

into a leading pan-Asian organization. Under his leadership, the organization has become renowned in a range of areas that advance the Asian American community.

Under Mr. O's direction the organization has been a leader in policy research, examining the root causes of issues afflicting the community and helping develop commonsense solutions that better the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. The Federation has produced numerous studies examining the economic and mental health effects of 9/11 on New York's Asian American community, how to best care for the Asian community's elderly and children, and how to address poverty among this demographic group.

Beyond shaping the policy dialogue, Mr. O's emphasis on nonprofit capacity building and philanthropy has also led the AAF to steer resources to a range of community based organizations that tackle real world problems facing New York's Asian Americans. The Federation has raised and leveraged \$10 million and made grants to organizations benefitting children, women, elders and recent immigrants, improving the lives of thousands of New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. O himself is an immigrant. Born and raised in Vietnam, he arrived a refugee in this country in 1975. It is clear that he has never forgotten his personal struggles but has instead used them as inspiration to help those around him. This Friday, the Asian American Federation will honor Mr. O for his many contributions. In advance of this celebration, I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this public servant for his many accomplishments on behalf of the Asian American community.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE "MEMPHIS 13"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 13 individuals who broke the barrier of segregation in the Memphis City Schools on October 3, 1961. Formally known as the "Memphis 13," these trailblazers of integration were the first African-American students to be enrolled in the all-white Memphis City Schools system at a time when institutional desegregation was widely criticized. The challenges and accomplishments of these courageous Memphians have been recognized across the country thanks to the work of University of Memphis Law Professor Daniel Kiel in his 2011 documentary, "The Memphis 13."

Almost 53 years ago, 13 first-grade students bravely entered the doors of Bruce, Gordon, Rozelle and Springdale Elementary Schools. These students, Sheila Malone Conway, E.C. Freeman Fentress, Alvin Freeman, Deborah Holt, Dwania Kyles, Sharon Malone, Pamela Mayes, Jacqueline Moore, Joyce Bell White, Leandrew Wiggins, Clarence Williams, Harry Williams and Michael Willis (Menelik Fombi), were some of America's bravest civil rights' activists, even at such young ages. At a time when the nation was witnessing widespread segregation and animosity towards African-Americans who desired equal opportunities, these young civil rights leaders and their fami-

lies made a choice to take a step towards equality for all.

Before the momentous actions of the "Memphis 13," Memphis City Schools had never before afforded African-American students the opportunity to receive a fair and full education. This pioneering instance of school integration went forth with little public discussion or advanced news attention. Because of the heart-felt work of Professor Daniel Kiel and his documentary, the stories of these children, who dared to receive an equal education in a desegregated school system, are now being heard by communities throughout the country.

As a strong believer in the importance of education, I cannot thank enough the "Memphis 13" for blazing the trail for other African-American students to receive the education they deserve and Daniel Kiel for telling their story. The selfless actions by the "Memphis 13" paved a way for students to receive an equal education in Memphis and across the nation. The difference that these legends made will always be remembered and celebrated by the city of Memphis. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the "Memphis 13."

HONOR OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS THIS WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize our Nation's public servants and to thank them for their important contributions to our country.

In every community across America, federal employees work to make sure the government is effective and keep us safe; their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable. And in America's First District, there are many hardworking and dedicated patriots who serve the people of this nation every day.

As we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, which started on Sunday, May 4, and ends on Saturday, May 10, I want to express my utmost gratitude to the country's federal employees as well as our dedicated state, county and local public servants for their tireless service. I am proud to represent the tens of thousands of federal employees and retirees who live in the First District of Virginia.

Congress charges these individuals with important duties and expects these duties to be performed with the highest caliber of expertise—but rather than being recognized for their service, these public servants see their salary and benefits continually used as a pawn in the game of politics. I have opposed these efforts because I believe that as Congress continues to ask our federal civilian workforce to do more with less, we should instead be standing with them in recognition of their service.

From the CIA agents on the front lines of the War on Terror to the FBI agents finding suspected terrorists—our Nation's public servants perform critical national security jobs that make our country a safer place. As the House votes to establish a new Select Committee on Benghazi, it is important to note that the Foreign Service officers representing our government at the U.S. consulate and annex where

the September 11, 2012, attack occurred were federal employees.

