

both black and white, although once word got out that white folks were willing to work for him the other whites would run them off.

You see, Mr. Byrd believed in treating people the way he wanted to be treated, regardless of color. By 1955, he had earned enough money and respect as a black business man that he was able to purchase at least ten homes and two restaurants in Shaw, often paying cash each time he made a purchase. By this time, "money was no problem" as his son remembered his Dad saying. In fact, the first house he purchased was a big beautiful brick house which was the home of Mr. Thomas McEvans.

Mr. McEvans was another rich man in Shaw; he owned a clothing store, tailoring shop, and he took the lead in building the 1st colored school in Shaw, and a member of the Board of Trustees among other influences he held in Shaw. In 1959, part of his dream to build a community for blacks began to materialize. Mr. Byrd purchased a building ten miles west of Shaw on Highway 448 and had it moved to its current location of Hwy 442, five miles east of Shaw. That building became a focal point of Byrd's community. He remodeled the building turning it into "Byrd Grocery," and later he added on to the building a restaurant and gas station, changing the name to "Byrd Grocery and Service Station." Byrd's community also had two baseball fields.

When Black farmers were losing their farms in the 1960s for various reasons, Mr. Byrd was never affected or worried because he knew he had planned wisely. Long before automation really took over, he was already using tractors to do the work on the farm, getting away from the mule. But when automation fully came into use, his son, Thomas recalls the day his Dad went to the John Deere place and purchased a brand new top of the line, "John Deere" cotton picker. And because he was able to pay \$25,000 cash for the John Deere, the white salesman surely sold it to him because of the money but after that he refused to have anything else to do with him because it was unheard of and certainly shocking that Mr. Byrd, a black man, was in possession of that amount of cash and no one really knew. You see, his success rested in his belief to "never spend more than you make, keep folks out of your business, and don't be extravagant because a fool and his money will soon part," said, his son, Thomas Lee.

In 1975, Mr. Byrd due to health problems turned the family farm over to his oldest son, Lonnie "LC" Byrd, who died December 17, 1999. Mr. William "Kingfish" Byrd died in July 1980 and is buried in the Strangers Home Cemetery in Shaw, MS beside his wife, Daisy Byrd, who died in August 1981. Thomas Lee recalls his father's last words to him, "Son, I told LC and I'm telling you never sell the farm. I built this for all my children."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, Mr. William "Kingfish" Byrd, a black farmer from the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
ACADEMY NOMINEES FROM THE
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the young men and women from the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania who have been nominated to attend a service academy. These men and women will honor a commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation. They have been nominated because they have displayed character traits such as leadership, service and dedication both inside and outside the classroom. I am confident that their parents and teachers have prepared them well for this world-class educational opportunity and extraordinary service to their nation.

The following individuals have been nominated for academy appointment:

Evan Allen, Valley Forge Military Academy, United States Naval Academy; Zachary Assenmacher, Haverford High School, United States Naval Academy; Bret Beebe, Twin Valley High School, United States Naval Academy; Troy Bergwall, Bayard Rustin High School, United States Naval Academy; Nicholas Bologa, Pequea Valley High School, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Matthew Brecht, LaSalle College High School, United States Military Academy; Steven Bushold, LaSalle College High School, United States Military Academy; Julia Clements, Downingtown High School, United States Naval Academy; Cole Drahus, Twin Valley High School, United States Naval Academy; Jonas Fiant, Governor Mifflin High School, United States Air Force Academy; Daniel Geibler, Ridley High School, United States Military Academy; Chasan Hall, Coatesville Senior High School, United States Air Force Academy; William Higgins, Penncrest High School, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Phillip Ianozi, Springfield Township High School, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Matthew Jones, Malvern Preparatory School, United States Naval Academy; George Keating, North Penn High School, United States Naval Academy; Ethan Klabunde, Unionville High School, United States Naval Academy; Heather Laudermilch, Westtown School, United States Air Force Academy; Justin Lee, Upper Dublin High School, United States Military Academy; Kiersten Martin, Cardinal O'Hara High School, United States Naval Academy; Catherine McCarthy, Upper Darby High School, United States Naval Academy; Jacob McCubbins, Methacton High School, United States Air Force Academy; James McWilliams, Haverford Senior High School, United States Military Academy; Ross Obenschein, Twin Valley High School, United States Air Force Academy; Christopher Paolantonio, St. Joseph's Preparatory School, United States Naval Academy; Matthew Prestia, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, United States Naval Academy; Charles Rossino, Haverford High School, United States Naval Academy; Thaddeus Schlamb, Downingtown West High School, United States Naval Academy; Andrew Schutta, LaSalle College High School, United

