

unofficially formed in 1915 when a group of 5 resourceful and determined women representing each of the churches in DeFuniak Springs gathered at the request of the mayor to take on the beautification and sanitation of the town. The group, which would later become the DeFuniak Springs Woman's Club, set about establishing sanitation standards by improving drinking water and sewer systems, as well as working to make the town as aesthetically pleasing as possible. They were able to secure extra law enforcement officials to prevent the free roaming livestock, and they beautified the parks and train depot by planting gardens.

Once their original purpose was met, the Woman's Club began to provide care to women and children, a mission that continues today. In addition to promoting good health and home sanitation, the Woman's Club has taken on projects to provide food for school children, library books, quality woman's clothing at discounted prices, and, as a sponsor for the Children's Advocacy of the Emerald Coast, support for child abuse victims.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the DeFuniak Woman's Club in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating all the members past and present on one hundred years of exceptional service to the Northwest Florida community.

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT "AL" P.  
PIANTANIDA

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of my good friend and community leader, Albert "Al" P. Piantanida, who passed away on Monday, August 31, 2015.

Al was not only a great friend to me, but a leader in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Al's dedication to his neighborhood and the surrounding community will be noticed by future generations.

Al was a proud Vietnam War Veteran, serving for three years. Al shared his familiarity and experience as a member of my Veterans Advisory Committee. He was also a proud member of the American Legion Post 817 in Panorama City.

While born in East St. Louis, Illinois, Al made his home in Arleta, California for more than thirty years. Al believed that building a better world begins in one's own back yard. Al's intrinsic motivation was to inspire others to become involved in the community.

Al was the perfect constituent. He not only engaged his elected representatives, he offered his service and personally invested in finding solutions to the issues facing the community. He was the perfect American.

He was an active member of his community, serving diligently as the President of the Arleta Neighborhood Council for three years as well as President of the Village Green East Home Owners Association.

Al was the founder of the Arleta Community Watchdogs Organization and member of the Arleta "Looky Loos" Neighborhood Watch Group for over twenty-five years.

Al was always there and involved, actively participating in community events, projects, and programs. Al had a lifelong commitment to public service and improving the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

Al's dedication went beyond his own neighborhood. He was an active member of the Los Angeles Police Department's Foothill and Mission Division Community-Police Advisory Boards, the Police Foundation, and Valley Traffic Advisory Council.

He devoted his life to the betterment of the students and less fortunate—actively participating in food banks, senior centers, and schools. His tireless efforts were recognized when Al received the 2011 Pacoima Spirit Award for community activist of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Albert "Al" P. Piantanida. Although Al is no longer with us in person, he will always remain in our hearts and memories. His legacy will continue for future generations.

CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH YEAR  
OF ALBERT "RED"  
SCHOENDIENST IN PROFESSIONAL  
BASEBALL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the 70th year of Albert "Red" Schoendienst in professional baseball.

During his years involved with professional baseball, 45 seasons were in uniform with the St. Louis Cardinals as a player, manager, and coach. He is still currently involved with the organization as a special assistant to the manager. The organization, players, and fans will be celebrating Red all season long using the hashtag #LoveRed2.

His career with the Cardinals started in 1945 when he left his hometown of Germantown, Illinois, here in the 15th District. He quickly developed into one of the best hitting and fielding second basemen of all time. With multiple World Series wins and National League pennants won as both a player and a coach and as a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, I am honored to recognize such an accomplished athlete who hails from the district.

I look forward to Red's continued involvement with the Cardinals for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUN  
TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud that members of Congress from both sides of the aisle came together to deal with the gun trafficking epidemic that has spread across our country and across our borders.

Our bill, the Gun Trafficking Prevention Act, will create a dedicated federal statute to com-

bat gun trafficking, and impose stiffer penalties for "straw purchasers" who buy guns for convicted felons and others who are prohibited from purchasing weapons. The bill also includes important enhancements for organizers of trafficking networks that funnel illegal guns into cities across the country.

These stronger penalties will enable law enforcement and prosecutors to bust these trafficking rings and make our communities safer from the threat of gun violence.

According to the ATF, more than 100,000 guns were recovered from crime scenes in Mexico between 2009 and 2014, and over 70 percent of those originated in the U.S. It's clear that gun trafficking across the border to Mexico is a major national security threat, but our current laws are so weak that it's not worth it to prosecute gun traffickers.

In testimony to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in 2012, ATF Special Agent Peter Forcelli called the current laws against gun trafficking "absolutely toothless." And the consequences have been dire:

On Christmas Eve, 2012, a convicted felon named William Spengler, who served 17 years in prison for killing his 92-year-old grandmother with a hammer, sat down in his home in Webster, N.Y., and wrote a note vowing to torch his neighborhood.

He promised to "do what I like doing best, killing people." After setting fire to his own house and several others, Spengler ambushed the first responders, killing two firefighters by spraying them with bullets from a 12-gauge shotgun and a Bushmaster rifle.

How did Mr. Spengler—a convicted felon—get his guns? He used his neighbor as a straw purchaser.

And this May, authorities in New York charged 10 people in a gun trafficking ring that had channeled 90 guns from as far away as Maine onto our streets in just the previous six months.

Thank you to Representatives CUMMINGS, MEEHAN, FITZPATRICK, KELLY, KING, DUCKWORTH, and DONOVAN for their steadfast commitment to end gun trafficking, and their support of this critical legislation.

