

Homeland Security Department to have a state-of-the-art communications infrastructure. The Department needs that infrastructure to ensure the smooth functioning of everything from routine daily operations to terrorism response efforts. To understand the importance of a strong communications network, we only need to look back a few weeks ago, when radio communications failed in a Washington Metro tunnel as emergency officials worked to rescue passengers trapped aboard a smoke-filled train.

H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, would use grant funding to enhance our nation's preparedness for chemical and biological events. It is an unfortunate fact of modern life that our nation faces genuine threats from chemical and biological attacks. It makes sense for us to take precautions which will put us in a position to deal with such attacks if they occur.

Finally, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015, would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, which would offer guidance to the emergency preparedness and response community on how to use social media. I have spent years using social media to communicate with my constituents, and have found it extremely effective in rapidly disseminating important information to a wide audience. Emergency services need to be taught how they can best use social media to quickly and effectively communicate with Americans in the period surrounding a terrorist attack or other crisis.

All three of these bills take sensible steps to further protect the American people against threats to their well-being. I urge the House to pass these bills.

#### HONORING AURELIA GREENE

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the people who devote their lives so selflessly to public service are the ones who transform and change entire communities. Such has been the case with Aurelia Greene, my longtime friend and partner in government, whose distinguished career of public service has made a positive, lasting impact on the Bronx and far beyond.

A native Bronxite, Aurelia is a graduate of Livingston College at Rutgers University, where she majored in Community Development. Following school she became a Public Agency Administrator, a prelude to her eventual calling in government. She was elected female district leader for the 76th district before winning the Assembly seat in the Bronx's 77th district in 1981. For the next 27 years, Aurelia served in the Assembly with distinction, using her urban planning skills to negotiate for affordable housing, healthcare, a quality education and employment opportunities for all New Yorkers. She regularly sponsored educational and informational seminars to aid her constituents on issues of concern, and worked hard to bring economic development and businesses to her district.

Aurelia's legislative achievements are many, as she introduced and passed a number of important bills in the State Legislature during

her time as Assemblywoman. Rising through the ranks, she became the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly in 2006, the first African-American to hold the prestigious position which oversees the chamber in the absence of the Assembly Speaker. She also chaired the Assembly's Bronx delegation as the longest serving member in the Assembly from the Bronx.

In 2009, Aurelia was asked to serve as Deputy Borough President by newly elected Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. She has been a steady voice and excellent confidant for the borough president ever since.

Aurelia celebrated her 80th birthday in October, 2014 at a gala brunch hosted in her honor. As I was in attendance, I had the great pleasure of wishing her nothing but the very best on the occasion, and thanked her for all of her amazing service to the public good.

#### DR. ALVIN V. BLOUNT, JR.

#### HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the contributions of Dr. Alvin V. Blount, Jr., a decorated veteran, civil servant and pioneer. Dr. Blount is not only a decorated military surgeon; he is also recognized as an outstanding physician in the Greensboro medical community.

Dr. Blount was born February 24, 1922, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was the eldest of four children. He attended North Carolina A&T University in 1939 and graduated magna cum laude in 1943. After completing his undergraduate degree, he attended Howard University earning his Medical degree in 1947.

After, Dr. Blount entered the military as a member of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He served two tours of military duty in Korea during the War and returned to Greensboro in 1952. In 1957, Dr. Blount, a surgeon by training, became the first African American in North Carolina to earn the American College of Abdominal Surgeons' certification.

In 1964, Dr. Blount championed the integration of Cone Hospital in Greensboro and would become the first African American to operate there. Dr. Blount's distinguished surgical career includes service as chief of surgery for L. Richardson Hospital; a position he held for 23 years. He was also responsible for establishing the hospital's first quality improvement committee.

On February 1, 2007, Dr. Alvin V. Blount, Jr., received the 2007 Human Rights Medal from his alma mater North Carolina A&T State University. The Human Rights Medal is one of the highest awards given by the University and it is presented to an individual for their extraordinary contributions to humanity.