States Naval Academy; Zachary Smith, Cardinal O'Hara High School, United States Naval Academy; Olivia Tierney, Villa Maria Academy, United States Naval Academy; George Ulrich, LaSalle College High School, United States Naval Academy; Madeleine Wawrzyniak, Hatboro-Horsham Senior High School, United States Air Force Academy; Kyle Werner, Kennett High School, United States Military Academy; Dalton Wolfe, Oxford Area High School, United States Naval Academy.

Again, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all of these outstanding nominees. I wish them nothing but the best in all their endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT CHRIS
BOHLER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Chris Bohler of Willow Spring, North Carolina, who gave his life while defending our Nation on December 17, 2013, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Bohler was one of six U.S. servicemembers killed when a helicopter crashed in Zabul Province, Afghanistan. He shall be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of altruism, integrity, and patriotism. His life and his sacrifice merit our utmost respect and gratitude.

Chris came from a long line of soldiers. His great-grandfather served in Europe during World War I. One of his grandfathers enlisted in the Army during World War II, and a great-uncle enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War. His father also served in the Army.

Chris graduated from South Johnston High School in Four Oaks in 2003 and went on to attend Johnston Community College, where he was admired as a man with high aspirations and the tenacity to achieve his goals. Eager to protect his country, he joined the Army in 2007, and was assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. Chris was a humble hero that lived his life the best way he knew how—by serving others.

Chris was serving our country dutifully when his life was taken. He will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Deborah and Pete Bohler and the oldest of three children. Although he is now gone, his courage will continue to be an inspiration to us all. He shall be remembered as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service. May God comfort his family, and may we always remember the life of Sergeant Chris Bohler.

WELCOME BABY VALENTINA
LUCILLE DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my Chief of Staff, Jonathan Day, and his wife Muffy, who serves as Chief of Staff for Congressman

JOHN CAMPBELL, upon the birth of their beautiful daughter. Valentina Lucille Day arrived into the world at 7:12 p.m. on Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2013, at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. Weighing 6 pounds and measuring 19 inches long, Valentina is the first child for the happy couple. I look forward to watching her grow and have no doubt that her talented parents will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Valentina's grandparents, Wallace and Miriam Lewis of Miami, Florida, and Edward and Margaret Day of Conklin, New York. Congratulations to the entire Day and Lewis families as they welcome their newest edition of pure pride and joy!

MOURNING THE PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN VICENTE "BEN" GARRIDO BLAZ

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned today of the passing of former Congressman Vicente 'Ben' Garrido Blaz. Elected to the U.S. Congress in 1984 to represent the Territory of Guam, Congressman Blaz was an exceptional leader for his people. He was also an example of statesmanship to the greater Pacific region, including American Samoa. He will truly be missed.

As a genuine patriot, Blaz first served his country as a Marine and served three tours in Osaka, Okinawa, and Vietnam. He was the first general officer from Guam to serve in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1977, he became the first Chamorro ever to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

Congressman Blaz served Guam for eight years in the U.S. Congress from 1985–1993 (99th Congress–102nd Congress). As a freshman member and respected leader among his peers, he was also elected as President of his freshman class. I will remember him also as a dear friend who welcomed me as a fellow islander and brother after I was elected to serve American Samoa in 1988.

Congressman Blaz will be remembered for his dedicated service and pioneering spirit. He will also be remembered as a family man: a loving husband to his late wife, Ann Evers Blaz, a devoted father and grandfather. I count myself as one of many who was blessed to share a friendship with this great man and I will hold close to my heart his example of leadership, passion for his Chamorro culture, and immense love for his people.

The people of American Samoa join together to honor our Chamorro brother. We give our deepest condolences to his family, especially his sons, Mike and Tom, and their families, and to the people of Guam as they mourn his passing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great man who represented Indianapolis in Congress for twenty years. After a life of dedicated service to his city and country, former Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr. passed away on December 28, 2013.

I was privileged to know Congressman Jacobs from a very young age and considered him family. He served as an invaluable mentor and dear friend to my grandmother, Julia Carson, who he hired to work in his Indianapolis congressional office in 1965. It was Andy's faith and encouragement that inspired my grandmother to run for state representative in 1972, and his support of her never wavered.

