

is a Broward School Board representative on the Council of Great City Schools, National School Board Association, and Council of Urban Boards of Education and serves on the boards of the Coconut Creek Elementary School Advisory Form and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Education is fundamental to the long-term success of Florida and our nation. As a parent and a congressman, I understand the need to make an unwavering commitment to the education of our children. Nora Rupert has demonstrated this commitment through decades of compassion for the children of South Florida, and she inspires all of us to live by her example.

**RECOGNIZING JO HODGIN FOR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Jo Hodgkin, on the occasion of her retirement after 21 years of service to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Through her leadership of Wolf Trap's government relations program, and her coordination of a wide range of special initiatives for the Foundation, Ms. Hodgkin, a resident of Annandale, has expanded upon Wolf Trap's success as America's National Park for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Hodgkin began her career by serving as deputy director for the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, now known as Culture Capital. In that role, she fostered cooperation among hundreds of regional arts organizations. She also launched the Business Volunteers for the Arts program, which forged connections between the arts and business communities in the Washington, D.C., region. The BVA program, featured in Washingtonian magazine, facilitated the completion of hundreds of arts projects, and it expanded the role of private business in the arts.

When Ms. Hodgkin became director of Foundation Grants at Wolf Trap, she increased annual grants income from \$600,000 to \$1.2 million. Based on her tremendous success, she was promoted into her current role as Director of Planning and Initiatives. A central achievement of Ms. Hodgkin's tenure was the successful management of the organization's government relations program. She has engaged policy leaders and decision-makers at all levels of government, educating them about the broad benefits of Wolf Trap's initiatives across the country. Her outreach efforts not only have secured greater support for Wolf Trap, but also helped mobilize the larger arts community to advance their interests.

In addition, Ms. Hodgkin spearheaded a range of special initiatives for the Foundation. For example, she collaborated with former Wolf Trap Foundation President and CEO Terre Jones on the acclaimed Face of America series, which celebrated America's national parks through a variety of artistic mediums, including music, spoken word, and dance. The series reached a national audience on PBS, and one of its films, On the Wings of a Dream, won an Emmy in 2004.

Ms. Hodgkin's three-decades of service to the arts have helped to enrich the Wolf Trap Foundation, the Northern Virginia community, and our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Jo Hodgkin for her service to our National Park for the Performing Arts, and in wishing her and her family all the best in their future endeavors.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187 I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

**COMMEMORATING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th Anniversary of Israel's Independence. On this day, called Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel celebrates its founding by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in 1948. Since then, Israel has stood as a dynamic democracy in the Middle East region with its rich culture, vibrant economy, and commitment to peace.

Yet, independence has come at a great price. This is why, the day before celebrating its independence, Israel observes Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. On Yom Hazikaron, Israel remembers all those who gave their lives defending their families, their communities, and their country. This year, Israel honored the more than 23,000 soldiers killed in the line of duty and another 1,800 civilian victims of terrorism. I have always been deeply moved by the duality of Israel's independence celebration, at once both sorrowful and triumphant, and know of no other country that combines such profound sorrow with such a festive event.

I am proud of the close relationship that has developed between the United States and Israel over the past 66 years. These ties, based on the common bond of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity, remain as strong now under President Barack Obama as when President Harry Truman first recognized the Jewish State. From religious kinships to shared interests, and from military strengths to commercial relations, the friendship between the United States is unbreakable.

However, Israel continues to face serious regional threats, and these concerns are also shared by the United States. One of the largest threats to regional stability and Israel's security today is Iran. Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and support for terrorism pose a grave threat to both Israel and the global community at large. The statements of aggression made by Iran's leaders must be taken seriously, and the international community has a

responsibility to act to prevent a nuclear Iran. I have supported numerous sanctions efforts in Congress to cripple Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons, and will continue to do so as long as Iran insists on pursuing its nuclear program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have visited Israel 15 times as a Member of Congress, and to have called every Israeli Prime Minister from Yitzhak Rabin to Benjamin Netanyahu my friend. The United States must continue to support Israel's right to self-defense, increase its engagement in the region, and work towards finding a fair solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, security, and prosperity. As Co-Chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to further strengthen our special relationship with Israel.

