caucasus in recent history. According to some accounts, the fate of 150 Khojaly inhabitants is still unknown, even after twenty-one years.

The numerous casualties in the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan underscore the need for a political-rather than a military-solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A fair and comprehensive settlement is the most effective tool to encourage stability, prosperity, and a lasting peace in the region. As co-chair of the Minsk Group, the United States remains committed to working with both sides to that end. With that goal in mind, we remember and mourn the 613 victims of Khojaly and work together to safeguard the human rights of all.

HONORING JORDAN BENNETT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Bennett.

Jordan 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 444, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan 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, Jordan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jordan built a planter and a bench in the vegetable garden at Harvesters Community Food Network, a local food bank in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

ADDRESSING AFROPHOBIA IN  
EUROPE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the European Parliament's February 20, 2014 public hearing on Aphrobia, as well as the critical importance of continuing to work with the European Union (EU) to address racism and discrimination against Black Europeans. It has been organized by the Green Party in collaboration with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR).

An estimated seven to ten million individuals of African descent currently live in Europe, particularly in France, the United Kingdom, and The Netherlands. These populations form an influential part of the African Diaspora. From labor and scholarship to politics and civil rights, they have contributed greatly to European history and culture over the past several centuries. However, the story of Black Europeans remains widely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the political and social life of Europe invisible or forgotten. Furthermore, similar to the experiences of many African Americans, they have increasingly become the targets of discrimination, pernicious racial profiling, and violent hate crimes impacting equal access to housing, employment, education, and justice.

I commend Members of the European Parliament Jean-Jacob Bicep, Jean Lambert, and Philippe Lamberts of the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) for building upon previous efforts and hosting a public hearing on Aphrobia in the EU. As the Ranking Democratic Member of the Helsinki Commission, I have long worked with European policymakers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders to help address inequality and discrimination facing persons of African descent.

In November 2013, the U.S. Helsinki Commission hosted an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) delegation of Black European Rights Leaders representing 10 countries.

During a Commission briefing, entitled "Europeans of African Descent 'Black Europeans': Race, Rights, and Politics," members of the delegation shed light on the challenges encountered by many Black Europeans due to ongoing racism and discrimination, including barriers to greater political representation and leadership opportunities. Furthermore, they drew attention to the need for increased cooperation between Europe and the United States to combat racial discrimination and continuing racial disparities.

In conjunction with the Delegation's visit, I introduced H. Res. 421 "Recognizing People of African Descent and Black Europeans", which outlines concrete steps that the United States can take to help address racism and discrimination in Europe. It calls for the adoption of a Joint U.S.-European Union Action Plan to develop transatlantic solutions to combat racial discrimination and promote racial equality in Europe.

In addition, I sent a letter to President Obama on December 20, 2013 urging him to sign a Presidential Memorandum on "International Initiatives to Advance Human Rights, Social Inclusion, Equality, and Empowerment of Peoples of African Descent."

Mr. Speaker, Europe is currently grappling with complex questions at the intersection of national identity, decreasing birth rates, increasing immigration, security concerns, and a rise in extremist political parties. Cooperation between the United States and the EU is key to addressing the global challenges of racism and discrimination, and we should recognize the efforts made by the EU to address them.

HONORING CAPTAIN ERNEST T.  
NORDMAN

**HON. JASON T. SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Ernest T. Nordman of Cape Girardeau, Missouri for his outstanding achievements and exemplary years of service to our Nation.

Captain Nordman is being awarded the prestigious Manion Award for Officer Logisticians of the Year. The award is named after 1st Lieutenant Travis Manion, a Marine logistician who was killed by enemy sniper fire in Iraq in 2007. This award honors outstanding leadership skills, exemplary actions and overall conduct. I would like to congratulate Captain Nordman for this distinguished achievement and his honorable service. I am tremendously grateful for the dedicated men and women who have dutifully served our country, and among them leaders such as Captain Nordman who have risen as admirable leaders. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.