

friend, Ms. Audrey R. Johnson-Thornton. Ms. Johnson-Thornton is the president and founder of the American Women's Heritage Society, and was instrumental in turning the broken down Belmont Mansion into a museum to honor those who aided slaves in their flight to freedom.

The Belmont Mansion was named as the most significant structure to be at risk in an assessment of ten historic structures in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. This finding was followed by a historical study and architectural analysis of the Belmont Mansion Historical Structures Report and then became the first major project of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust in 1994. The Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion is one of the first 2,000 recipients to receive funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and its partner the American Association for State and Local History. The American Women's Heritage Society still operates the now restored mansion as a historic site. Ms. Johnson-Thornton will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to preserving our city's history has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Johnson-Thornton for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING PRESENCE MERCY
MEDICAL CENTER'S SAFETY AND
SECURITY DEPARTMENT

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Safety and Security Department of Presence Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, Illinois. Safety and security is a growing concern for healthcare facilities, and Presence Mercy Medical Center has responded by preparing their security team to prevent crimes before they begin and respond to criminal activity promptly.

The 2012 Crime and Security Trends Survey conducted by the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) highlights the increasing dangers healthcare workers face. The survey found that in 2012 there were over 20,500 crimes committed in healthcare facilities, a 37 percent rise from 2010.

The Safety and Security Department at Presence Mercy Medical Center has responded to these recent developments by exposing their security officers to comprehensive training and preparation programs. All of their department's members have studied, tested, and received certification in Basic Training by the IAHSS, 92 percent have received Advanced certification, and 83 percent have received Supervisor certification.

These efforts have made Presence Mercy a model security team at a time when healthcare safety and security is a significantly mounting concern.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Safety and Security Depart-

ment members for their excellence in safety and security preparation:

Doug Kaiser; Robert Lea; Christian Pfister; Darin Northern; Jim Rees; Victor Jimenez; Miguel Saenz; Kerry Haggard; Tom Greiner; David Oliver; Nora Rodriguez.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES
FROM THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2014 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted academy appointments:

Lois May Agabon, MacArthur High School, Northwestern Preparatory School, United States Air Force Academy; Austin Wayne Beals, Fredericksburg High School, United States Air Force Academy; David Phillip Castaneda, San Antonio Christian High School, Naval Academy Preparatory School, United States Naval Academy; Jonathan Castaneda, San Antonio Christian High School, United States Naval Academy; Sterling Michael Clark, Canyon High School, United States Naval Academy; Conner Hugh Drum, Canyon Lake High School, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Military Academy; Devlin Patrick Gilligan, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Air Force Academy; Preston Joseph Horejsi, Medina High School, United States Military Academy; Aldon William Clifford Pagio, AFNorth International High School (the Netherlands), University of Texas at San Antonio, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Jackson Symon Parrish, Saint Mary's Hall, United States Naval Academy; Travis John Phelan, John S. Burke Catholic School (New York), United States Military Academy; James Cooper Rast, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Air Force Academy; Jordan Gregory Sekula, New Braunfels Christian Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy; and Collin Taylor Stone, Alamo Heights High School, United States Military Academy.

Again, congratulations to these outstanding students. I know they will serve our country well and I trust success will follow them in all their endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to attending a previously scheduled event in Maryland, I was absent from votes in the House on Monday evening, May 19 and missed rollcall votes 218–219. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall No. 218, H.R. 2203, and No. 219, H.R. 685.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL
WIND ENERGY EXPANSION ACT
OF 2014

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Rural Wind Energy Development Act," to provide an investment tax credit to ranchers, farmers, and small businesses to offset the up-front costs of owning a distributed wind turbine. I am pleased to again be working with my friend Congressman Cole of Oklahoma in offering this modest expansion of current law that will keep small business energy jobs growing across the United States.

Distributed wind systems are electric generators that produce up to 20 megawatts of clean and renewable energy for homes, farms, and small businesses. With these turbines, individuals can generate their own power, often independent from the electric grid. These wind turbines allow farmers, ranchers, and other consumers to cut their energy bills and, at times, sell power back into the grid. They also allow thousands of businesses—from "mom and pop" stores, to retailers, to ranches, and to breweries—to reduce their energy load, to help clean the environment, and to save money. All you need is pretty good wind and a little land.

At best there has been unsteady federal support for distributed wind systems and there has been no federal tax support until the past several years.

In many cases, this is not only American produced electricity, but American manufactured electricity as well. Approximately 90 percent of distributed wind turbines sold in the U.S. are made here, according to domestic manufacturing content.

My bill also supports locally owned, or "community," wind power. The Department of Energy's national laboratories estimate that community wind generates a strong economic multiplier for local communities, helping rural areas rebound from challenging economic times.

The federal Production Tax Credit, PTC, applies mainly to large utility-scale wind projects, not to individuals who install their own wind systems for on-site power. The existing investment credit, which may be taken in lieu of the PTC, has worked very well. My legislation provides an additional option and bars taking a double-benefit from these tax supports. This additional tool will provide stability and certainty for the distributed wind market to unlock the necessary investment to grow our global leadership role in distributed wind power. It will also help farmers, consumers, and businesses afford pollution-free energy.

