

of my amazing wife and our new baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

(1) H.R. 1726—To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers—"yea."

(2) H.R. 2203—To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy—"yea."

(3) H.R. 2939—A bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres—"yea."

(4) H.R. 3658—Monuments Men Recognition Act of 2013—"yea."

(5) H.R. 1209—To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders", for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo—"yea."

(6) S. 309—A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol—"yea."

(7) H.R. 685—American Fighter Aces Congressional Gold Medal Act—"yea."

(8) H.R. 4628—To amend title 23, the United States Code, with respect to United States Route 78 in Mississippi, and for other purposes—"yea."

TRIBUTE TO SIENNA E.
SCHAEFFER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Sienna Schaeffer of Grimes, Iowa, for being named a Presidential Scholar by the 2014 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Being counted among this esteemed program is one of America's highest honors for high school students.

Originally created by Executive Order in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored our nation's best and brightest high school seniors for academic distinction, artistic excellence, and civic engagement. This year, Sienna will be honored with 140 other Presidential Scholars from across the country for their exceptional efforts. Each of these future leaders were chosen from more than 3,000 applicants based on outstanding college entrance exams, school transcripts, leadership activities, and contributions to their community. These young men and women truly represent the best of the American education system and remind us all of the promise and potential held by our nation's youth.

Since 1983, each U.S. Presidential Scholar has also been asked to choose one exceptional teacher to recognize. For her selection, Ms. Schaeffer chose Dallas Center-Grimes High School Chemistry and Environmental Science teacher Josh Mangler. Both Sienna and Mr. Mangler will receive congratulatory letters from United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan for their outstanding work.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Ms. Schaeffer from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Sienna for her dedication, and thanking her supportive family,

Mr. Mangler, and all of the teachers and role models in Ms. Schaeffer's life who have played a critical role in her remarkable accomplishment. I wish Sienna the best of luck in her future education and career as she continues to utilize her gifts and Iowa-bred work ethic to positively impact our state and nation.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE MARRIAGE
OF MS. MEGAN MAUREEN
KORCZYNSKI TO MR. KEVIN
PAUL GOW, JR.

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming nuptials of Ms. Megan Maureen Korczynski to Kevin Paul Gow, Jr., on May 24, 2014. Ms. Korczynski and her family have been lifetime residents and volunteers in the Chicago area and it is my pleasure to acknowledge such a joyous occasion.

Ms. Korczynski and Mr. Gow have both enjoyed their time living and studying in Chicago and are ready to start a new chapter in their lives together. Ms. Korczynski is the daughter of Mrs. Diane Korczynski, a seasoned elementary education teacher, and Mr. Edwin Korczynski, a Major United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civilian Air Patrol. Both of whom have worked hard to instill the qualities of great character, competence, vision and drive into their daughter throughout her life. They are extremely proud of the woman she has become and could not be happier for her upcoming marriage. Mr. Gow, Jr., is the son of Kevin Gow, Sr., a former U.S. Marine Captain, and the late Mrs. Gow. Both of whom can take great pride in the admirable man he has become today.

On May 24, 2014, both Megan Korczynski and Kevin Paul Gow, Jr., will partake in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. On that merry day the couple will be surrounded by their family and friends who will help them celebrate with their love and support. I would like to extend my best wishes to the happy couple. This is truly a momentous event in their lives, and as they celebrate their wedding, I wish them great happiness and joy for many years to come.

HONORING DENISHA L. SOLOMON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Denisha L. Solomon has answered that call by giving of herself as an educator at Dunaire Elementary School, and as a beloved daughter, sister and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Solomon has been chosen as the 2014 Teacher of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary School; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Solomon is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our children receive an education that is relevant not only for today, but well into the future, as she truly understands that our children are the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Denisha L. Solomon for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2014 Teacher of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim April 2, 2014 as Ms. Denisha L. Solomon Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 2nd day of April, 2014.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD
OF EDUCATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, May 17, 2014 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the landmark United States Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

As Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in his unanimous decision, "In the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." The *Brown* ruling declared that state laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students were unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Although initially met with resistance, *Brown v. Board of Education* provided an impetus to education reform, paved the way for integration, and proved an integral part of the American Civil Rights Movement.

As we commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of this case, we celebrate the achievements that have been made in our country's classrooms to ensure that all students—regardless of color—receive a quality education. We still have a long way to go, however, to ensure that the promise of *Brown* is fully realized. Many school districts today have not fully desegregated. In addition, many students—particularly those who are minorities and come from low-income families—lack access to advanced placement classes; the latest education technology; safe learning environments; extracurricular activities; and clean, well-functioning classrooms. As we commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of *Brown*, it is vital that we take stock of its legacy and do all that we can to ensure that our children have equal opportunities to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the achievements that have come to fruition over the past six decades in the American classroom since *Brown v. Board of Education*. Let us work together to fully realize its promise and create a more perfect Union.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REBOZO FESTIVAL

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Rebozo Festival of Ventura County, an annual event which celebrates the cultural diversity of our region, promotes communal pride and encourages philanthropic and educational endeavors.

The first Rebozo Festival took place in 2005 when Las Madrinas (the Godmothers), a small group of community volunteers, organized and established the event with the intent of raising funds for local organizations while celebrating the rich heritage of the Latino community by highlighting the colorful Mexican rebozo (shawl) as the symbol and theme of the event.

Over the years, this event has attracted hundreds of local residents and out-of-state visitors who enjoy the liveliness of this cultural celebration, and above all help contribute to local commendable organizations.

The Rebozo Festival's underlying purpose is a philanthropic one. For ten years now, the Rebozo Festival has been able to raise thousands of dollars each year for numerous worthy non-profit organizations focusing on the cultural, social and educational needs of the region. Past recipients of these funds include the Heart 2 Heart Program, United Farm Workers Freeze Relief Fund, the Oxnard College Women's Re-entry Program and Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE). This year's proceeds will benefit Future Leaders of America—Ventura County, an organization that works with our public schools to promote youth empowerment and leadership. Through the selfless dedication and work of the event's organizers, the Rebozo Festival has been able to raise and contribute over \$185,000 to the Ventura County community.

For over a decade, the Rebozo Festival has promoted and celebrated the richness and diversity of the Mexican culture and heritage in Ventura County. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer Las Madrinas my sincere congratulations and I am pleased to join them in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Rebozo Festival.

HONORING JUDGE L. CLIFFORD
DAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge L. Clifford Davis. After 65 years of service, Judge Davis was awarded the Blackstone Award by the Tarrant County Bar Association. The Blackstone Award is given to distinguished individuals who have demonstrated unwavering integrity and courage during their careers.

Judge Davis has a rich history of demonstrable courage as a lawyer. Judge Davis became licensed in Texas in 1953 and eventually moved to Fort Worth where he led the

charge on desegregating the Mansfield and Fort Worth Independent School Districts. Today, the Mansfield and Fort Worth Independent School Districts rank among some of the top public school districts in Texas. In 1983, Judge Davis was elected one of the first African-American state district judges in Tarrant County.

Judge Davis was recognized by the NAACP, inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame, and was awarded the Silver Gavel Award by the Tarrant County Bar Association. Judge Davis is also widely recognized by his peers and his neighbors for strengthening the integrity of our judicial system.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Davis has dedicated his life to empowering individuals who would otherwise be without a voice. Judge Davis had a direct hand in the fight for equal justice during the Civil Rights movement, and has contributed greatly toward improving the legal and public school systems in Texas. We are grateful for Judge Davis' service to our country and courage in the face of adversity and I am proud to recognize Judge Davis.

COMMENDING AMERICAN CHRISTIAN LEADERS FOR STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHRISTIANS AND OTHER SMALL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN EGYPT, IRAQ AND SYRIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize over 200 individuals who signed a Pledge of Solidarity and Call to Action on Behalf of Christians and Other Small Religious Communities in Egypt, Iraq and Syria. I was honored to co-host a press conference earlier this month with my colleague Representative ANNA ESHOO. Together, we co-chair the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus.

The group of signatories to the Pledge represents the diversity of American Christianity, with individuals hailing not only from the Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions but also a variety of sectors: thought leaders, clergy, parachurch heads and university and seminary presidents, among others. They have recognized that unless the American church begins to champion this cause, the foreign policy establishment will hardly lead the way.

I regularly meet with beleaguered Christians from this part of the world. Their stories are eerily similar: believers kidnapped for ransom; churches—some full of worshippers—attacked; clergy targeted for killing. In the face of this violence, Christians are leaving this region in droves. The resounding theme that emerges is quite simply a plea for solidarity, and an appeal for help. Where is the West, they wonder? With the release of this Call to Action, I am heartened to say, that these cries have been heard.

The following individuals spoke at the press conference:

Leith Anderson, Chair, National Association of Evangelicals; His Eminence, Cardinal Donald Wuerl; Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Jim

Liske, President and CEO, Prison Fellowship Ministries; Canon Andrew White, Chaplain of St George Anglican Church, Baghdad; His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; Pastor Jerry Johnson, President and CEO, National Religious Broadcasters; Nina Shea, Director and Senior Scholar, Hudson Institute Center for Religious Freedom; George Marlin, Chair, Aid to the Church in Need-USA; Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou, Visiting Associate Prof. of Conflict Resolution, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Johnny Moore, Senior Vice President, Liberty University; Barrett Duke, Vice President for Public Policy and Research Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and Joseph Kassab, Founder and President, Iraqi Christians Advocacy and Empowerment; Institute (reading a statement by Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako).

The text of the Pledge of Solidarity follows:

[May 7, 2014]

PLEDGE OF SOLIDARITY & CALL TO ACTION ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIANS AND OTHER SMALL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN EGYPT, IRAQ AND SYRIA

FACTS

In today's Middle East, the majority of the Christian faith communities, which include Orthodox, Catholics, and Protestants, suffer violence, abuse and injustice from extremist Islamic forces by virtue of being Christian. Now facing an existential threat to their presence in the lands where Christianity has its roots, the Churches in the Middle East fear they have been largely ignored by their coreligionists in the West.

Christians collectively form the largest religious group in the Middle East that is not Muslim, numbering up to 15 million people. In a siege that has accelerated over the past decade, Egypt, Iraq and Syria—the three Middle Eastern countries with the largest Christian communities remaining—have seen scores of churches deliberately destroyed, many clergy and laypeople targeted for death, kidnapping, intimidation and forcible conversion, and hundreds of thousands of believers driven from their countries. The Christian population in Lebanon, the only other indigenous Church community in the region numbering over 1 million, could be threatened by the instability across its country's borders.

No Christian tradition is spared in this current wave of persecution. While addressing the theme of Christian unity, Pope Francis has called this the "ecumenism of blood," meaning that the extremists do not discriminate among the Christians they are attacking. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has also spoken of the contemporary "crucifixion" of Christians. In these same three countries, other defenseless religious groups—Mandaeans, Yizidis, Baha'is, Ahmadis and others—suffer similarly.

It has become abundantly clear that the brutal extremist campaigns are resulting in the eradication of non-Muslim religious communities or, for those who remain, denying them from having any influence or even basic rights within their society's political, social or cultural spheres. While there is no apparent organization or coordination among the various violent actors from nation to nation, their actions are leading to one conclusion: the very real possibility that Christianity may soon be exiled from the region of its origin.

These assaults continue despite rejection by the majority of Muslims and condemnation by prominent Muslim voices, such as Jordan's Prince Ghazi bin Mohammed and