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With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commanding the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Army:

Ronell Akwe, Gustavo Arguero, Eleanor Awwe, Angela Barfield, Ian Bliss, Tony Britvec, Ciara Carter, Dylan Cate, Robert Compton, Dylan Cook, Karon Cook, Gisel Diaz, Mason Dineen, Andrew Drescher, Ian Dumas, Yeni Dzib, Michael Fowlkes, Cristian Garcia, Adrianna Garner, Tabaria Harris, Kiee Harvey, Hunter Henson, Chase Henson, Nicholas Hwang, Lane Ingram, Olivia Jackson, Dylan Jeffries, Arielle Kirk, Andriy Kuranov, Daisey Kyaw, Eric Leach, Katelyn Lloyd, Joshua Marcano, Juan Martinez, Ofori Nana, Carlos Ortega, Thanh Tu Phung, Jordan Rivera, Julian Rivers, Tia Roush, Brian Steele, Louis Surface, Brian Vaughn, Dillon Welton, Steven Wesley, Donovan Wolford, Timothy Yemelyanov, Aisha Yunus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

HONORING PRESIDENT HARVEY SCHMITT OF THE RALEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Harvey Schmitt, who recently retired as President and CEO of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. In the twenty-one years Harvey has headed the Chamber, he has played an integral role in transforming Raleigh into a thriving city known internationally as one of the best places in America to live, work, and run a business.

Harvey has been a tireless promoter of the city's assets, often assuming the role of recruiter-in-chief. The enterprises he has helped bring to the Triangle include Red Hat, PNC, and the Carolina Hurricanes. He spearheaded the transformation of downtown Raleigh, creating the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, helping to revitalize Fayetteville Street, and leading the charge to build the downtown Raleigh convention center. He also promoted three billion dollars in school construction bonds to ensure that Triangle students learn in first-class facilities.

As Ranking Member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I particularly appreciate Harvey's contribution to modernizing transportation in the Research Triangle. He and the Chamber created the Regional Transportation Alliance to advocate for improved highways and transit and a diversified system for the future.

Throughout his time at the Chamber, Harvey has been an invaluable asset to and a dedicated advocate for the Triangle. His tireless efforts and winning ways have left a lasting imprint on his adopted city. He has earned our enduring respect and gratitude, and we wish him the best in retirement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, today I rise in strong opposition to senseless Republican attempts to allow Confederate flags to be displayed and sold in national parks and cemeteries. The Confederate flag throughout history has been a symbol of extreme hatred, deliberate malice, and continued segregation. Any attempt by Congress to uphold and profit from such an image is completely reprehensible.

Recently, states across the country have done the right thing and removed the Confederate flag from their State Capitol grounds, including my home state of Alabama. In fact, on July 9th South Carolina lawmakers voted to ensure that this contentious symbol is removed from its state capitol grounds. It is unconscionable to think that while South Carolina's legislature was working until the early hours of the morning fighting for the removal of the Confederate flag, my Republican colleagues were attempting to undo efforts by the House to prohibit the Confederate flag from being sold and displayed at our national parks and federal cemeteries.

The Confederate flag is a part of America's past and that is where it should stay. Removing the Confederate flag does not detract from America's rich history in any way, but instead

is recognition of the fact that this flag represents hatred not heritage, treason not pride. In order for us to come together as a nation, it is necessary to remove the vestiges of the past that connect racism and segregation.

The preamble to the Constitution reads "We the people", making it evident that America is supposed to be one cohesive nation. As Members of Congress we have the responsibility to ensure that our actions reflect the will of the people. The Confederate flag does nothing but continue to divide this great country. Let's stand behind our nation's purpose, that all men are created equal, by prohibiting the selling and displaying of the Confederate flag at national parks and federal cemeteries.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and reject this amendment.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FIFTH ANNUAL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 5 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishments and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Navy. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized 9 students; this year we will be honoring 133 local students for choosing to serve our country in uniform.

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The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commanding the following

graduates on their enlistment in the United States Navy:

Gabriel Berrios, Owen Buzan, Kim Alexandria, Holly Speacht, and Sara Vasquez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the courage and dedication of these graduates and in assuring them and their families that the full support and resources of the U.S. Congress and the American people will be behind them on every step of their journey in defense our nation's freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 424 I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of State John Kerry and partners from the P5+1 will meet in Vienna today to continue negotiations with Iran on that nation's nuclear activity. Statements from Iranian leaders such as Ayatollah Khamenei that disparage the United States and Israel remind us of the vital role that Congress has in this process. We must remain vigilant. We must ensure that any agreement holds Iran to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

The opportunity for the United States to improve our relationship with Iran potentially could lead to greater stability in a region torn apart by war and religious strife. Nevertheless, we must not be naïve. The prospect of peace and stability can be reached only if we are secure that Iran will not threaten its neighbors and the world with nuclear aggression.

Secretary Kerry and his team of negotiators know the gravity of their work. I am confident that they want to see a good deal and will accept nothing less than an agreement that can withstand intense scrutiny. They cannot and should not be rushed into a deal. Nor should they cut corners as the deadline in presenting the details to Congress for a 30-day review approaches.

A good deal means that the international community must be permitted to inspect Iranian military and research installations to ensure that no illicit enrichment takes place. Inspectors must have full and unfettered access to be able to determine whether nuclear infrastructure has been dismantled so that its breakout capacity will be measured in years, not weeks. In addition, Iran must adhere to all U.N. Security Council Resolutions that require detailed explanations of previous nuclear efforts.

Until the U.S. Congress is assured that these measures have been implemented, sanctions must not be eased. The security of the U.S., Israel, and of our allies demands that

we continue to apply pressure on the Ayatollah and his regime to ensure that they keep their word now and into the future.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA BELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Paula Bell of Des Moines, Iowa, for receiving the 2014 Wells Fargo Volunteer of the Year Award for the Central Iowa Region.

Wells Fargo has been able to create an environment that fully embraces workplace giving. Last year, they set a company record by pledging \$97.7 million to 30,000 nonprofits and schools. Wells Fargo has donated 6.4 million hours of service since 2011 and steps up in times of need, helping both domestically and abroad.

Paula Bell was granted this prestigious award, as well as \$1000 to donate to a non-profit organization of her choosing, for volunteering 200 of the 111,415 total hours that Wells Fargo team members in the Central Iowa Region logged in 2014. Paula's hard work and dedication to serving others truly embodies our Iowa values.

I applaud her for her commitment to giving back to the community and service to others. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating her for receiving this award. I wish her and her family all the best moving forward.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIC A. GIVENS, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the dedicated service of Lieutenant Colonel Eric A. Givens while serving with the Legislative Affairs Division at the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve from May 19, 2014, until March 8, 2015. During that short time, Eric made a lasting and positive impact on the Army Reserve through his efforts to foster and maintain relationships with Congressional members and staff.

As lead legislative liaison for military readiness and operations programs, Eric ensured that Army Reserve Soldiers' interests were clearly communicated to Members of Congress and their staffs as they considered the impacts of pending legislation. Additionally, Eric led efforts to draft, refine, and promote Administration-approved legislative proposals designed to ensure the well-being of Army Reserve Soldiers and to maintain the high-quality force the Nation has come to expect from its Army Reserve.

Ever the professional Soldier, LTC Givens arrived at the Legislative Affairs Division with nearly three decades of Army Reserve service that began with his enlistment in 1985. He re-

ceived his commission as an officer in 1990 and joined the Active Guard and Reserve program in 1995. His years of experience in the field and as a staff officer at the Pentagon made him an invaluable resource to the Legislative Affairs Division, as his well-developed relationships bore fruit on a daily basis.

LTC Givens' presence in the office and on Capitol Hill brought joy to all who worked with him, and he will no doubt take that same spirit with him wherever his Army Reserve career leads. The Army Reserve's Legislative Affairs Division will remember him as a tireless proponent of Army Reserve equities, and as a Soldier who represents the best of what America has to offer.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia has one of the highest veteran and military populations in the United States. As Representative of this district, it is critical that I receive accurate and timely information so that I can best represent the needs of our service members and ensure that they and their families receive the protections and benefits that they have earned. This would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of men and women like LTC Givens who tirelessly and effectively communicate with our office and advocate for their fellow soldiers.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the residents of the 11th District, I congratulate and thank LTC Givens and his wife, Lisa, for their service to our country and wish them the best for continued success.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF JUDY STUDEBAKER WARREN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved friend, Judy Studebaker Warren. Judy, of the famous Studebaker automobile family, was a vibrant, caring, and passionate individual. Her love of life and contagious smile had a rippling effect of positivity on everyone around her. Sadly, after an almost two year battle with cancer, Judy passed away on July 5, 2015. It is my privilege to honor her extraordinary life on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

A lifelong Hoosier, Judy grew up in Logansport, Indiana and graduated from Logansport High School. After high school she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Indiana University, where she was a proud member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority and later became an active member of the Indiana University Alumni Association. She also served as President of the Junior League of Indianapolis, an organization she loved that benefitted from her energy and talents. Whether it was planning a fundraising gala for the Junior League or hosting a tailgate at an Indiana University football game, Judy was a gracious and amazing hostess who brought joy to everyone around her.

Judy's love of community and commitment to volunteering extended well beyond the Junior League of Indianapolis. She was the founding member of the Indianapolis Chapter of D.A.R.E. in the Pike Township School System