**HONORING SHANTASIA DENAYE THOMAS**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Shantasia Denaye Thomas, from Crystal Springs High School.

Shantasia Denaye Thomas is the daughter of Mr. Richard and Mrs. Felicia Thomas. She has two siblings: Sha'Reika Johnson and Shamaya Thomas.

Shantasia is an honor student at Crystal Springs High School with 4.0 Grade Point Average. As a standout student at Crystal Springs High School, Shantasia is a member of the SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Student Council and serves as President of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates Program.

Shantasia's leadership is well-known in her community as she serves as President of the Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council, a member of H.Y.M (Holiness Youth Ministries), Daughters of Esther, and Sunday school at her church, Greater Damascus Church of Christ Holiness USA.

Shantasia is also a member of the National Honor's Society for High School Scholars.

Shantasia is blessed with the gift of musicianship and she plays the piano for two churches. In her spare time she loves making music and writing poetry.

Shantasia accredits her determination and spirit of excellence to her great-grand mother, Mrs. Marie Johnson. She says Mrs. Johnson is a strong woman of God who has encouraged her to follow her heart and excel above and beyond, because with God all things are possible.

Shantasia plans on attending Tougaloo College, where she will major in Biology to become a Pediatric Oncologist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shantasia Denaye Thomas as a student who is making a difference in her community.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNUAL  
BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 23rd Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place. I am pleased to enter the names of the following recipients of the 2014 Best of Reston Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Individual Community Leader: Carol Ann Bradley. Ms. Bradley has dedicated herself to service both locally and globally. She has worked with Global Camps Africa, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, the Southgate Community Center, the Reston Community Center, the American Association of University Women, The Links, Inc., and Educators, Then, Now and Forever.

Individual Community Leader: Jerry Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson uses his broadcasting skills to highlight local nonprofits. He is the director of Development and Outreach for Fairfax Public Access, which provides television and radio cablecasting services to the region. As a volunteer he has filmed and produced videos for numerous nonprofits and civic groups.

Individual Community Leader: Cate Fulkerson. Ms. Fulkerson began serving Reston as an entry-level clerk at the Reston Association and climbed the ladder to her present role there, Chief Executive Officer. She also serves as the chair for the Reston Character Counts! Coalition, chairs the annual Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Ethics Day for South Lakes High School, and remains active in Leadership Fairfax.

Individual Community Leader: Bonnie Haukness. Mrs. Haukness has given 40 years of service in many aspects of the Reston community. She is a board member of the Reston Historic Trust and Reston Museum, and she chairs its annual fundraiser, the Reston Homes Tour. She also co-chairs fundraisers for Cornerstones, helps organize the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, and also has led the Friends of Reston's fundraising event to send children to summer day camp.

Individual Community Leader: Davida Luehrs. Ms. Luehrs is a champion for the visually impaired. She works with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the American Council for the Blind, and Visually Impaired People of Reston. She has assisted 14 Lions Clubs with hearing and vision screening programs for pre-school children, founded VisionWalk, and chaired Dining in the Dark fundraisers. She is also active in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school band boards, Reston Swim Team Association, parent teacher associations, blood drives, and meals on wheels.

Civic/Community Leader: HomeAid Northern Virginia. Members of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association started HomeAid

in 2001 to help the homeless gain stability by putting a roof over their head. It currently contributes resources to build and renovate homeless shelters as well as transitional and affordable housing. HomeAid has completed more than 70 projects and served more than 10,000 individuals, work valued at more than \$10.5 million.

