

today. He was a proud Member and executed his job with great pride.

When I was a new member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I was surprised by his offer to visit the military installations in my district. Though I was new in representing Warner Robins Air Force Base that year, having Bill come and talk to their leadership sent a strong signal that they were in good hands. Bill did the same thing for many other members regardless of party.

I was once returning from an overseas trip with Bill, and we were in Shannon Airport in Ireland long after it closed. We ran into a group of soldiers from the Third Infantry Division returning home. Their reaction to seeing Bill was truly heartwarming. They immediately recognized him, and came over to greet him and get a picture. I believe that the reason they admired Bill had less to do with his title or position, but more to do with how he felt about the military. They knew Bill Young as one who knew the capability of weapons systems, but always remembered the young men and women whose lives depended on them.

Part of Bill's charm was that he was well grounded, rooted in a loving wife and family. He was even tempered, kind hearted, and the consummate gentleman. He set the tone for the Committee and Congress as a whole. Bill will be remembered and missed by Congress, the military, and a grateful nation. God bless his memory and his family.

#### HONORING THELMA BROWN-JAMES

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Thelma Brown-James, who is a remarkable Unsung Hero.

Mrs. Thelma Brown-James was born on April 29, 1955 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi to the late James and Lora Brown. She is the youngest of three girls and four boys. Mrs. Brown received her education in the Mound Bayou School District at I.T.M. Elementary School and in 1973 graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. Also, in 1973 she married her high school sweetheart, Mr. Jessie James, and they were blessed with six bundles of joy: Teresa, Jessie Jr., Robby, Lashay, Lakesha and the late Lamar.

Mrs. Brown was employed with Baxter's Travenol in Cleveland, Mississippi for 18 years. After leaving Baxter's she furthered her education in the medical field and earned numerous professional certifications. She worked as a nurses' assistant and home health nurse for several medical agencies within the Mississippi Delta.

Mrs. Brown is a faithful member of Fresh Encounter Ministry in Renova, Mississippi where she volunteers with various auxiliaries. Being inspired by God, in January 2013 she opened the Goshen Event Center in Drew, Mississippi to cater to the needs of the children, and offer other activities to enhance the lives of the citizens of Drew and the surrounding areas. Her dedication to the service of others has made her an asset within and outside of her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero, Mrs. Thelma

Brown-James, for her dedication to serving others.

#### IN HONOR OF STUDENT WINNERS OF WINSLOW TOWNSHIP VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST

##### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winners of the Historical Society of Winslow Township's Veterans Day 2013 Student Essay Contest.

These nine students, attending Winslow Township Middle School and Winslow Township High School, wrote essays answering the question "How would you thank a soldier for his/her service?" The moving prose of these young men and women is a testament to the patriotic spirit of the citizens of South Jersey. Moreover, these students' awareness of the sacrifices of our military and their families is precocious and praiseworthy.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to submit the names of the winners to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. From the 7th grade class: Mary-Elizabeth Jimoh, 1st Place; Jordan Frazier, 2nd Place; Morgan Chambliss, 3rd Place. From the 8th grade class: Kelli O'Neill, 1st Place; Deanna Paul, 2nd Place; Aliyah Jones, 3rd Place. From Winslow Township High School: senior Rebecca Hall, 1st Place; sophomore Joshua Hansen, 2nd Place; senior Amanda Wellik, 3rd Place.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate these young men and women on having their essays selected by the Historical Society of Winslow Township. These students have bright futures ahead of them. It is my sincere hope that they will carry this abiding respect for the military and service with them as they continue to learn and grow.

#### HONORING WOOLF FUNERAL HOME

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable funeral home, Woolf Funeral Home.

Woolf Funeral Home was established in 1940 by Henry Woolf in Tunica, Mississippi. After opening in Tunica and his determination and desire to offer outstanding service to the bereaved, he opened a funeral home in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

After the passing of Mr. Henry Woolf in 1958, Woolf Funeral Homes was purchased by Mr. Ben Brown who continued on the legacy of Mr. Woolf. In 1978 Mr. Brown passed and his son, Willie A. Brown, a retired United States Air Force veteran and licensed funeral director, became owner.