At an early age, Andy took an interest in me as well and imparted wisdom while serving as a role model. He continued as a valued mentor, even long after he left office. With Andy's passing, our nation lost a man who was resolutely courageous, both in his service as a Marine in Korea, and in public life.

People will likely recall that he helped strengthen Social Security, fought for civil rights, and was unrelentingly frugal with taxpayer dollars. But his true legacy is that of a man who took the path less traveled, one of principle, no matter what advantages he sacrificed to do so.

While in Congress, Andy never took a donation from a political action committee, he never attacked an opponent, and he never put his name on his office door in Washington, D.C., explaining that "the seat belonged to the people I serve, not to me." He was a selfless public servant, who never cared about station or the trappings of office.

Andy was a man of rapier wit. And though he used it often to hilarious effect in disarming the infrequent angry constituent or political foe, he was never caustic or maligning. He upheld the dignity of all. This is undoubtedly why he forged enduring friendships with, and held the respect of, many across the aisle.

For some time now, Andy has penned a weekly "Thought Bite" for Nuvo, a local Indianapolis newspaper. On December 18, it read: "If there's one thing I hate, it's hate." I cannot think of a better self-assessment for a man whose heart had unlimited capacity to see the goodness in everyone.

In sum, Andy was a model of decency, compassion, servant-leadership, thoughtfulness, and civility. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his wife, Kim, his sons Andy and Steven, and to the countless others for whom Andy is "family."

RECOGNIZING JOE COTCHETT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary man, and a true humani-

tarian, who is celebrating his 75th birthday and his 50th anniversary practicing law in pursuit of justice for all Americans. Joe Cotchett is a Burlingame attorney known for his intellectual honesty, his booming declaration of indignation over the lack of justice for his clients, and an enormous heart that pumps love out to all, especially those in urgent need.

A few examples of his work over the years demonstrate his dedication to the rule of law. This chamber may never have heard of Joe Cotchett, but many have heard of Charles Keating, the former CEO of Lincoln Savings and Loan. Joe pursued Keating through the years until senior citizens who were bilked had received some measure of recompense. He took the case when others considered it a hopeless cause. Not to Joe. Justice is never hopeless in the law offices of Joe Cotchett.

In fact, white collar criminals know the name of Joe Cotchett well, as he pursued them in the interests of swindled investors in companies such as Technical Equities. When banks and securities firms sold Enron's bonds and assured investors that the bonds were sound, they defrauded buyers. Joe Cotchett held the sellers accountable. More recently, the County of San Mateo is likely to receive tens of millions of dollars through a suit filed against Lehman Brothers and the personal assets of its former CEO, Richard Fuld. Public agencies and the human needs that they serve will recover from wrongdoers, thanks to Joe Cotchett.

In the eyes of many in modern day America, civil justice is a rich man's right and a stale leftover due any poor man with the temerity to plead at the doors of a courtroom. In the eyes of Joe Cotchett, justice is an everyday pursuit on behalf of any American who has been wronged and who deserves redress.

Mr. Speaker, there are probably many persons who are alive today who unknowingly owe their economic well-being and peace of mind to Joe Cotchett. In 2000, Consumers Union was hit with a product disparagement and defamation suit. An automaker claimed that Consumers Union had hurt its reputation. Indeed, when the magazine pointed out that vehicles made by the company were prone to rollovers, sales fell. Joe Cotchett successfully defended Consumers Union and the right of investigative, consumer-oriented journalism to spell out the truth to buyers. Lives then and now are saved because this lawsuit and another in 2004 were not successful. The truth about dangerous products will continue to be published.

Most recently, he recovered \$1.5 billion for California counties which had sued lead paint manufacturers for the damage done to children by lead-tainted products. The settlement will go towards removing lead from the homes of low income children throughout California.

He once defended the justices of the California Supreme Court who were sued by various Wall Street interests. Wall Street was a bit unhappy with the court's rules regarding arbitration. The Wall Streeters were unsuccessful, thanks to Joe, and now it is demonstrable that there is justice even for justices but, most importantly, for the public interest that these justices serve.

Joe's work is not merely on behalf of those who can pay. Amerasian children in the Philippines were left in villages after Subic Bay Naval Base closed. Joe mounted a suit on their behalf that resulted in a settlement giving