Dr. Blount Jr. has been married to Gwendolyn Harris for over 40 years. They are the proud parents of seven children. They also have nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Blount's contributions to our great nation are many. He bravely served his country during the Korean War and was time and time again a trailblazer in the field of medicine. I ask my colleagues join me in expressing the appreciation of a grateful nation.

#### RECOGNIZING ALCALDESSA MARCIE WALDRON

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcie Waldron, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2015 Alcaldessa, or Honorary Mayor. The title "Alcalde," or "Alcaldessa" when referring to a woman, is the Spanish word for "mayor." While the Alcalde was the primary civil authority during the Spanish colonial period in California, in modern times, it is an honorary title bestowed upon invaluable members of the community.

Ms. Waldron has lived in Sonoma for 12 years, where she has given back to the community as a leader and member of community organizations. She is the president of the Vintage House board, a non-profit organization that promotes the well-being of elderly citizens by encouraging independence and involvement in community life. Ms. Waldron also serves as the interim president of the WillMar Family Grief and Healing Center, which provides support to families grieving the loss of a loved one or living with family members with a life-altering illness. Outside of her leadership roles with these non-profit organizations, Ms. Waldron serves as a board member of the Sonoma Community Center and Kiwanis of Sonoma Plaza.

In addition to her involvement in community organizations, Ms. Waldron works to raise awareness about organ donation. Herself a double transplant recipient, Ms. Waldron speaks to schools and organizations honoring donors and stressing the importance of organ donation. Ms. Waldron also works to recognize donors through her "LifeStar" program, which gives donors hand-made silver LifeStar pendants in appreciation for their gift of life.

Mr. Speaker, Marcie Waldron is a beloved and vitally important member of the community and it is appropriate that we acknowledge her today as Sonoma's Alcaldessa for 2015.

#### HONORING YONKERS KIWANIS CLUB

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, civic organizations play an indispensable role in our society by serving their communities and setting responsible public examples of how volunteerism and service can assist, enrich and inspire rising generations. Civic pride is truly the tie that binds our nation together.

The feeling of belonging to the larger whole, and the practice of serving the greater good is part and parcel of our responsibilities to each other. Those are the tenants that have guided the Yonkers Kiwanis Club, which celebrated its 85th year of service to the Yonkers community in 2014.

The Yonkers Kiwanis Club received its Charter on November 11, 1929, and has been an integral part of the community for decades. Since its founding, the Yonkers Kiwanis Club

has helped foster local youth through a wide variety of projects and programs, including scholarships for High School Seniors, book donations to reading programs, and holiday food baskets for people in need.

The Yonkers Kiwanis Club has also sponsored local children's service clubs, Teacher of the Year awards, and programs focusing on services and facilities for children with special needs. The Yonkers Kiwanis club has also worked in partnership with many organizations to provide service to the community, including Toys for Tots and the Red Cross. The Yonkers Kiwanians have also marshaled their resources to support awareness of health issues including Alzheimer's disease and Cystic Fibrosis.

I commend the Yonkers Kiwanis Club for 85 years of outstanding service, which they commemorated at their annual dinner on October 24, 2014. The impact of their work has been, and will continue to be, an important pillar of the Yonkers community.

**HONORING LOCAL 34 OF THE FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES, UNITE HERE ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees, UNITE HERE as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this wonderful organization!

Representing over 3400 clerical and technical employees at Yale University, Local 34 has given a strong voice to its membership over the last three decades. Their members perform a broad spectrum of duties that make Yale University a world-class institution of teaching, research and medical care. Local 34's efforts have ensured fair salaries and guaranteed raises, healthcare benefits, workplace health and safety protections, as well as good pensions and fully paid retiree medical benefits for members and their spouses. Local 34 can be proud of the work they do on behalf of their members and the role the union plays in making Yale a great place to work.

The organization of Local 34 holds a special place in my memory—it is hard to believe that 30 years have already passed. As the organization effort grew, my husband and I were glad to support them and our basement housed the phone-bank effort. Our home became a base of operation throughout the creation of Local 34 and it was a proud moment when the day of the vote came and Local 34 became a reality. Over the course of the last three decades, Local 34 has played a unique role in our community, not only representing the interests of their members, but also in strengthening the town-gown relationship between Yale University and the City of New Haven.