In addition to serving abroad, our Nation's federal employees frequently risk their lives to protect us here at home as well. The Customs and Border Patrol and DEA agents working to fight illegal immigration, human trafficking and drug running operations are federal employees.

These men and women often get little to no recognition for their work, but day in and day out are repeatedly put in harm's way.

We must also recognize the public servants who are not directly in dangerous situations, but on a daily basis perform duties imperative to our safety. Defense civilian riggers, machinists, refuelers and engineers who repair sophisticated weaponry systems at our Army depots, Air Force bases and shipyards are the federal employees who support our military personnel.

The scientists at Department of Energy laboratories, NASA astronauts, engineers and researchers all work to keep America competitive in the ever increasingly global economy. Meteorologists at the weather service track life-threatening storms, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis and blizzards so that we can prepare to the best of our ability for inclement weather and natural disasters.

The nurses and doctors at the VA who mind for our veterans and wounded warriors, researchers at NIH working to find a cure for cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's—all are federal employees. The FDA public health inspectors who track E. coli and salmonella outbreaks to make certain that our food is safe to eat are federal employees.

Air traffic controllers at FAA work to have safe skies for travelers. Federal firefighters protect homes and businesses during a national forest fire. National Park Service rangers facilitate safe hiking on historic grounds and camping in our parks and tours of our battlefields.

These are only but a few of the vital services federal employees provide to our Congressional Districts and the Nation alike. The federal workforce is full of dedicated and committed citizens who exemplify patriotism in everything they do and I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring them for their service to ensure the security of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 RESTON ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Reston Association Volunteer Service Awards. The Reston Association (RA) is the largest homeowners' association in Virginia and one of the largest in the country with more than 21,000 homes under its jurisdiction. Among other roles, RA serves as the steward of Reston's architectural aesthetics, recreational amenities, and environmental resources.

RA relies on hundreds of volunteers who serve on boards, committees, and projects to carry out its mission to keep Reston a model community where all can "Live, Work, Play,

and Get Involved.” I am pleased to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the outstanding volunteers for 2013.

Volunteer of the Year: Diane Blust. Ms. Blust has been a Reston resident for 36 years and has made a long-standing commitment to protecting Reston's natural resources. She has chaired RA's Environmental Advisory Committee and RA's Sustainability Working Group. She serves as the President of Sustainable Reston, which is part of the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth and was instrumental in developing a program to install garden plots near low-income housing. As a member of Reston Environmental Action (REACT), Ms. Blust works to promote energy efficiency and habits that lessen our environmental impact. She helped establish the Environmental Film series at Walker Nature Center and started the Smart Market, which is a seasonal, weekly farmers market. In addition Ms. Blust teaches various Home Food Preservation classes for Reston Community Center (RCC) and RA's Walker Nature Center.

Volunteer Group of the Year Garden Plot Coordinators—Karen Parnicky, Lake Anne; Richard Padgett, Golf Course Island; and Molly O'Boyle, Hunters Woods I & II. RA rents more than 270 garden plots each year in four locations. The garden plot coordinators serve as liaisons between the garden plot renters and Reston Association staff. This group also contributes by weeding and watering or coordinating volunteers to do so when a gardener may be on vacation or away due to a medical condition.

Community Partner of the Year: The Boofie O'Gorman Team. The Boofie O'Gorman Team donated \$5,000 and more than 100 volunteer hours to the 2013 Reston Kids Triathlon. This generous donation provides funding for our scholarship participants and other Reston Association fee-waived programs. Their monetary contributions and personal efforts in race-day support, show their dedication to the youngest members of the Reston community. The team also supports scholarships for the Reston Triathlon, the Reston Sprint Triathlon, the Runners Marathon, the Reston Relay Triathlon, and RA Camps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2013 Reston Association Volunteer Service Awards and in thanking them for dedicating their time, energy, and resources to the improvement of the quality of life and health of the Reston community.

RECOGNIZING MISS ISABELLA HIXENBAUGH

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young lady in my district, Miss Isabella Hixenbaugh of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Isabella is an eighth-grader at Forestbrook Middle School and was officially recognized in Washington, DC, this week as one of South Carolina's top two youth volunteers.