Mr. Willie Brown's vision to make sure every family they serviced was special and deserved the best hours of their bereavement. He has, throughout the years, continued the establishment in the community. Woolf Funeral Home contributes and participates in numerous community and charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Woolf Funeral Home for their dedication in being an outstanding establishment in the cities of Clarksdale and Tunica and the Counties of Coahoma and Tunica, Mississippi.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICK CASE FOLLOWING THE RECENT GRAND OPENING OF RICK CASE VOLKSWAGEN

##### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Mr. Rick Case following the recent grand opening of his Volkswagen dealership in Davie, Florida, as well as for the many contributions that his family of auto dealerships has made to the local community and state's economy as a whole. The new Volkswagen dealership is Mr. Case's fifth addition to the area known as "Davie/Weston auto row," and creates 200 new jobs, including sales staff, service technicians, and receptionists.

At eight stories high and 328,000 square feet, Rick Case Volkswagen claims the title of world's largest auto dealership for the German car company. Around 800 new and used Volkswagen vehicles are on display in each of the dealerships showroom floors. Furthermore, the new facility also features a service center, a cafe and lounge area for customers, and a floor for offices and staff training. Rick Case Automotive Group has 15 auto dealerships in Ohio, Georgia, and Florida, featuring a wide range of makes and models, and is expected to continue its growth.

Competitive customer benefits and employee training have come to be the hallmark of the Rick Case model. In 2013, Rick Case Automotive Group was named by Automotive News as its National All-Star Dealer for the Privately Held Dealer category, an honor received by only one dealer out of over 17,000 dealers nationwide. In addition, Mr. Case's commitment to his customers is matched by his dedication to the community. As a local partner, he has helped to raise millions of dollars for charities like the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

The auto dealer industry contributes greatly to our nation's economy and that of our state and local communities. In particular, auto dealer sales represent about \$47 billion annually. Florida ranks as the third-largest state in the country in terms of number of vehicles, the sale of which account for 16 percent of retail sales tax. Furthermore, there are approximately 850 new car dealers in Florida, providing tens of thousands of direct jobs and supporting millions more in related sectors. Auto dealers help many hardworking individuals afford the vehicles they need to access job opportunities and support their families.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation continues to recover from the greatest recession in recent memory, we should recognize American businesses that are driving job creation and economic growth. Once again, I would like to congratulate Mr. Rick Case and his wife Rita on the recent grand opening of their Volkswagen dealership, and wish them much continued success in the years to come.

HONORING DOUGLAS L. BRAGG

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Douglas L. Bragg for his extraordinary career of public service and leadership on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Bragg is retiring after thirty-four years of dedicated service to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where he has served as Director of the Oakland VA Regional Office since October 2011.

Mr. Bragg is a Vietnam Era veteran who served in the United States Air Force from 1970 to 1973. Mr. Bragg began his career with the VA in 1979 at the San Francisco VA Regional Office. In 1986, he took on the role as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and also served as the station's outreach coordinator. He was at the forefront of the Regional Office's response to the Loma Prieta earthquake, as he was primarily responsible for the outreach efforts to victims of the earthquake.

He joined the Veterans Benefits Administration as a Supervisory Field Examiner in 1989. In 1994, he accepted a position as a Program Analyst in the Veterans Assistance Service (VAS) at the VA Central Office in Washington, DC, where he worked on the Foreign Medical Program, performed station surveys, and was a member of the VAS Business Process Re-engineering team.

In 1996, Mr. Bragg went on to become an analyst for the Fiduciary Program on the Policy and Regulations staff. He returned to the field in 1999 following his appointment as the Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Washington, DC VA Regional Office. During his tenure in this position, he was accepted into Leadership VA through the VA Learning University, the VA's corporate university for VA employees to develop leadership and other management skills, and graduated in 2002. He became the Acting Veterans Service Center Manager at Washington Regional Office in 2003.

In 2004, Mr. Bragg joined the management team of the St. Louis VA Regional Office as the Education Program Manager. He further developed his leadership credentials while serving as the Acting Assistant Director in 2007, completing the Leadership for a Democratic Society course at the Federal Executive Institute in 2007. He was accepted as a participant in the FY 2007 Assistant Director Development Program.

He served as Assistant Director of the St. Louis VA Regional Office from 2008 through 2011. He was appointed to the Oakland VA Regional Office as Director in October 2011. In this capacity, Mr. Bragg has had the responsibility of overseeing California's 1.8 million veteran population. From the Oakland VA Regional Office, over 127,000 Californian veterans receive benefits with the total monthly compensation and payment benefits paid at over \$146 million.

