

After just a few months in Congress it became clear that our staff was missing something; or, more accurately, someone. The residents of the Ninth needed someone with a background in State Department issues. The job would be part-time and—like all case-worker positions—required a genuine passion for helping others.

At the time, Ruth Clapp was enjoying the early days of her retirement after years spent working for the World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP), an adoption and international humanitarian organization. During her time with WACAP, Ruth helped families to navigate adoptions in countries around the world. The work was rewarding, yet it was time to enjoy some well-earned quiet days at her picturesque home along the water in Browns Point. And that was when the phone rang.

On the other end was a young Chief of Staff. He let Ruth know about a freshman Member of Washington State's delegation that required someone with her background. The job could be tailored to her needs: it would be part-time and only for a few years. She accepted the position and, as we know now, that "temporary" job stretched into seventeen years of service.

Ruth's personnel file grew and grew over the years, into what today resembles a stack of phone books. It is filled with hundreds of letters thanking her for help with issues including immigration, adoptions, and visas. These notes are from mothers, fathers, grandmothers, sons, and daughters. They recount Ruth creatively solving problems and demonstrate the consistency by which she went the extra mile for constituents. If getting a problem solved meant calling a consulate at 4 am on behalf of a constituent, that was what she did—gladly and without complaint.

Ruth's accomplishments are too many to list. Highlights include the critical assistance she provided an entire Afghan family to become U.S. citizens. She is passionate about conditions at the Northwest Detention Center and has provided assistance to dozens of inmates there. Travel up and down the Ninth District and chances are you will meet someone whose life has benefited from Ruth's service.

In the years ahead, Ruth undoubtedly will stay busy. She remains passionate about international adoption, loves world travel, serves on the board of a non-profit, and is a proud grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ruth Clapp for her distinguished career. I am confident that others will continue to benefit from her selflessness.

HONORING WILLIAM MACALONEY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to William "Bill" MacAloney, the Chairman and CEO of Jax Markets in Anaheim, California. Bill who is a long-time friend of mine recently passed after a long and brave struggle with cancer.

Bill's successful journey to becoming an industry leader in the grocery store business

started in a very humble way. He grew up in a succession of orphanages and foster homes in Massachusetts. At the age of 16, Bill hit the road, hitch hiking all the way to California, arriving in Los Angeles with little money and no place to stay.

With a great attitude, hard work and a "can do" spirit, Bill nudged his way into the food industry and opened up his first grocery store in the late 1960's. Several other stores followed under the Jax banner, one in Buena Park and another in Anaheim.

During his career in the supermarket industry which spanned more than four decades, Bill MacAloney was Chairman of the nation's largest retail business, Certified Grocer of California. He also served as Chairman of the California Grocery Association and was Co-Chair of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), the national supermarket trade association headquartered in our Nation's Capital.

With a love for politics and community, Bill MacAloney served on the Villa Park City Council in 2002 and 2009. And Bill was an active philanthropist, and received awards and recognition from a wide range of highly respected organizations including the National Conference of Christians and Jews and B'nai B'rith among others. I should also mention that Bill was appointed to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Board of Accountancy and was on the St. Joseph Hospital Board of Trustees.

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege for me to have known such an outstanding individual. He is a true gentleman, of great character who made the time to give back to the community and help others to achieve their dreams. Bill MacAloney is truly the classic All-American success story that we all should be proud of. I extend my sympathies to Bill's wife and loving companion of 45 years, Gwen, her four children, ten grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,494,957,564,945.40. We've added \$6,868,080,516,032.40 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR FRANK A. GRIPPE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Frankfort, New York's own Command Ser-

geant Major Frank A. Grippe, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Command Sergeant Major Grippe will soon retire from his present assignment as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida.

Command Sergeant Major Grippe entered the United States Army in April 1981 through Syracuse, New York. He trained as a light infantryman and graduated from Airborne School at Fort Henning, Georgia, after which he went on to serve in a variety of duty positions and organizations: Rifleman, Machinegunner and Team Leader in 1-509th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, Vicenza, Italy; Team Leader, Rifle Squad Leader and Reconnaissance Squad Leader in 2-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Rifle Squad Leader, Rifle Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant and Company First Sergeant with 2-75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Washington; ROTC Senior Military Instructor at San Diego State University, San Diego, California; Command Sergeant Major for 1-87th Infantry Regiment, Fort Drum, New York, CSM of Task Force Summit (OEF Afghanistan, September 2001–April 2002); Command Sergeant Major for 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, New York, CSM of Combined Joint Task Force Warrior (OEF Afghanistan, July 2003–May 2004); Post and Division Command Sergeant Major of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, CSM of Task Force Band of Brothers; Multi-National Division North (OIF, September 2005–September 2006). From August 2007 December 2011, he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of I Corps and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and served as the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sergeant Major from March 2009 to March 2010. Command Sergeant Major Grippe is presently the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the United States Central Command.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Grippe's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Command Sergeant Major Grippe for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Command Sergeant Major Grippe's wife Carla and daughter Madeline. We are a nation truly indebted to all of the service members, veterans, and military families who continue to give so much to defend our American values and liberties. I extend my best wishes to Command Sergeant Major Grippe and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, which will be celebrated with a series of public programs and exhibits.