Small Business Leader: Brennan & Waite, P.L.C. Founding members (and husband and wife) Matthew Brennan and Carol Waite have led their firm to support many local causes, including the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Habitat For Humanity, Let's Help Kids, the Mosaic Harmony Choir, FACETS, Cornerstones, and Leadership Fairfax. Mr. Brennan also developed a training program to help those interested in serving on county and non-profit boards.

Corporate Business Leader: Cooley, LLP. This law firm encourages employees to give back to the community by offering paid leave time to volunteer and providing matching funds for money raised by employees to support local causes. Last year the firm contributed more than \$1 million to nonprofits around the United States. The company's pro bono efforts have led to contributions of more than 33,000 hours by 466 attorneys on more than 687 different pro bono projects per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 Best of Reston honorees for their continued commitment to our community. I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for contributing their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF JIM LOONEY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Jim Looney, who passed away in 2012. Jim was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in the Philippines and Japan. He was truly a leader in the Chowchilla community.

Jim grew up in Puyallup, Washington, a small community near Tacoma. In 1943, after he graduated from Puyallup High School, Jim moved to Chowchilla, California, where he worked on his uncle's dairy farm.

In 1944, Jim joined the U.S. Army and underwent basic training at Camp Roberts in California. During the winter of 1945, Jim boarded a ship headed to the Pacific. He was assigned as a rifleman to the 163rd Regiment of the 41st Division in the Philippines. By the time Jim joined, the 163rd was a battle-hardened regiment that had fought several battles since their landing in October 1944.

Jim and his fellow soldiers conducted patrols and mopping up actions in the southern Philippines. He and the 163rd landed at Arara in May 1945 and consolidated the areas of Arara and Toem. They then moved onto Wakde Island and invaded Biak Island two weeks later.

After securing the islands, the Army began preparations for Operation Olympic, the invasion of the Japanese mainland. The 41st Divi-

sion and its infantry regiments, including Jim and the rest of the 163rd began to prepare for the invasion. The men were issued cold weather gear for their planned landing in northern Japan, code-named HIRO, for Hiroshima. Jim, along with the men of the 163rd were waiting to board troopships for the invasion, when the atomic bombs hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war.

Jim was promoted to staff sergeant and was shipped to Japan as part of the occupation forces. Jim and the 163rd went ashore near Hiroshima a few weeks after the end of the war and saw the overwhelming effects of the bombing first-hand.

Jim returned to the United States in 1946 and was discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington. For his service, Jim was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign and Liberation Medals, the Army of Occupation Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Upon leaving the service, Jim returned to Chowchilla where he became well known for his involvement in ranching. He was a founding member of the Chowchilla Stampede Committee and also served with distinction as a member of the Chowchilla-Madera County Fair Board for more than thirty years.

Jim was a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He and his wife, Annie, had four daughters, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Jim Looney for his love and dedication to his family, community, and nation.

IN MEMORY OF TIM CARPENTER

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tim Carpenter, the National Director of the Progressive Democrats of America, who passed away this week. Mr. Carpenter will be remembered as a passionate and highly effective advocate for jobs, justice, and peace. Driven by compassion and a limitless commitment to strengthening our democracy, Mr. Carpenter built and sustained a national grassroots network that has been at the forefront of efforts to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, enact single-payer healthcare, end mass criminalization, strengthen voting rights, pass meaningful campaign finance reform, stop global warming, and realize the vision of a full employment society. Mr. Carpenter was a deep believer in participatory democracy, and—in building an organization that empowers citizens to both locally and global to affect positive change—he embodied the principles he cherished.

An inquisitive mind and an extraordinary advocate, Mr. Carpenter travelled from coast to coast, meeting with Americans to learn about their struggles with unemployment, lost healthcare, polluted air and water, denied access to the polls, and injuries suffered on the battlefield. The coalition he assembled to address these injustices is diverse and extraordinarily engaged. Their work—facilitated by Mr. Carpenter—has been indispensable to