

on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best moving forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSOR  
DELORES STEPHENS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations to my former college professor, Dr. Delores Stephens of Morehouse College, upon her receipt of the Vulcan Materials Company's Teaching Excellence Award for the 2015–2016 academic year. Professor Stephens has served Morehouse College faithfully as a Professor of English since 1964.

Presaging her future success in academia, Professor Stephens graduated as valedictorian from Spelman College, where she earned a B.A. in English. She went on to earn an M.A. in English and American Literature from Atlanta University, and a Ph.D. in English at the prestigious Emory University. In fact, her academic accomplishments are not limited to the United States. She has also received a certificate of completion from the University of London and a Testamur from the University of Exeter. Prior to teaching at Morehouse, she was a member of the faculty at the Atlanta School of Business, as well as Norfolk State University and Dillard University.

Professor Stephens arrived at Morehouse College in 1964, and has since played an integral role throughout the campus. She served as chair of the English department for seven years, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of English. Professor Stephens also served as an associate editor of the *Journal of Negro History* for many years.

Professor Stephens' dedication to students extends beyond the classroom. She is a charter member of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, organized at Morehouse in 1976. She has been recognized by the national office as the Upsilon Nu Chapter's sponsor for twenty years. In addition, Professor Stephens has served as a reader for the Educational Testing Services (ETS) for AP examinations and for testing and validation of the SAT Writing Examination. Her advice and tutelage is highly sought after, and she assists by mentoring numerous current and former students.

On a personal note, I was fortunate enough to be a student of Professor Stephens' and also to serve as a student assistant in her office during my freshman and sophomore years at Morehouse. I greatly benefited from her wise counsel and sage advice, which I carried with me through law school and my career, as well as throughout my time in the state legislature and now, in the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and honoring an outstanding educator and dear mentor, Professor Delores Stephens. I firmly believe that Professor Stephens helped lead me on the path that has brought me to where I am today, and

she has charitably provided the same level of astute guidance to many who have come before and after me. We should all aspire to build such a prolific and inspirational legacy as Professor Delores Stephens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CABLE  
INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO  
DIVERSITY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the cable industry's decades-long commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Last week, cable operators, program networks, and business career development experts gathered in New York City for "Diversity Week" to discuss ways to increase the representation of women, people of color, and other underrepresented groups at all levels of their organizations. At this annual meeting, leaders in the industry measure the industry's progress, share effective diversity strategies and best practices, honor the industry's diversity heroes, and raise substantial financial support for industry diversity initiatives like the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications and Women in Cable Telecommunications.

A recent industry workforce diversity survey revealed that 39 percent of full-time cable employees are people of color, which is higher than the national average. The same survey found that thirty two percent of women are industry executives compared to just 20 percent in other industries. These promising results, among other encouraging metrics, demonstrate the cable industry's commitment to greater diversity.

The cable industry fully understands that diversity spurs innovation. It is committed to promoting an inclusive culture that will lend itself to fully engaged and more productive workplaces across the country. Indeed, infusing diversity and inclusion into various layers of the industry will best reflect the customers and communities it serves.

Mr. Speaker, the steps taken by this industry to promote and boost the contributions of women and multi-ethnic professionals are earnest and effective. These efforts not only outline a moral infrastructure for the manner in which companies should conduct business, but reaffirm the industry's commitment to producing meaningful and lasting change in employment diversity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
OF LANA AND HENRY POLLACK

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lana and Henry Pollack for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. The Pollacks both have long, distinguished careers in public service and environmental advocacy.

If you live in Michigan and care about conservation or environmental protection you have likely crossed paths with the Pollacks because they are both tireless workers and experts in the field. Michigan and the nation owe both Lana and Henry a tremendous debt of gratitude for all of their efforts and accomplishments over the years.

A founding member of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Lana Pollack has a distinguished record of public service and is one of the most consistent and powerful environmental advocates in the country. First elected to the Michigan State Senate in 1983 where she served for 11 years, Lana quickly made her mark on environmental policy in the state by authoring the landmark "Polluter Pays" statute that required polluters to pay the cleanup costs of their contamination. This ultimately saved Michigan taxpayers over \$100 million while improving our environment at the same time. Her legacy as an environmental champion continued as president of the Michigan Environmental Council where she served from 1996–2008. In 2010, President Obama appointed her as the U.S. Chair of the International Joint Commission, where she continues to work to protect the Great Lakes in partnership with Canadian officials.

Henry Pollack is one of our nation's pre-eminent experts on climate change, a field that he has studied for a majority of his life. He is currently a professor of geophysics at the University of Michigan where he has served for over 40 years. Henry's contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were numerous and he was one of the scientific leaders of the group. The capstone of his career was when the IPCC was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with Vice President Al Gore for their incredible work. Henry's work on climate change research and policy continues as an adviser to Vice President Gore's Climate Project.

What stands out the most to me about Lana and Henry is their unique appreciation of the urgent need to protect our natural resources that is paired with unmatched expertise in the field. This rare combination of talent has made Michigan a better place to live, work and raise a family. There is no couple more deserving of this tremendous honor than Lana and Henry Pollack. You continue to inspire all of us with your unparalleled work, and we know there are still more chapters to be written in your already incredible story. Congratulations once again for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters—a fitting tribute to a lifetime of service.