IN MEMORY OF THE HEROES OF  
BENGHAZI: NAVY SEAL CHRIS  
DOHERTY, DIPLOMAT SEAN  
SMITH, AMBASSADOR CHRIS  
STEVENS, AND NAVY SEAL TY-  
RONE WOODS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in memory of the four American Heroes who died in the Benghazi Terrorist Attack three years ago on 9/11 in service to our country. Ambassador Chris Stevens, Diplomat Sean Smith, Former Navy Seals Chris Doherty and Tyrone Woods. Their courage and service to our Nation will always be remembered. On this third anniversary our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

Out of the Woods, and into the light  
Those brave hearts who evil must fight  
Those ones who served their country tis of  
thee so magnificently,

all on that most heroic of all nights  
 Who stood strong, who stood long,  
 ever so bright  
 To see heaven's light  
 Out of the Woods,  
 and into the light  
 The ones who chose to be in harm's way,  
 standing up for what is right  
 Indeed, it is but a special breed,  
 who in the name of public service who will  
 intercede and so fight  
 Whether, an Ambassador, a Diplomat, or  
 Brothers In Arms,  
 who together chose to unite  
**STAND DOWN**  
**HELL NO**  
 Against all odds as into that darkness they'd  
 go  
 Leave no brother behind was how they all  
 lived and so died  
 As their Mothers cried,  
 with tears in their eyes  
 As Heaven them chose,  
 they'd rise  
 In the moment of truth,  
 only the bravest of all hearts so choose to  
 fight  
 While, against all odds,  
 these heroes acted like gods bringing their  
 light  
 All in their creed,  
 showing us what we all need to make this  
 world right  
 Courage and Faith,  
 and unending Conviction to make it a far  
 better place  
 Because minutes are all that we have  
 To make a difference,  
 all in that fight of Good versus Bad  
 It's better to live for something noble,  
 than die for nothing at all  
 As they went into the darkest of Woods,  
 with Strength In Honor one and all  
 Rest  
 Rest, our four American Sons,  
 your battle's over now, it's done,  
 you're out of the Woods and into the light  
 For Heaven holds a place,  
 for all of those men and women of such  
 splendid faith  
 Who to this our world bring their most self-  
 less light  
 Amen

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 490 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

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IN COMMEMORATION OF ARTHUR  
 A. COLLINS' 106TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the birthday of a true innovator and representative of American ingenuity: Arthur A. Collins. Fascinated and inspired by the invention of the radio, Collins tinkered with home-made antennas and transmitters from an early age at his home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As a young adult, Arthur turned his hobby into a basement business where he sold the first

complete radio transmitting equipment in the country.

Since its humble beginnings in Iowa in the thirties, the Collins Radio Company evolved and adapted to design and manufacture flight control instruments, first commercially successful data modems, and the communications equipment for the Apollo, Gemini, and Mercury space programs. Today, Rockwell Collins, the largest employer in the First District of Iowa, continues to create innovative technology for both the defense and civilian sectors. The company, still based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, designs, engineers, and builds electronic communication systems, avionics, and in-flight entertainment systems worldwide.

Arthur A. Collins pioneered one of the greatest technological revolutions in history and left an enduring legacy in the business world. Today, on what would have been his 106th birthday, I honor the genius of this great Iowan and celebrate his American success story. Mr. Collins is an amazing example of the American Dream and a testament to the power of hard work, foresight, and perseverance.

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HONORING JULIE CARSON

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wilton Manors City Commissioner, Julie Carson and her work with the LGBT community.

Commissioner Carson is being presented with the "Community Partner for Equality" award from Equality Florida for her tireless work for the LGBT community.

In 2010, Carson became the first openly lesbian elected official in Broward County. Throughout her tenure as Commissioner, she has focused on helping the homeless, assisting the elderly, advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS, and supporting the Transgender community. Specifically, she sponsored the Equal Benefits Ordinance and the Broward County Vendor Preference Ordinance, which ensured equal benefits to all married couples. She is also proud of her continued dialogue and collaboration between the Transgender community and the Wilton Manors Police Department.

Outside of her duties as Commissioner, Carson is a free-lance paralegal and a guest lecturer at Florida Atlantic University. She enjoys spending time with her partner Susan and horseback riding in her free time.

I congratulate Commissioner Carson on her award and thank her for all her tremendous work for the South Florida LGBT community. I am proud to represent her in the 22nd District and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 490 I was unable to attend the fol-

lowing vote due to a flight delay from my district in Southwest Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN  
 CROSLAND, JR.

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Crosland, Jr., who passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2015 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Mr. Crosland made a name for himself as a successful real estate developer, but more importantly for his philanthropic work in our community. In 1954, he joined his father at the John Crosland Company. He successfully navigated multiple housing crises through the decades while becoming a champion of affordable housing in the Charlotte area. Additionally, he was the founding chairman of Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte.

Throughout his successful career, he always knew the importance of giving back and helping the local community. In 2012, Mr. Crosland gave \$1.1 million for a new school in Charlotte, now named The John Crosland School, that specializes in assisting children with learning disabilities.

His dedication to serving our community has made an everlasting impact on thousands of lives.

He also served his country in the U.S. Army in Korea and Japan. I am grateful for his service to our country, our state, and to our local community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life of John Crosland, Jr., for his successful career and for his dedication to bettering the lives of so many North Carolinians.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, due to the recent passing of a beloved family member, I was unable to cast my vote yesterday for an important piece of legislation. Had I been in the chamber, I would have voted yes on S. 1359, the E-Warranty Act of 2015.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call number 490 on S. 1359, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.