

Association; the National District Attorneys Association, the California District Attorneys Association, and the National District Attorneys Association. He is part of the Federal Pro Bono Project and a current member of the Betty Kwan Chinn Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Gallegos' dedication to law and the community of Humboldt County is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him.

AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES REGION:
A SECURITY, POLITICAL, AND
HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, to say that the Great Lakes region of Africa is troubled would be an understatement. Burundi is experiencing continued turmoil due to a recent contentious election. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC, has had some level of conflict since the late 1990s. The Lord's Resistance Army, also known as the LRA, has plagued several of these countries. Alleged plundering of DRC resources by Rwanda and Uganda have never been fully resolved. Nations in the region have been preoccupied in the last two years with resolving the South Sudan civil war.

Definitions vary, but the Great Lakes region, as defined by the U.S. Department of State, comprises Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda. The region is among the most densely populated in Africa, especially around Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, and enjoys rich agricultural potential, water resources, minerals, and wildlife. However, political instability, conflict, humanitarian crises, and a lack of development remain key challenges.

These four countries are the purview of the U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, Tom Perriello, whom we had before my subcommittee yesterday. We also had Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who has spent a great deal of her time in office dealing with Great Lakes issues.

Yesterday's hearing offered an opportunity to hear from these administration officials not only about continuing U.S. efforts to extinguish the LRA threat, but also the administration's work with governments in the region on issues such as peace building, governance and adherence to international human rights and democracy standards.

In our subcommittee hearings over the last three years, we have uncovered numerous troubling situations:

Even with the supposed end of operations by the M23 militia in eastern DRC in late 2013, there are several other militias still causing instability in the region.

The Kabila government in the DRC is reportedly using a ban on completing foreign adoptions as leverage to ward off actions to prevent him from prolonging his rule despite a constitutional bar to any reelection bid.

Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term, which some Burundians and outside observers viewed as a violation of a landmark peace agreement—

and, arguably, the Constitution of Burundi—has led to a political crisis and heightened concerns about regional stability.

Human rights abuses in Rwanda were found to be targeted toward real or perceived political opponents prior to 2012, but after 2012, such abuses were seen as more random, expanding the targets of the regime.

Maj. Robert Higerero, a retired Rwandan military officer, told our subcommittee on May 20th about his solicitation by the Rwandan intelligence chief to kill to high-level defectors. He turned against the government and informed the targets who asked him to record the offer. He did, and the recording was validated by the Globe and Mail in Canada and the British Broadcasting Corporation. The State Department has not only found the allegations to be credible but warned Maj. Higerero to leave Belgium where his life was in danger.

Although LRA killings have diminished in the past few years, kidnappings by the group have risen as it operates in smaller, scattered cells, using more adults as temporary labor. One witness at our hearing last month said an end to the U.S. support for the counter-LRA effort would be “devastating.”

We have heard of the difficulties of addressing issues in this troubled region of Africa by both government and private witnesses over the past few years. However, the fates of these countries are interconnected, and our policies need to take this into account.

There are numerous issues in the Great Lakes countries that require examination, and we discussed yesterday what should be a coordinated U.S. policy in this region and we heard from our witnesses what the prospects are for this policy to be implemented.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM
OSBORNE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Mr. William Osborne, as he retires from a long career spanning both the private and public sectors. Whichever job he held, it was clear that Mr. Osborne always had Georgia and its citizens on his mind.

Originally a journalist, Mr. Osborne graduated from the University of Georgia's journalism school with distinction and went on to work at the Atlanta Journal. After a few years, Mr. Osborne left the Journal to direct and help establish DeKalb County's Research-Information office. The office was one of the first public information offices in the United States of America. When the National Association of Counties established their own public information office, Mr. Osborne was chosen to be vice president by his colleagues.

Almost concurrently, he established the City of Atlanta's public information office and held the position for a few months before setting his sights on helping to improve the education system in Atlanta and Conyers. As Director of Information and Community Relations and later of Evaluation and Dissemination of Pupil Personnel Services, he undertook the effort of desegregating and integrating Atlanta public schools in the 1960's.