This legislation strikes the existing 100 kilowatt nameplate limitation for small wind systems, and expands the maximum wind turbine size to 20 megawatts, in line with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission definition of distributed wind power. Other agencies depend on this figure as a cut off between smaller-scale or "community" wind power and larger wind farms. There is no similar cap for solar, and, as the community wind industry grows and produces jobs, so should the opportunity for projects that still meet the threshold for distributed wind.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important policy to promote wind power, which produces no harmful greenhouse gas emissions, involves no environmentally damaging natural resource extraction, and is made right here in America.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA JACKSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Patricia Jackson, whose energy and initiative has helped a number of people in the Philadelphia region through her corporation Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated.

After graduating from Perdue University, Ms. Jackson began working for General Mills in Human Resources and Labor relations, where she spearheaded a minority equality reform campaign for the corporation. She soon left to join Lever Brothers Company. There she worked tirelessly in its Training and Development Department to aid women climbing the corporate ladder. Ms. Jackson couldn't stay still for too long, soon beginning work at Conrail, which brought her to Philadelphia. Soon after, the University of Pennsylvania asked her to join their staff where she was the head of the Department of Affirmative Action for the University. As CEO and founder of Alpha Security & Consulting Incorporated, she worked with local construction companies to create nearly 600 jobs. She helped in building the New High School for Creative and Performing Arts, and as a result served as chairs of both the Ridgway Library and the Performing Arts Theater. Ms. Jackson extended Alpha to create a Culinary Arts Training Program for underprivileged youth. In 2005, Ms. Jackson took a position as the Director of Immigration Reform at the National Union of American Families. She now serves on the Board of Directors for the National Historical Marian Anderson Society and is an advisory director for a number of other boards and organizations. Ms. Jackson will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and initiative have aided so many in the Philadelphia region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Jackson for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE WORK OF
GUSTAVO RAMOS, JR.

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., who will be retiring this month from his position as Executive Director for the Housing Authority of Skagit County.

Mr. Gustavo Ramos, Jr., has dedicated a lifetime of hard work in the field of affordable housing and community development. With

more than 40 years of combined service within six different housing authorities since 1972, Gustavo has helped numerous families in Skagit County and throughout Washington State.

Gustavo's hard work and dedication to the communities, families, and housing authority of Skagit County earns him a well-deserved and honorable retirement celebration. Upon retirement, Gustavo will be returning to Nevada to be near his family and begin a new chapter in his career in economic and community development.

I would personally like to thank Gustavo for his many years of service and commitment to helping families. He has been a tremendous contributor to the Housing Authority in the Skagit County area and will be missed dearly.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARTIN SEVERANCE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Severance Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution upon its 100th anniversary.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is a historic institution, with more than 120 years of service. The NSDAR has 177,000 members across the world; they aim to preserve history and improve their communities.

The Martin Severance Chapter of the NSDAR was founded by Mrs. Adeline Belle Barry and named in honor of her ancestor Martin Severance, a sergeant and veteran of both the Revolutionary War and the French and Indian War.

The Martin Severance Chapter has been a part of the Pasadena community since the beginning. Its members supported the Pasadena Red Cross during both World Wars and have participated in storied local institutions including the Tournament of Roses Parade. The Martin Severance Chapter currently supports high school students, homeless veterans, local libraries, and teachers. The Chapter has reinstated the American History Essay contest, and "adopted" the women at Villages of Cabrillo, Long Beach, a part of the homeless veterans' community Advance program. Additionally, the Chapter annually presents DAR Good Citizens Awards and JROTC Medals to local high school students.

In honor of their centennial, the Chapter is preserving the memory of the American Independence and those who fought for freedom. The Chapter will award grants to Pasadena Unified School District teachers who meet core curriculum standards in Colonial American History. The Martin Severance Chapter is also working on a living history project that presents female patriots to elementary school children in the Pasadena area—chapter members will portray historically significant revolution-era women and share their stories, costumes, and legacies with students and community organizations.

I ask all members to join with me in commending the Martin Severance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for preserving the history of the American Revolution for future generations and for 100 years of dedicated service to the greater Pasadena community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VERIFY IT ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill, the Verify It Act, which requires Federal agencies to provide notice to American families that they owe a debt to a Federal agency and verify the debt is a legally enforceable debt.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill people will not have their tax refunds seized without proper notification and justification. Federal agencies have the right to try to collect debt that is owed to the government; there is a legal process that must be followed before any action can be taken. Each Federal agency must provide 60 days notice to the debtor. This notice requires a written notification of the nature and amount of the debt, the intention of the agency to collect the debt through administrative offset, and an explanation of the debtor's rights. If the agency is unable to collect from the debtor, the debt can be referred to the Department of the Treasury for administrative offset. Through its Treasury Offset Program (TOP), the Treasury reduces or withholds certain payments, often a Federal tax refund, to individuals who owe debts to the government.

Mr. Speaker, the legal process to collect outstanding debts from Americans owing money to the Treasury is simply not being followed. As reported by the Washington Post, Federal agencies are collecting delinquent debt without providing proper notice or that the debt being collected was incurred by the person the Federal agency claims owes the debt. It appears that in certain cases, Federal agencies are collecting money from children in order to pay the outstanding debts to the U.S. Treasury their parents incurred. What legal reason or law gives a Federal agency the right to collect a debt from a person when the debt is incurred in someone else's name? How many years is this Administration going to go back to collect debts? How can the government justify collecting debts from the children of deceased parents?

This bill is all about transparency and accountability. My legislation will ensure that Americans are given proper notification and have time to dispute the debt. This legislation will ensure every Federal agency determines the debt is legally enforceable and restore the 10 year statute of limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Verify It Act, in order to ensure American families and taxpayers have trust in their government and policies implemented.