Isabella selflessly devotes her free time to helping others in need by volunteering at a therapeutic riding foundation, Fidelis Founda-

tion. There she assists in the emotional healing of abused, neglected, and traumatized children by teaching them how to ride horses and care for the animals.

Isabella has been volunteering at Fidelis Foundation since its founding in 2010, and enjoys helping others find comfort in one of her favorite pastimes. When not teaching children how to ride or leading an arts and Crafts project at the barn, Isabella participates in horse shows to raise money for the Fidelis Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, young people, like Isabella, inspire and encourage so many. It is important that we recognize their leadership and service in our communities.

On behalf of South Carolina's Seventh District, congratulations Isabella and thank you for your volunteer service.

RECOGNIZING SGT. ROB JONES AND THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American, Sgt. Rob Jones, who not only served our nation honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan, but continues to serve his fellow veterans here at home.

Sgt. Jones grew up in the 10th District—in Lovettsville, Virginia and graduated from Loudoun Valley High School. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps—where he was injured by an IED in 2010—he recovered and joined the U.S. National Rowing team, winning a bronze medal 2012 Paralympics.

Last October, Sgt. Jones began a long and difficult cycling journey across the country. His purpose was to shine a light on the struggles that young veterans face when they return home and to thank the military charities that have provided him with hope through his recovery. Specifically, Sgt. Jones has recognized three organizations that helped him through his recovery: Semper Fi Fund, Ride2Recovery and the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, which is headquartered in my district, is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, non-partisan organization established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with emergency financial assistance and other support services. The Coalition has done tremendous work in Virginia and across the country. Besides donating nearly \$1 million in direct aid to veterans, the Coalition has provided thousands of dollars through grants to other notable veterans' organizations in Virginia. Under the leadership of David Walker, who serves as President and CEO, the Coalition has increased its efforts.

Most recently, the Coalition hosted a meaningful tribute to veterans at the new Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, Virginia, where they were joined by the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness, another organization in my district that is also doing tremendous work.

I look forward to seeing the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continue to make a difference in so many lives. I also want to thank

Sgt. Jones, for his inspirational journey and for his invaluable contribution to his fellow veterans. He proves that anything is possible and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MEL HANCOCK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Congressman Mel Hancock as he is inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians.

Mel was a dear friend, neighbor, and dedicated statesmen during his years of public service in the United States House of Representatives. His legacy will forever be a part of Missouri through the Hancock Amendment and his service to the people he represented.

Mel spent his time in public life advocating for the proper scope and role of government as an instrument to protect our individual liberties. He understood that government is a useful tool, but when it is given too much power it can be used to undermine the interests and freedom of the average person. Like our founders, Mel was a wise, just, and honorable man who worked tirelessly to advance the cause of liberty for which so many of our ancestors have sacrificed so much to promote.

In 1977 Mel founded the Taxpayer Survival Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing a constitutional amendment to limit taxes. He invested his personal effort, travelling across Missouri collecting signatures to put a "Tax and Spending Amendment" on the ballot. Through his hard work, the "Hancock Amendment" was added to the Missouri Constitution in 1980. Since then, Mel's leadership to secure the Hancock Amendment for Missouri has served as an inspiration for other legislative efforts around the nation.

After the passage of the Hancock Amendment, Mel continued his service to his state and his neighbors after being elected to represent Missouri's 7th District in Congress in 1988. During his time in Congress he served on the House Ways and Means Committee and advocated a balanced budget amendment for the federal constitution. Mel was a voice of prudence and reason in an unreasonable era.

He left Congress in 1996 to return to his home in Southwest Missouri, as was befitting a true citizen representative. Mel's towering stature had earned the deep gratitude of the people he served and would have ensured his continued re-election.

However, Mel believed that terms in office should be limited and had given his promise to the people that he would not serve more than four terms in office. With Mel Hancock, a promise made was a promise kept, something that Washington would do well to learn from today.

Only occasionally in life are we privileged to know someone as worthy of honor and emulation as Mel Hancock. Mel's well deserved induction in the Hall of the Famous Missourians is testament to a man who was a remarkable member of the House of Representatives and a true friend. May he forever live in the hearts of those whose lives he touched.