Understanding the connection between strong communities and healthy employment, in the 1990's Local 34 created the New Haven Resident's Training Program—one of the few

job training initiatives in the entire country that led to a commitment to hire locally. Today, as New Haven and the country emerge from challenging economic times, Local 34 has doubled-down on this effort with the creation of a jobs pipeline—New Haven Works—an organization committed to providing employers with a trained and qualified workforce and connecting New Haven residents to good jobs. Last year alone they placed over 300 individuals in new jobs and the effort is only growing.

From its origins as a "pink-collar" union of secretaries—little sister to the blue-collar Local 35—Local 34 has grown into a labor powerhouse. I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Local 34 President Laurie Kennington, the union's executive leadership, and each of its more than 3400 members as they celebrate this very special anniversary. Happy 30th and best wishes for many more years of success!

AARON T. FORD

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Aaron T. Ford who, after 30 years of service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was honored for his retirement on Thursday, January 29, 2015.

Mr. Ford began his career with the FBI as a Special Agent in August 1985. Following New Agents training, he was assigned to the St. Louis Division, primarily working Violent Crime and Organized Crime matters. He also served on the SWAT team where he participated in the execution of numerous high-risk threats, search warrants and protective details.

In June 1989, Agent Ford was transferred to the Newark Division. He served as Team Leader on the SWAT Team. In August 1998, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent on a drug squad.

In January 2000, he was named the supervisor for the Public Corruption/Civil Rights squad. In August 2005, he was assigned as SSRA of the Red Bank Resident Agency, where he supervised all criminal matters.

In February 2006, Agent Ford was assigned as a Team Leader in the Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington D.C., where he served until August 2007. During this time, he participated in the auditing of all programs throughout the FBI. In October 2007, Agent Ford was designated as Assistant Special Agent in Charge in the Newark Division, first overseeing the Administrative Branch and later the Criminal Enterprise Branch.

As an inspector in the Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters from August 2010 to November 2011, Agent Ford oversaw field office and headquarters inspections, shooting incident review teams, audits and special inquiries.

Prior to his FBI career, he served as a special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation where he investigated a variety of violations including Violent Crime, Fugitives, Drugs, and Corruption.

On April 8, 2013, Director Robert S. Mueller III announced that he has naming Agent Ford as Special Agent in Charge of the Newark Division. Agent Ford most recently served as the

special agent in charge of the Memphis Division.

Agent Ford is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Rutgers School of Law In New Jersey.

Agent Ford truly lived up to the FBI's motto of "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity" by protecting Americans from all threats, both foreign and domestic. As Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I value the sacrifice and dedication of law enforcement officials like Agent Ford, who selflessly serve the great people of the United States of America.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Aaron T. Ford.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Aaron T. Ford's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Aaron T. Ford.

**TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN T. MYERS**

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2015*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman John T. Myers, an American patriot, a dedicated public servant and a great Hoosier who passed away on January 27, 2015. I consider the words recorded on the floor of this House to be the official record of our nation. As such, please allow me to submit the following:

John Myers was born and raised in Covington, Indiana and graduated from Covington High School. His service to our Nation began immediately after his high school graduation when he joined the United States Army. He later earned his B.S. at Indiana State University in 1951 and also attended Eastern Illinois University where he was a member of Sigma Pi.

Though working in the Indiana banking industry, Myers never abandoned his farming roots as he continued to work a farm in Fountain County. Before long however, Myers returned his attention to public service becoming a member of this honorable House of Representatives. He first took office in 1967, winning fifteen consecutive elections and continuing his admirable public service for 30 years before retiring in 1997.

During his tenure representing Indiana's 7th District in the United States Congress.

Mr. Myers became known locally as an essential player in the Lafayette Railroad Relocation Project, a three decades long project that moved the trains from city streets and into a dedicated corridor. The Main Street Bridge was in fact renamed in his honor after the pedestrian bridge was opened as part of the rail relocation project.

As Indiana Governor Pence noted while paying tribute to Congressman Myers, "The legacy of public service he leaves behind is unmatched, and we do well to strive to emulate his example."