He has helped to develop and improve communities and cities throughout metro Atlanta as a consultant and throughout the southern United States as a part of the Council of State Governments. Mr. Osborne has advocated for citizens and the improvement of Georgia as well as throughout the United States.

Mr. Osborne served as Executive Director for the Southern Governor's Association and maintained their Atlanta office, working with 19 Governors and their key staff members.

As the City Manager for Douglasville, for which he was reappointed 24 times, Mr. Osborne saw the city triple in population size. He worked with three different mayors and 30 different city council members. He oversaw and guided the city as its budget quadrupled in size. Under Mr. Osborne's guidance and leadership Douglasville has continued to grow and prosper. He will certainly be missed by all who have had the honor of working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Osborne and to commend his passion and dedication for the local government and citizens not only in Douglasville but throughout the State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in venerating this distinguished colleague and his service to the people of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S
DAISY STEED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Daisy Steed on the occasion of her retirement as Manager of Ellyson Industrial Park in Pensacola, Florida. For more than 30 years, Ms. Steed has dedicated her life to serving the Northwest Florida community, and I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Ms. Steed first came to Escambia County in 1982 after serving 17 years with the City of Hartselle, Alabama, where she served in various capacities, including as interim City Manager. An assiduous worker, Ms. Steed also held many different positions in Escambia County, one year serving in five different capacities, before she was called on to help develop Ellyson Industrial Park and Marcus Pointe Commerce Park. As a result of her acumen, work ethic, and dedication to serving her community, Ms. Steed was named “Employee of the Month” several times, and, in 1997, she was selected as “Employee of the Year” in recognition of her excellent performance, courtesy, and professionalism.

During her career managing Ellyson Industrial Park, Ms. Steed was instrumental in recruiting more than 20 companies to the park, helping to bring jobs and bolster economic development in the Gulf Coast region. Ms. Steed's success and dedication is also exemplified by her work securing funding to help build a new National Guard Armory. As a strong supporter of our military and National Guard, and in recognition of her efforts to help shepherd the construction of the National Guard Armory, Ms. Steed was one of a select group of civilians to be awarded the “Leadership Award” from Major General Harrison.

Thanks to her immense success in the role of Manager of the Ellyson Industrial Park, Ms. Steed is affectionately called “the Mayor of Ellyson.” Her level of professionalism and dedication to the enhancement of Escambia County’s economic and industrial development is apparent in the manner in which she represents her Ellyson Industrial Park Association in her day to day life.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Gulf Coast community, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Daisy Steed on her well-earned retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki and I wish her all the best for continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MACEL FALWELL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative ROBERT HURT, I submit these remarks to commemorate and celebrate the life of Macel Falwell. Mrs. Falwell passed away on October 15, 2015, at the age of 82.

The widow of the late Reverend Jerry Falwell, founder of Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, Mrs. Falwell and her husband could never have imagined where God’s plan would take them during their 49 years of marriage. She was self-admittedly timid, but never shied away from life’s experiences and opportunities.

Mrs. Falwell was truly a pillar of the Lynchburg community. She touched many lives through her work with Thomas Road Baptist Church and other local organizations. Many remember the musical talents she shared with her congregation, while others reflect on her work with Liberty Christian Academy, including serving as President of the School Board. It is without a doubt that she leaves behind a rich legacy of service.

But her greatest joy and role was as wife and mother. Mrs. Falwell is survived by three children: Jonathan, the pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, where his father preached for 51 years; Jeannie Savas, a surgeon; and Jerry Jr., the current president of Liberty University. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her children, grandchildren, and many other beloved family members and friends.

As her obituary described: “Mrs. Falwell was well known in the Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University family as a woman of poise and grace. Never desiring the spotlight, she faithfully and quietly stood by her husband for many years as both institutions were founded and built but she was always most comfortable in her role as a pastor’s wife. She was his greatest cheerleader, confidant, advisor and friend during their ministry together.”

While her presence will be greatly missed by those here on Earth, we know that she is now at peace in heaven with her husband. Countless people would echo the sentiment shared by Mrs. Falwell’s son, Jonathan, short-

ly after her passing: “I can’t believe I’ve been so blessed to have her in my life.”