Throughout his prolific career with the VA, Mr. Bragg has been praised for his strategy, strong leadership, integrity and compassion. He has worked hard to create opportunities for veterans, a critical commitment that we must continue to honor to make sure our veterans come home to good jobs and services that are

necessary to help transition successfully into civilian life.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Douglas Bragg, I salute you. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I wish you and your loved ones all the very best as you transition to this exciting new chapter of life.

HONORING JIMMY DIXON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and self motivated black farmer, Mr. Jimmy Dixon, who was born on June 12, 1953 to the late Colie and Anna Mae Dixon.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon was the 6th child of 12 children, a native of Copiah County, Mississippi and was born and raised on the farm.

Mr. Jimmy Dixon is passionate about the farming industry. His heart for farming stems from his late father, Mr. Colic Dixon, Sr. Even during struggling times for farmers, he and several of his siblings helped their father to build the legacy to raise cattle and harvest hay and plant corn, watermelons, okra, peas, sweet potatoes and other produce. They worked hard to acquire land and equipment. Together they owned over 300 acres of land.

Mr. Dixon went to Brushy Creek Attendance Center, an all black school and attended Holtzclaw High School and graduated from Crystal Springs High School, the first year they segregated in 1971. He joined the U.S. Army in 1979 and became a Military Policeman. He went to the conflict in the Persian Gulf in 1990 until 1991 and served in the Gulf War, receiving an Accommodation Medal Award in 1991 and retired in 1992.

Mr. Dixon is married to Marlene and they have three boys and one girl along with four grandchildren. He and his family attends Temple of Yah Hebrew Israelite Assembly in Terry, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jimmy Dixon for his dedication and endurance of successful farming.

RECOGNIZING THE TIRELESS WORK OF MR. RICHARD A. JOANIS

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great American who has spent his career working to help the underserved in our country—especially migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Richard A. Joanis spent 33 years as Executive Director of Telamon Corporation, one of the nation's most successful nonprofit organizations operating federal programs. He retires on February 14, 2014 after 44 years of service to farmworkers, elderly and other disadvantaged populations including major program efforts in Head Start, adult and youth training and employment, home ownership, housing rehabilitation, and homeless services.

Mr. Joanis' more than three decade career at Telamon allowed him the opportunity to serve in many capacities on behalf of those to whom he gave voice.

He served on the U.S. Department of Labor's National Advisory Committee on services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and also was a member of the Agricultural Employment Work Group set up by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor. Mr. Joanis was former president of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, a national federation of farmworker services organizations, now in its 42nd year.

At Telemon Corporation, Mr. Joanis built the organization from a one-state operation into a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary non-profit organization serving America's migrant and seasonal farmworkers, children, youth and the rural poor in eleven states.

In 2004, in recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Joanis was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in my great state of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Joanis has spent his career building hope, helping others see their inherent potential, and positively impacting countless lives by creating an upward trajectory for people around the nation. Mr. Joanis answered the nation's calling to assist its citizens when they are most in need.

Through his efforts on behalf of disadvantaged Americans, Mr. Joanis demonstrated that as citizens we are at our best when we are engaged in service to others, especially when that service leads to the empowerment of our fellow citizens and the improvement of our communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Joanis for his tireless work on behalf of those who are less fortunate.

HONORING MAUDE L. WILLIAMS BALLOU

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Maude L. Williams Ballou, who was born in Fairhope, Alabama, and raised in Mobile. She received a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 1947 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After marrying music instructor, Leonard Ballou, she and her husband relocated to Montgomery, Alabama in 1952. Mrs. Ballou met Jo Ann Robinson before the start of the bus boycott and talked with her about how to obtain better conditions for blacks in Montgomery.

After Martin Luther King's election as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) at the start of the Montgomery bus boycott, Maude Ballou became his personal secretary.

After becoming King's secretary at the MIA, Mrs. Ballou helped coordinate car pools during the boycott. She often responded on King's behalf to his correspondence. Mrs. Ballou accompanied Dr. King when he moved to Atlanta in 1960, staying with the King family and assisting him in establishing his office at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference