

in Electrical Engineering. He has subsequently earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Matt has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Major Kelley's assignments include Armor Officer Student, United States Army Armor School, Fort Knox; Tank Platoon Leader, Troop Executive Officer, and Task Force Scout Platoon Leader, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin; Instructor, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Oregon; Reconnaissance Troop Commander and Headquarters Troop Commander, 4th Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany. Additionally, Major Kelley was deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq, from 2005–2006, and Regional Command—South, Afghanistan, from 2010–2011.

In 2013, Matt was selected to be an Army Congressional Fellow for one year, working in a Congressional office on Capitol Hill. Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, working closely with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Matt ensured the Army's budget positions were well represented and articulated to the Appropriations Committees.

Throughout his career, Major Kelley has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Matt Kelley over the last two years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Matt for his service to his country and we wish him, his wife Erin, and children, Grace, Samuel, Jack, and Tommy all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF MR. CLAYBON J.
EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, respected businessman, and loving husband, father, and friend, Mr. Claybon J. Edwards. Sadly, Mr. Edwards passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. A funeral service was held on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Peach County High School Auditorium in Fort Valley, Georgia.

Often affectionately referred to as "Clay," Mr. Edwards was born in Fort Valley to Martin and Julia Edwards. In 1950, Mr. Edwards earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduation, he represented Morris Brown College in a Chicago-based Life Insurance Program sponsored by Supreme Life Insurance Company. The program was established for business administration graduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Mr. Edwards then went on to serve our nation honorably in the military for two years.

In 1963, Mr. Edwards joined his father and his brother, A.J., in the family business at Edwards Funeral Home. He attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science of Chicago and then relocated to Fort Valley, where he became a licensed embalmer and funeral director of Georgia.

Later, Edwards Funeral Home was renamed to C.J. Edwards Funeral Home, Inc. and Mr. Edwards became President and CEO. The foundational values of the funeral home did not change, however, and it remained very much a family business. Mr. Edwards' wife, Mary, their daughter, Denise, and son-in-law Anthony, along with Mr. Edwards' sister, Mary Julia, and her daughter Karen, are all involved in the operation of the funeral home. In addition, Mr. Edwards founded Edwards Insurance Agency to add to the business structure.

Mr. Edwards put as much love into serving his community as he did into his businesses. He served numerous organizations, including the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities, and various funeral service trade associations. He was also a Deacon at Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Valley, Georgia.

In 1970, Mr. Edwards became the first African American to be elected to serve on the City Council in Fort Valley. He served four terms and served as Mayor Pro Tem for two years.

Claybon Edwards accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife of forty-five years, Mary; daughter, Denise; three grandchildren, Sebastian, Samantha, Courtney, and Caitlin; and one great-grandchild, Saniya.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, salute Claybon J. Edwards for his dedicated service to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 30, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 644, to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 645, the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act.

RECOGNIZING GOEUN CHOI, CHRISTIAN HAILE, JASMINE MARTINEZ, CHRISTINA RIMBEY, AND EITAN WOLF

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Goeun Choi, Christian Haile, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Rimbey and Eitan Wolf for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 114th Congress, First Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these five and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All five of our interns have made plans to continue their education and professional occupations in Washington, D.C. and throughout the United States. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Goeun Choi, Christian Haile, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Rimbey and Eitan Wolf for their service this autumn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 644 and 645. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call vote numbers 644 and 645.

HONORING ROSA PARKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved civil rights activist and "mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Rosa Parks. Sixty years ago today, Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

This single act of civil disobedience unwittingly helped build the foundation for a nationwide movement to end the discriminatory policies of segregation. She empowered thousands of African Americans to come together and launch a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasted 381 days. Thousands of members from the African American community rallied together to carpool, use African American-operated cabs, or even going as far to walk many miles to work. It was a huge success that sent a strong message to those who would choose to discriminate against others.

Rosa Parks endured great personal hardship following her protest. She was fired from her job at a local department store and her husband was retaliated against in his own place of work, losing his job in the process as well. Rosa Parks was ultimately forced to leave Montgomery for Detroit, Michigan where she could begin a new life. However, her suffering would not be in vain and in 1956, the United States Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that Jim Crow laws were unconstitutional.

Rosa Parks channeled discrimination against her into positive action. She founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, which is aimed at providing youth with life skills, character development, and education on civil rights history. Her contributions have been widely recognized thereafter. Rosa Parks is the recipient of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) highest award, the Spingarn Medal. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest award that United States Congress can bestow on a civilian.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks serves as an inspiration to us all. Her story teaches us how the brave actions of one individual can inspire the actions of an entire generation. Individuals like Rosa Parks light the way and show us exactly how we can achieve the change we so greatly desire. Her actions changed the course of history and her legacy will be remembered far and wide.