HONORING TAIWAN  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday the people of Taiwan will celebrate the National Day of the Republic of China.

For millions of Taiwanese and Taiwanese-Americans, Double Ten Day recognizes the start of the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911 which ultimately led to the establishment of the Republic of China in 1912. Throughout

the nation, this day marks an important moment of its history and a celebration of a free, democratic Taiwan.

In the 104 years since its establishment, the Republic of China has become a strong economic and strategic partner of the United States. Their advancements in scientific development and environmental protection are commendable, and their steadfast commitment to human rights remains an example for nations around the globe. Certainly, there is much to celebrate.

From the Presidential Building in Taipei, to this Capitol in Washington, D.C., let us join together in celebrating this important day and recognizing the bonds shared between the United States and the Republic of China.

I wish the people of Taiwan, and all those celebrating abroad, a happy Double Ten Day and many more years of an independent Republic of China.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

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 \$18,150,545,316,215.04. We've added \$7,523,668,267,301.96 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB AND BERNADETTE STANBROUGH

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob and Bernadette Stanbrough of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Bob and Bernadette married in 1965.

Bob and Bernadette's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best moving forward.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN JULES TRAUT

#### HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Jules Traut, of Libertyville, Illinois, for his service to our country and unwavering

support for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Captain Traut currently serves as a member of the 10th Congressional District Military Academy Nominations Committee. This year marks the 54th year that Jules Traut has served as an Admissions Liaison responsible for interviewing and nominating students for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

As a Liaison Officer, Captain Traut has met with hundreds of students and continues to demonstrate his dedication to helping young men and women achieve their goals of receiving an education from the Academy.

Captain Traut also volunteers his services as Chief Engineering Officer with the Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago where he helps maintain and restore their signature 386-foot ship and club headquarters, the Abegweit.

I am grateful to Captain Traut for his contributions to our community and his selfless service to others.

#### RECOGNIZING SUNDAY OCTOBER 11TH AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunday, October 11 as the International Day of the Girl. This day celebrates the accomplishments of young women throughout the country and throughout the world and empowers future generations of young leaders. This day also promotes discussion on issues that affect girls and women everywhere.

From Sojourner Truth who fought for the abolishment of slavery and the importance of women's rights to Elizabeth Cady Stanton who fought for women's right to vote, throughout our history, women have led and empowered change in our country and around the world.

As husband to a loving wife and father of three girls, I believe that we must foster a climate filled with freedom and opportunity for young women everywhere to learn, lead, and achieve their dreams.

Therefore, let us join in the celebration of the International Day of the Girl.

#### HONORING SHARON PALMER

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank an outstanding public servant from the State of Connecticut on the occasion of her retirement. Sharon Palmer has served for the past three years as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and as a lifelong advocate for our state's workers.

During her time as Commissioner, Sharon has left a lasting mark on the state's economy by improving workforce training programs, strengthening jobs initiatives and working relentlessly to remove fraud from state programs. Sharon has simultaneously worked to advance opportunity for Connecticut's workers,

to preserve the state's valuable resources, and to advocate for federal grants that have allowed innovation to flourish in our home state.

Sharon's involvement with workforce issues dates far before her time as Commissioner. She worked as the former Vice President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and president of the state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, serving as an ally and liaison for workers. Her previous experience as an educator instilled in her a deep understanding of the connection between education, opportunity, and a workforce prepared to power a growing economy.

Sharon never shies from speaking her mind or sticking up for policies that Connecticut workers need and deserve. If you are at odds with Sharon, you can expect a firm, but fair discussion. She would never back down when the well-being of Connecticut families is at stake. Sharon hails from Waterford, CT, in the southeastern part of the state. Somehow she always found time to participate at the local level of town government and was an active member of the Democratic Town Committee. Sharon was and is a staunch supporter of mine who helped me win a victory to Congress in 2006 in a hard fought race that was decided by the smallest of margins—83 votes.

Sharon also was a devoted wife to her departed husband George and the mother of four children, Kerry, Cory, Greg, and Chris.

Although her advice, hard work, and experience will surely be missed by the State of Connecticut, I ask my colleagues to please join in wishing my friend Sharon Palmer a restful and enjoyable retirement.

#### CELEBRATING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LEAH SIMS

#### HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, Friday, October 9, 2015, to ask my fellow colleagues of the 114th United States Congress to join me in celebrating the 85th birthday of Mrs. Leah Sims. I rise not only to celebrate her 85 years, but to also ask that we honor Mrs. Sims for the good work that she has done throughout her life.

Mrs. Sims was a distinguished and beloved educator in my hometown of Murphysboro, IL for nearly 20 years. She taught chorus to elementary, middle, and high school students throughout her career and volunteered as the choir director of the First Baptist Church. She deeply loved her job and students. That love and admiration was returned in kind as some of her former students even joined her church choir to continue on under her direction and tutelage.

Mrs. Sims has been a fixture in her community as both an educator and leader. As a former student of Mrs. Sims, I can say with confidence that there is not a person that has met her who hasn't been positively affected by her compassion, thoughtfulness, and humility.

Her life-long impact on the students lucky enough to call her their teacher is something worth honoring. Once again, I ask that you join me in celebrating the birthday of Mrs.