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE NAACP TO-
LEDO BRANCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a significant event in the life and times of a Toledo, Ohio institution: 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the Toledo branch of the NAACP. The organization celebrates this milestone with a special gala on Saturday, October 24, 2015.

The Toledo Branch of the NAACP was chartered on February 2, 1915. Today, one hundred years later, it is one of the oldest continually operating branches in the country. The branch was formed by some of the leading citizens of the day including Albertus Brown—the first chapter president—Charles A. Cottrill and Della Fields. These three founders were able to grow that initial gathering to about 160 people. Since then, the Toledo NAACP branch has marched through time thanks in large part to what historian Kenneth Goings refers to as the “‘unsung heroes’ of the Toledo chapter—everyday men and women who worked behind the scenes over the years to make sure the chapter would make it to its 100th birthday.”

In addition to the legion of “unsung heroes” the Toledo branch of the NAACP was led by several legendary leaders who served at the helm of the organization throughout the years. These leaders’ names reverberate through history, still recognized today through the buildings and streets named for them. We remember their legacy and the shoulders on which the generations forward have stood through the century.

During its rich history the Toledo NAACP has been a leader in the fight for empowerment and justice for all. Its focus grew from battles against outright discrimination in the past to prosperity and ensuring the economic, educational, judicial and social equality as well as enfranchisement of all citizens.

The Toledo branch explains, its “purpose is to serve our mission by having a relevant agenda that emphasizes career and economic development, next level entrepreneurship, political empowerment, educational excellence, health and lifestyle awareness, civil rights and youth outreach.” Coupled with the mission and vision of the NAACP “to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination and ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination” the Toledo branch’s 100 year history is a story of highs and lows in that journey. The organization has been at the vanguard of the events which have shaped our nation’s 20th century and beyond. Today, it continues on a path toward social justice reminiscent of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s admonition that “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Experiencing a rebirth, the Toledo branch of the NAACP is headquartered in the city’s his-

toric Dorr Street corridor, once home to a thriving African American business district and the center of its residential communities. The corridor’s own storied history marched alongside that of the NAACP in bringing prosperity to Toledo’s African American families.

Former national NAACP chair Julian Bond once explained when discussing the organization, “. . . the NAACP branches—the grassroots—kept plugging away. They kept doing what they do, and they do it well.” For 100 years the Toledo branch of the NAACP has done it well: as a champion of humanity and hope, a beacon of light and a wellspring of truth. As we look back on a century of service, of triumph and trials, we look forward to renewed hope for the future.

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS
WEEK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the forest products industry as we celebrate National Forest Products Week. The forest products industry provides critical contributions to the economy of Georgia and the United States.

In my home state of Georgia, forestry and logging activities employ over 8,600 people; wood products manufacturing facilities employ over 16,800; and pulp and paper manufacturing facilities provide over 18,800 jobs—amounting to a minimum of 44,200 jobs provided by the forest products industry in the State of Georgia alone. Furthermore, these industries contribute over \$2 billion to annual payrolls in Georgia, which underscores the vitality of the forestry industry to the state’s economy.

In addition to the positive economic impact, the forest products industry has made important technological advances in building design to improve the energy efficiency, speed of construction, and environmental performance of buildings. Industry innovation has created new opportunities to expand the use of wood building materials in construction by providing more cost-savings, quicker construction times, and fewer impacts to the environment than alternative building materials.

In fact, lumber is the only building material that naturally-impounds carbon, significantly reducing the overall carbon footprint of a construction project. Additionally, wood manufacturing requires far less energy and results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions than other common construction materials, as noted in a study by the U.S. Forest Service.

As Americans continue to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings, it is essential that we encourage the use of wood in homes and buildings, particularly federal government buildings, where the efficiency savings gained from using forest products can be passed on to the taxpayers.

Given the positive economic and environmental impact on Georgia and on the country as whole, I am pleased to honor the fine companies and employees of this industry during National Forest Products Week.