RECOGNIZING THE 106TH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING IN PERKASIE BOROUGH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, three years before the lights on the famous Christmas tree in New York City's Rockefeller Center were flipped on, a small town in my district of Pennsylvania began a tradition that has spanned generations and leads the nation.

Since 1909, residents of Perkasie Borough have been gathering together in early December to light the community Christmas tree—a tradition that stands as America's oldest continuous tree lighting.

A town of under 3,000 at the time of its first Christmas celebration, Perkasie has grown steadily while community leaders, elected officials and local residents have kept its unique small town charm and timeless Christmas ritual.

Today, I recognize December 5th as what will be Perkasie's 106th consecutive community Christmas tree lighting and join in the celebration of this enduring holiday tradition.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE HARTE

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who dedicated his life to

serving his family and his community: Duane Harte, who passed away on Monday, November 23rd, at the age of 68.

Harte was born in 1947 and moved to the Santa Clarita Valley in 1974, where he and his wife Pauline raised their two daughters. He retired in 1990 as Senior Chief Petty Officer from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 23 years of service and owned a small business called Academy Addressing and Mailing.

Harte's contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley were numerous. He was president of the Santa Clarita Valley Veteran's Memorial Committee and founding president of the SCV Senior Center Charitable Foundation. He was also active in the Friends of Mentryville, SCV Historical Society, was the President of the SCV Veterans Memorial Committee, past chairman of the SCV Chamber of Commerce, SCV Committee on Aging, Newhall Redevelopment Committee, Friends of the Libraries of the SCV, Canyon Theatre Guild Board of Directors, and the Vice-Chairman of the Santa Clarita Parade Committee.

In 2008, Harte was selected to serve as a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioner, where he served until he passed away due to a massive heart attack in his Santa Clarita home.

Harte is survived by his wife of 43 years, Pauline, their two daughters, Donna and Denise, and grandson Evan Alexander.

TRIBUTE TO CARL KLUVER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Carl Kluber of Shenandoah, Iowa, for receiving his high school diploma.

Two years after leaving the Charter Oak High School in 1942, Carl joined the military to serve his country. It wasn't until October 10th, 2015 that Carl was able to attain his diploma. Carl served our country honorably during World War II aboard the USS *Richmond* during his time in the U.S. Navy. He never regretted joining the military, but always wished he had finished high school. Carl made it known to his family that he wished he had received his high school diploma, and with the support and encouragement of his grandson he decided it wasn't too late to graduate. Carl's grandson John Olson contacted the Charter Oak-Ute Community School District and inquired about getting a diploma for his grandfather. After explaining the situation to school officials and once the Charter Oak School District verified that Carl had indeed been a student there, a diploma was granted. Surrounded by family, Carl received his diploma, saying, "It was a great day and one I'll never forget."

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Carl for his accomplishments and receiving his high school diploma. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress for his distinguished service to our country. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Carl and wishing him nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE JOSEPH PARNESS

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. George Joseph Parness, a distinguished American hero, who spent his life improving the lives of others.

George joined the United States Navy just days after Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was ordered to report to the USS *Nicholson*, and also served aboard the USS *LeHardy*, the USS *President Hayes*, the USS *Phelps*, and the USS *Randall*. After WWII, George returned home only to eventually reenlist during the Korean Conflict. He served aboard many ships including the USS *Achernar*.

After returning from war George met his wife, June, and on February 12, 1954, they married. George then went on to work in the newspaper business, served as Mayor of Suffern, New York, and served as Rockland County Legislature. George and his wife then retired to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

George will be greatly missed and I ask that we keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION, TREATMENT, HOPE, AND DIGNITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing comprehensive legislation that both prevents new obstetric fistulas and helps to treat existing ones, helping millions of women around the world regain control of their health and dignity. The Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act will support a cooperative effort to eradicate a heartbreaking, preventable condition that has been largely eliminated in the developed world.

Childbirth should not leave a woman disabled or ostracized by her family and community. Congress must commit to expanding access to treatment for the more than two million women worldwide who suffer from obstetric fistula and preventing new cases.

Obstetric fistula is a devastating condition that results from prolonged, obstructed labor without proper medical attention. During delivery, the infant's head presses against the woman's pelvis for so long that it creates a hole between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving her without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if untreated. It also often results in a stillbirth. Mothers with fistulas are abandoned by their husbands and shunned by their families. According to the World Health Organization, there are between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases each year.

Fortunately, obstetric fistula is both treatable and preventable. Ninety percent of cases can be treated with a surgery costing an average