

eighteen female high school students on completing the BAE Systems Women in Technology Program, which encourages young women to consider pursuing careers in technology. As a country we need more programs like this to encourage our young women to pursue their interests and become future leaders, and to discourage them from thinking that certain careers are strictly for men.

In New Hampshire, women make up half of the state's population and about a quarter of our businesses are owned by women. It is clear that the success of women in business is vitally important to New Hampshire's future, and the same can be said for the rest of our country. On International Women's Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize not just the progress we have made, but also how much work remains to be done. As a country we must promote the success of women.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing International Women's Day and the women who are continuing the fight to ensure there is equal opportunity for women in the present and future.

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THE FIRST AND FINEST

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Port of Houston Authority for successfully completing its certification process for International Organization for Standardization 14001 Environmental Management Systems. This tri-annual process certifies the ports' Central Maintenance facility and the Bayport and Barbours Cut container terminals.

International Organization for Standardization 14001 certification is one of the hardest to achieve in the environmental industry. Of the 360 seaports in the United States, only 10 are certified. This also marks the fifth consecutive successful certification for the Port of Houston Authority. In 2002, it became the first port in the United States to achieve ISO 14001 status.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Port of Houston Authority for receiving this critical certification. The Port of Houston is an important asset for Houston, Texas and the nation. Best wishes on your continued success.

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WELCOMING THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TO WASHINGTON

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**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, to Washington. Speaker Chung—a neurosurgeon by training—is a distinguished member of the National Assembly, having served five consecutive terms since 1996. Last year, in his capacity as President of the Korea-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Council, he led a delegation and paid a

visit to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where I hosted a legislative exchange. I'm honored to welcome him back to Washington and in his new capacity as Speaker.

For over 60 years, the U.S.-South Korea relationship has been a linchpin of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2013, I welcomed President Park Geun-hye, the Republic of Korea's first female president, to Southern California where she addressed the Korean-American community to discuss the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korean alliance. As a former Chairman of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange, I have been proud to help enhance the alliance, including by upgrading Korea's Foreign Military Sales status to NATO+4, passing the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and securing an extension of the U.S.-Korea Civilian Nuclear Energy Agreement.

As North Korea continues to threaten the United States and our close allies with its nuclear, missile, and now cyber capabilities, I introduced legislation, together with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, to step up the targeting of those financial institutions in Asia and beyond that are supporting this brutal and dangerous regime. By shutting down North Korea's illicit activities, we deprive the Kim regime of the money it needs to pay the generals and to conduct nuclear weapons research. I appreciate that humanitarian groups around the world are strongly supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The United States and the Republic of Korea are strengthening their combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula. Together, we are working toward a shared goal of a Korean Peninsula that is free of nuclear weapons and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and market principles and as articulated in President Park's Dresden address last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to welcome my friend, Speaker Chung Ui-Hwa, to Washington and to the Congress. We are at critical juncture in the U.S.-Korea alliance, but our relationship has never been better. I look forward to working with Speaker Chung on the issues of mutual concern. I further urge my colleagues to do the same and to offer their own expressions of best wishes and support.

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RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

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**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 23rd anniversary of a terrible event in the history of Azerbaijan: the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. That was before Armenian armed forces descended on the town on February 26, 1992, killing over 600 people—including 106 women and 83 children. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost one of their parents, and 25 children lost

both parents. At least 8 families were completely wiped out.

More than two decades after a ceasefire went into effect, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remains occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain displaced from their homes. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory reinforces the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works towards a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan is the only country that borders both Russia and Iran, and yet Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies in security and energy matters. This has included: enforcing sanctions against Iran; providing troops that served shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit for 40 percent of all non-lethal equipment used by NATO forces in Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy that will provide Europe with an alternative source to Russian energy; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil.

I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the devastation of Khojaly twenty-three years ago. As Azerbaijanis around the world recall this massacre and mourn the loss of loved ones, let us remember our support of peaceful efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reforms that promote stability throughout the Southern Caucasus region.

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HONORING BMO HARRIS BANK

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**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce in congratulating BMO Harris Bank as it is honored at the 39th Annual Salute to Accomplishment Dinner.

For over a century, BMO Harris Bank has invested in Joliet, where it currently has five branches employing 61 people. Partnering with community organizations and local governments, BMO Harris Bank has worked on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the community including investing in health care research and community service projects.

Additionally, many BMO Harris Bank employees serve on boards and committees, and are members of various local non-profit organizations, including the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, the Greater Joliet Area YMCA, the Will County Council on Economic Development, and the Joliet Park District.

Again, I would like to congratulate BMO Harris Bank and thank its employees for being a driving force of change in our community.

GOD, FAMILY & COUNTRY: BOB WILKINSON

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, God, family and country. Those three words are a life motto for one of my constituents, Robert “Bob” Lee Wilkinson. Bob is a God-fearing father, grandfather and veteran, who will be celebrating his 80th Birthday this March.

After graduating from Shawnee High School in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1954, Bob joined the US Army. He was just 19 years old. His love of country drove him to the armed forces.

For three years Bob served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He became a Specialist 2nd Class with top security clearance.

Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge, utilizing the GI Bill, Bob attended Oklahoma Baptist University. He graduated with a degree in business administration. He embarked on a successful 38 year career in Human Resources as a Human Resources Executive. Bob met and married his wife, DeLora, shortly after returning to Shawnee from the Army.

Bob began his HR career while still in college, working part time at Oklahoma Gas and Electric. After graduation, he became the HR manager for Wonder Bread and Hostess Cakes in Oklahoma City. Bob was recruited to Dallas to join a startup company, Texas Instruments. At Texas Instruments, he became World Wide HR Director, which transferred him all to different cities all over the Lone Star State. One of these cities being Houston, where Bob lives today.

After 19 years with Texas Instruments, Bob went to work for Compaq Computer, serving as their HR Director for 17 years. From there he went with Drake, Beam Morin, and a Human Recourse Outsourcing Firm. Bob's contribution to HR was quite the journey and it thankfully led him to the Promised Land, Texas, and we are so glad it did. Texas and Oklahoma are grateful for Bob's passion in HR and his willingness to help others.

Bob and DeLora spend their free time traveling to the plains of Montana to visit family. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. You can find them involved in the community and political activities.

2015 will be quite the year for Bob Wilkinson. He celebrates his 80th Birthday on March 13 and this coming May, Bob and DeLora will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary. Congrats to a life and marriage well spent. It is obvious that God, family and country really have been the driving forces in your life, Bob.

I am proud to have you as one of my many neighbors in Houston. I thank you for your service to our great country. I join not only your friends and family, but the entire community when I say, Happy Birthday Bob!

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE SHOULD RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I am proud to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY.

This year we also recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where the United States along with over 189 governments, adopted the “Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.” Since 1995, those commitments have ushered in enormous improvements in the lives of women across the world. It is in the spirit of this inspirational anniversary that we urge the United States to ratify the most comprehensive international agreement on women's rights, CEDAW.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that calls on governments to take appropriate measures to end discrimination against women in all areas of life. The Convention seeks to develop women's equality in legal status, human rights, political participation, employment, education and healthcare, while committing countries to change or eradicate discriminatory laws, customs, and practices.

Despite 187 countries ratifying CEDAW, the United States is the only industrialized country in the world that has not ratified the treaty, even though its fundamental principles of equality and nondiscrimination are paramount to the ideals of our nation. Other nations that have not ratified CEDAW include Somalia and Iran.

Most importantly, CEDAW is not self-executing, meaning that any legislation the United States might adopt to comply with the treaty would have to go through the normal Congressional process.

Ratification of CEDAW would continue our nation's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights. The Senate's ratification of CEDAW would strengthen our standing as a global leader for the rights of women and girls. As we recognize International Women's Day next week, I hope my colleagues will cosponsor this important resolution that will benefit women around the world.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GPO**

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 1861, the Government Printing Office (GPO), as it was then known, opened

its doors and began fulfilling an essential mission for the American people. On March 4, 2015, 154 years later, the newly renamed Government Publishing Office continues to perform that mission: producing and disseminating the official documents of this Congress and the executive and judicial branches to keep America informed. This is not merely my opinion as a proud supporter of the GPO and its talented workforce, but also the conclusion of a 2013 report of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) requested by Congress.

As I noted in the House Administration Committee's activities report for 2014 (H. Rept. 113-721), I was pleased that Congress honored the request of Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks, first made to the Committee in 2013, for statutory redesignation of GPO as the Government Publishing Office. This long-overdue change rightly proclaims to the American people how Congress and the President view the agency.

The proud men and women of GPO do not fulfill their mission solely by applying ink to paper. For decades GPO's employees have been in the vanguard of the Government's shift toward electronic publishing. The agency's former name, focused on the technological limits available at its birth, no longer reflected the breadth of its abilities and importance. GPO's work publishing and distributing information in multiple formats assures Americans perpetual access to the documents of our democracy. This change gives GPO and its employees the recognition they have earned.

During 2014 GPO has continued making significant strides under the stewardship of Ms. Vance-Cooks, who has now become the first Director of the Government Publishing Office. Evidence of the Director's strong management and sound judgment abounds there.

For example, the Partnership for Public Service listed GPO as one of the Best Places to Work and among the top 10 most innovative mid-sized federal agencies. The Partnership compiled its list based on the results of the OPM Federal Viewpoint Survey for 2013. Along a similar vein, a survey of over 500 customer agencies found 90% are generally satisfied with the goods and services GPO provides.

GPO's improved electronic gateway to the growing expanse of Government information, the Federal Digital System, or “FDsys”, has recorded its one-billionth document retrieval. FDsys users can now browse among over one million titles as routine as daily editions of the Federal Register and as historic as President Nixon's Watergate grand-jury testimony. GPO is already taking steps to create the next generation FDsys with improved search and retrieval capabilities. GPO is also collaborating with the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Library of Congress and others to make legislative data available to users in bulk form.

Although the Director and her management team have much to be proud of, challenges remain. The Director has embraced the NAPA report, especially its recommendation that GPO increase revenues through lease of surplus space. GPO has redoubled efforts to attract office tenants, including Legislative agencies for which proximity to the Congress offers a premium. With the support of the Joint Committee on Printing, GPO solicited the private