Originally founded in the former Capitol Hill townhouse of Frederick Douglass, the museum was first opened by my friend Warren Robbins on June 3, 1964.

Over the ensuing decades, the museum has come to take a greater role in furthering cultural development in our Nation's capital. In 1979, it joined the Smithsonian Institution, and it relocated to its current location on the National Mall in 1987.

As the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the arts of Africa, it plays an important role in elevating the knowledge and understanding of visitors and academics alike. As a repository of stirring and thought-provoking artifacts, and a place for evocative performances and dialogues, it serves as a source of inspiration so many of our artists—luminaries like the late Maya Angelou who was a tireless advocate for the museum.

This museum has come a long way over the past 50 years, to play an important role in the Smithsonian Institution, in the Washington, D.C. community, and in the cultural life of our Nation and the world.

I congratulate them on a wonderful 50 years, and I wish them another flourishing 50 more.

HONORING MS. BLANCHE BURTON-
LYLES

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 the great pianist Ms. Blanche Burton-Lyles, a native of South Philadelphia, whose dedication to music and service has left a lasting mark on Philadelphia.

Ms. Burton-Lyles attended the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, on the recommendation of her mentor Marian Anderson. There she studied under Madam Isabella Vengerova, one of the founders of the Curtis Institute, and Leo Ornstein, Sr., world renowned composer and pianist. Ms. Burton-Lyles also received a music degree from Temple University. She worked as a music educator in the Philadelphia Public School System for many years. A recipient of many performance awards and humanitarian honors, Ms. Burton-Lyles is the first African-American woman to perform in Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and played a number of times in the personal home of Marian Anderson. In January of 1998, she received Anderson's historical residences, which are now international attractions for visitors worldwide. Ms. Burton-Lyles is the Founder and President of the Marian Anderson Historical Society, Inc. and maintains the Marian Anderson residence and museum. Ms. Burton-Lyles 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 have inspired and supported so many in our region. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Blanche Burton-Lyles for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF LUPUS
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lupus Awareness Month. As co-chair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, I am honored to help raise awareness of lupus throughout the month of May.

Despite affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans—approximately 90 percent of whom are women—lupus is not very well known. And for those who have heard of the disease, it is much more widespread than most realize.

Lupus is a chronic illness that can affect any organ in the body. It occurs when the immune system is out of balance, damaging the body's organs and tissues. Most puzzling, no two lupus patients experience the same symptoms. Thus, a variety of medications are used to treat the disease since its manifestations vary dramatically between cases. Many symptoms of Lupus mimic those of other illnesses, and can change over time, making diagnosis difficult. Consequently, diagnoses of Lupus can take up to four years and require visits to more than three physicians.

My goal in founding the Congressional Lupus Caucus was to raise awareness and help further research efforts in regard to this little understood, life-threatening disease. Researchers are working to better understand the disease's complexity and are making great strides in finding effective treatments. Today, there are more than two dozen potential drugs for lupus in the development pipeline. Because of research, initiatives such as Lupus Awareness Month, and other grassroots efforts, more and more people with lupus are leading healthier lives and living longer than at any time in history.

I am proud to report that in my home state of Massachusetts, excellent resources are available to those affected by lupus. These resources include a support group at the Bourne Council on Aging and a state-of-the-art Lupus Program at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Despite local successes, Federal funding for advocacy and research remains critical. Increased funding will lead to improved knowledge of the disease and earlier and more accurate diagnoses, helping to improve disease management, diminish adverse effects, and increase quality of life for individuals living with lupus. I pledge to continue to raise awareness and do what I can to secure the resources needed to build upon the steady strides already achieved in lupus research and development. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to continue to support lupus research and treatment and to help spread the word about this disease.

RECOGNIZING MR. AMR NASSAR

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize one of my constitu-

ents, Mr. Amr Nassar, for his acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC. Mr. Nassar was selected for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The People to People mission is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Mr. Nassar benefitted greatly from his participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ANN MILLER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ann Miller. Ms. Miller is the Executive Director of Unlimited Learning, Incorporated, in southwest Colorado.

Ms. Miller has been working with refugees and minority groups on educational and occupational issues such as providing English language instruction, life skills training and cross-cultural classes since the mid-1970s.

Since 1990, she has been Director of the Adult Education Program for Montezuma and Dolores Counties in southwest Colorado, and in 2001 founded Unlimited Learning and is currently serving as the institution's Executive Director. Unlimited Learning is a nonprofit educational organization, primarily focused on distance education programming. They ensure that Native Americans, rural area residents, and adults seeking a GED have access to adult education, college level education courses, and degrees. Unlimited Learning serves in partnership with the College of Eastern Utah, which is part of the Utah State University system, to provide educational services to over 5,000 square miles spanning Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Alaska.

Ms. Miller is driven by the desire to provide innovative ways to reach and educate rural, low-income, and minority citizens, so that they have an opportunity for a better life—socially, economically, and physically. She truly has made a great difference in the lives of many people.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Director Ann Miller. I rise today to thank her for her work on behalf of the citizens of Montezuma and Dolores Counties.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
TRANSITIONAL CARE 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 Medicare Transitional Care Act, which will address continuity of care problems. This legislation will provide high-risk Medicare beneficiaries access to evidence based transitional care services that are provided by an eligible transitional care entity,