

Board, founding of the Pomfret Gardeners, membership on the Community Regional YMCA Board, and serving as Director of the Performing Arts of Northeastern Connecticut.

I ask my colleagues to please rise to thank Maureen for her years of steadfast dedication. Although her leadership as First Selectman will surely be missed, I am confident that her commitment to Pomfret will continue in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2015,” authorizes 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships and converts 16 temporary bankruptcy judgeships to permanent status, based on recommendation of the Judicial Conference of the United States. With respect to the 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships, they are authorized pursuant to section 3 of the bill as follows: 2 for the District of Delaware; 2 for the Eastern District of Michigan; and 2 for the Middle District of Florida. With respect to the 16 conversions, they are authorized pursuant to section 2 of the bill for the following districts:

- 5 for the District of Delaware;
- 2 for the Southern District of Florida;
- 3 for the District of Maryland;
- 1 for the Eastern District of Michigan;
- 1 for the District of Nevada;
- 1 for the Eastern District of North Carolina;
- 2 for the District of Puerto Rico;
- 1 for the Western District of Tennessee; and
- 1 for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This legislation responds to a serious need. Since the last time additional bankruptcy judgeships were authorized, which was 10 years ago, the 6 districts that would be authorized additional judicial resources by this bill have experienced a 55 percent increase in weighted filings, according to the Judicial Conference.

All 16 of the temporary bankruptcy judgeships that the bill converts to permanent status are set to lapse as of May 25, 2017. As the Conference observes, “These bankruptcy courts would face a serious and, in many cases, debilitating workload crisis if their temporary judgeships were to expire.”

The need for these additional judicial resources is based on a comprehensive analysis performed by the Judicial Conference based on a formal survey of all judicial circuits conducted pursuant to section 152(b)(2) of title 28 of the United States Code. Criteria considered include the workload of each court, case filing statistics, and geographic factors, among other matters.

CONGRATULATING THE HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL BLACK CATS FOR THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Herculaneum Black Cats for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 State Boys Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home 2nd place to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Herculaneum Black Cats for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FLETCHALL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Margaret Fletchall on the celebration of her 102nd birthday. Margaret celebrated her 102nd birthday on October 31, 2015 in Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Margaret’s life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism, and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Margaret has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Margaret in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 102nd birthday. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Margaret for reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES ON THE OPENING OF THE FAIRFAX VETERANS BENEFITS OFFICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey, Jr. and Department of Veterans Services Benefits Director Tom Herthel on the opening of the new Veterans Benefits office in Fairfax City.

The 11th District of Virginia is home to almost 54,000 veterans. More than 70% are veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf. The opening of this new center will ensure that they receive timely access to the benefits they have earned.

The opening of this office is yet another step in addressing the needs of our veterans. While the statistics indicate that overall, veterans in the 11th District may be more economically or professionally secure, the dedicated men and women who have served our country in uniform are still plagued by the same issues that veterans around the country face including prolonged disability or appeal processing times, difficulty scheduling appointments with the VA medical centers, and delays in receiving Post 9-11 GI Bill educational benefits. We must do more to ensure that these issues and others are addressed and resolved. For our community, the statistics are encouraging. The percentage of unemployed veterans is 3.3%, two percentage points better than the national average. The percentage of veterans living below the poverty line is 2.2%, well below the national average of 12.5%. More than 60% of veterans in this district have a bachelor’s degree or higher, almost twice the national average.

These numbers speak to the character of these individuals and also to the network of support services that have emerged in the 11th District. We, as a community, are united in our efforts to provide any and all assistance and guidance needed.

Mr. Speaker, providing care for our men and women in uniform after they return home from the battlefield is a sacred obligation. I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and its dedicated staff on the opening of this new Veterans Benefits Office, and I offer my continued support and assistance to these ongoing efforts.

OYSTER CREEK’S STAR TEACHER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brittany Mayland for being named a Star in the Classroom by the Houston Texans.

Ms. Mayland is a kindergarten teacher at Oyster Creek Elementary School in my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. Her positive impact and commitment to her students led one of her students, Izabelle Paul, to nominate her for this award presented by the Houston Texans and First Community Credit Union. Her dedication to creating a fun and engaging learning environment shows her star quality in the classroom. The students at Oyster Creek are lucky to have her.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ms. Mayland for being named a Star in the Classroom.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, THE AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the University of Houston Cougars capped off their thrilling season with a 24–13 win against the Temple University Owls in the American Athletic Conference Championship Game. Houston won by 11 points and led from the very start of the game. With this win, the Cougars finished the regular season 12–1. They now face a matchup against the #9 Florida State University Seminoles in the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl.

What is most amazing about the Cougars successful season is the fact that it was engineered by a rookie head coach: Tom Herman. Herman is a former national championship winning offensive coordinator at Ohio State University and a previous recipient of the Broyles Award for the nation's top assistant coach. He came to the University of Houston as a first-time head coach this season. This type of success in a coach's first season is rare. Herman's Houston team was led by its do-it-all quarterback, Greg Ward, Jr., who finished the season with 2,590 passing yards, 16 touchdowns, and only 5 interceptions. The All-Conference quarterback also tacked on 1,041 rushing yards and 19 touchdown runs for good measure. The excitement of watching this team play brought me back to 1989, when Coach Jack Pardee's run-and-shoot offense led the Cougars to a 9-win season and quarterback Andre Ware took home the Heisman Trophy.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Herman and the Houston Cougars aren't finished just yet. After the Cougars New Year's Eve duel with perennial powerhouse Florida State, the team will refocus its sights on coming back strong again next year. With the Cougars locking in Coach Herman to a contract extension and returning many of its key contributors, this team will be a force next year and hopefully for years to come. I look forward to spending December 31st ringing in the New Year with friends, family, and another Cougars victory. Go Cougars!

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Virginia.

On July 3, 1902, the late William Chin donated a parcel of land for what would later become the site of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Initially, the site was used for the Agnewville Mission Sunday School. Under the leadership of Sister Florence Chin and Reverend Bras Clark, with the support of Neabsco and Ebenezer Baptist Churches, members of the community established a Sunday school class for

the residents of Agnewville. It was not until years later when the members of the Agnewville Mission Sunday School founded Mount Olive Baptist Church. The cornerstone for the church was laid on October 15, 1915. Together, Brother George W. Ray, Brother William Chin, Brother George Thomas, and other men from the congregation built the original church edifice on Telegraph Road.

Since the founding of Mount Olive Baptist Church, six pastors have graced the pulpit leading the congregation in worship, praise, and discipleship. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following names of each of the governing pastors of Mount Olive Baptist Church since the church's founding in 1915:

Reverend William Davis, Reverend William Tyler, Reverend George W. Pratt, Reverend Edward W. Burrell, Reverend Frederick L. Ray. Most recently, Reverend Clyde W. Ellis, Jr. was called to the pulpit on March 3, 2011, to lead the congregation.

Reverend Ellis, the spiritual son of Reverend Ray, became the sixth pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Under Reverend Ellis' leadership, Mount Olive has both literally and figuratively flourished beyond the walls of the sanctuary on Telegraph Road. With more than 400 members, Mount Olive's weekly worship is temporarily being held at Freedom High School on Neabsco Mills Road until the construction of the new edifice is complete.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Pastor Ellis has nurtured a thriving congregation that will no doubt continue to grow and fulfill Mount Olive's mission of worship and praise. I would like to wish Pastor Ellis and his congregation the very best as they celebrate their heritage and plan for a successful future.

HONORING CORPORAL TIBOR RUBIN

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, December 5, 2015, the city of Garden Grove lost a genuine American hero when, Tibor "Teddy" Rubin, a Holocaust survivor and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, passed away due to natural causes. He was 86 years old.

Corporal Rubin began his extraordinary life on June 18, 1929, in Pastzo, Hungary. His father served in the Hungarian Army and was a veteran of the First World War. When Corporal Rubin was only 14 years old he was sent to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. He survived the 14 months of captivity until his prison camp was liberated by American forces in May 1945. Tragically, his father, stepmother, and younger sister would perish.

Corporal Rubin, immensely thankful for his liberation by American forces, wished to join the U.S. Army in order to repay the country that he felt he was so indebted to. After failing twice to enlist due to poor English, he was finally able to join in 1948 as a rifleman with I Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Corporal Rubin's courage is made evident by his Medal of Honor citation. Corporal Rubin

fought bravely and did everything to protect his brothers in arms. He distinguished himself on October 30, 1950, during a nighttime assault on his unit's position by an overwhelming Chinese force. Corporal Rubin manned a .30 caliber machine gun and fended off the assault until his ammunition was exhausted. Because of his valiant and selfless actions the Chinese assault was slowed and his unit was able to successfully escape the overwhelming enemy force. Corporal Rubin would be severely wounded and taken as a prisoner of war. He chose to remain a prisoner rather than taking a Chinese offer to be sent back to his native Hungary. Corporal Rubin risked torture and execution on multiple occasions in order to retrieve food and aid for his fellow imprisoned Soldiers. His horrific experience as a Holocaust survivor gave him the skills necessary to remain hopeful and keep himself and his comrades alive in a terrible situation.

Unfortunately, because of an anti-Semitic superior, Corporal Rubin's courageous military service would go unrecognized for another 55 years. He would finally be awarded the Medal of Honor on September 23, 2005, for his heroic actions in the Korean peninsula.

Corporal Rubin is survived by his wife, Yvonne, and his two children Frank and Rosalyn Rubin. He was a proud American and the kind of model citizen we should all strive to be. Corporal Rubin, despite everything he went through in life, preserved his optimism and his terrific sense of humor. His extraordinary immigrant story is an inspiration to us all. His passing is a great loss for our country, but his memory will forever live on.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REQUIRE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO INSTALL THE D.C. SEAL IN THE MAIN READING ROOM OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to require the Library of Congress to install the District of Columbia seal in the Main Reading Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. The Library is one of the few buildings in the District that remains open to the public on most holidays. It provides not only D.C. residents but visitors and researchers from across the nation with access to incomparable resources. The bill requires the Library to depict the District's seal on the stained-glass windows in the Main Reading Room, where the seals of all the states and territories that existed when the building was constructed, except for the District, are depicted. D.C.'s seal was readily available at that time and should have been included. The seals of Hawaii and Alaska are not included in the display because they were not states or territories when the building was constructed. The fact that these two states were not part of the Union at the time of the creation of the stained-glass windows argues for the inclusion of the District, which, after all, was in fact the nation's capital at the time. We are asking that omission of D.C. be corrected immediately. This omission was brought to my