

including nearly 5,000 in my congressional district. Since its creation 50 years ago, more than 32 million children and families have reaped the benefits of Head Start.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Head Start for 50 years of service and enrichment to our nation's children and their families. Its involvement in the lives of our young people is exceptionally significant and deserving of our sincere appreciation.

#### IN HONOR OF LIFEGUARD THOMAS HOLT

#### HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Holt for the outstanding commitment and dedication he has demonstrated to the City of Imperial Beach. Mr. Holt started his public service as an ocean lifeguard in 1967. During his 47 years of service, Thomas Holt made thousands of ocean rescues and provided medical aid to hundreds of beach visitors.

On March 1, 2014, Mr. Holt officially retired at the age of 70. His service is a remarkable achievement in the ocean lifeguarding field. Mr. Holt is recognized by his lifeguard colleagues and the community of Imperial Beach as a hardworking, reliable and dedicated mentor.

Mr. Holt has devoted his life to preserving the lives of others. His outstanding achievements, his leadership and his commitment to the people of California's 51st District, are an inspiration to us all.

#### RECOGNIZING ST. JOHN'S-ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

#### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. John's-St. Andrew's Catholic School in Meire Grove, Minnesota, as it celebrates its centennial.

Founded in 1915, the current schoolhouse was built to meet the growing needs of a thriving Catholic community. After years of remodeling and improvements, and a shift towards being a parochial school, St. John's-St. Andrew's now consists of 40 families. An impressive growth, considering Catholic education in the area began with a deserted log church and 20 children.

For a century, central Minnesotans have sent their sons and daughters to this historic school knowing that they will receive a substantive education centered around Christ. For many, this Catholic tradition spans several generations.

I pray that these children continue to grow in their faith and that they continue to follow Christ's example of service and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating St. John's-St. Andrew's Catholic School on 100 years, and thanking them for

building such a strong Catholic-educated community. May their success continue for decades to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION ACT

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act, a bill that would bring much needed resources to clean up toxic pollution in the Columbia River Basin. The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest. The River and its tributaries provide significant ecological and economic benefits to the Pacific Northwest and the entire United States. Historically, the Columbia and its tributaries have constituted the largest salmon-producing river system in the world, with annual returns peaking at 16 million fish.

The Columbia River was designated an Estuary of National Significance in 1995 and a Large Aquatic Ecosystem (LAE) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006. Yet it remains the only LAE to receive zero Congressional funding pursuant to this designation—despite a growing problem of toxic contamination throughout the River Basin.

Toxic contaminants are present throughout the Columbia River Basin and are harmful to public health and ecosystem health. These contaminants make their way into fish tissues, which when consumed can be damaging to human health. Some of these toxics are known to increase cancer risks and have been linked with neurological, developmental and reproductive problems, including birth defects and learning disabilities. This concern is particularly pressing for tribal populations, who rely on local fish as a dietary and cultural staple and consume large quantities of resident fish. In wildlife, contaminants increase mortality and disease susceptibility and impair reproduction and the ability of the fish to avoid predators.

In 2013, the States of Oregon and Washington issued fish advisories warning the public to protect itself against mercury and PCB contamination by limiting consumption of resident fish species living in the 150 mile stretch of river between Bonneville and McNary Dams.

This bill authorizes the EPA to establish a voluntary, competitive Columbia River Basin grants program to support projects aimed at reducing pollution, cleaning up contaminated sites, improving water quality, monitoring the Basin, and promoting citizen engagement. Eligible entities may include States, tribal and local governments, nonprofits, and private landowners. The legislation authorizes \$50 million per year for five years for this effort, which is estimated to create between 700 and 1,000 family wage jobs per year in the region.

The Columbia River is the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest, but it has become dangerously polluted. It is time to clean up the Columbia River and improve water quality and river health for generations to come.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF COL. ALFRED ROBERT FRENCH II

#### HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute, congratulate and recognize Col. Alfred Robert French II, M.D., for his distinguished military career and years of dedicated service to our nation as we celebrate his upcoming 89th birthday.

Col. French II was raised in Bisbee, AZ and attended Bisbee High School, Wentworth Military Academy and Valley Forge Military Academy, graduating in 1944. Upon graduation, Col. French sought immediate induction into the U.S. Army and his journey in the service of our nation began in a crowded ship that left Brooklyn, New York, bound for Le Havre, France.

Upon arrival, Col. French II was requisitioned by the 61st Signal Battalion of the Third Army and began his service as a driver and a courier in Eider Oberstein, Germany. On occasion, he would drive through Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France, all in one day. He also spent time in the Saar Protectorate, and then moved to Neckersulm, Germany, where he served as a Guard in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp.

Col. French was eventually transferred to Heidelberg, Germany and assigned to the 79th field Artillery group. There, Col. French II had the honor of attending General Patton's funeral service.

Col. French II returned to Phoenix, AZ, and studied at the University of Arizona. Soon after, however, he decided to continue his service to our country by reenlisting in the Army. He was deployed to Japan with the Army of Occupation and subsequently participated in the first battle of the Korean War as part of Task Force Smith, the first U.S. ground maneuver unit to enter combat in Korea.

Throughout his years of service, Col. French II has won numerous awards and distinctions, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Korean Service Medal, and the UN Service Medal.

After the war, Col. French II returned to Phoenix, AZ, and utilized the G.I. Bill to receive a B.S. from Arizona State University. He later graduated from Tulane Medical School with a specialty in Ophthalmology in 1959 and joined his father, Harry French, M.D., in private practice. Col. French II joined the Army National Guard in 1976 and served until 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Col. Alfred French II is a proud member of the Greatest Generation. He fought for our freedom in two different wars and has lived a life defined by service and integrity. I am deeply honored to recognize all that Col. French II has achieved and pleased to congratulate him as he celebrates his 89th birthday.

#### HONORING COACH BILL GUTHRIDGE

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor the memory

of Bill Guthridge, long-time basketball coach at UNC-Chapel Hill, a skilled and dedicated mentor and leader on and off the court.

Bill is best remembered for his illustrious coaching career. He won two national championships in three decades alongside Coach Dean Smith, and he was an assistant coach on the gold medal-winning 1976 Olympic basketball team. After Dean retired, Bill was named head coach of the Tar Heels and took Carolina to two Final Fours in three seasons. All told, he played or coached in more Final Fours than anyone else in NCAA history.

Bill was content to operate behind the scenes, and he liked to tell the story that he and his wife Leesie enjoyed an anniversary dinner in Chapel Hill the night before he took over for Coach Smith without being recognized by a single student or basketball fan.

But anyone who knew anything about Carolina basketball understood the critical contribution that Bill made to the program, and his passing on May 12 has brought forth a torrent of fond memories and tributes.

Those tributes include an appreciation for the remarkable role Bill and Leesie have played in the community of Chapel Hill since their arrival in 1967. I have personally appreciated their encouragement and counsel, and my wife and I have admired the generosity with which they have extended themselves to support numerous good and visionary causes. As a former UNC student, I particularly appreciate their efforts to renovate and modernize the Undergraduate Library through the creation of the William W. and Elise P. Guthridge Library Fund.

I am not alone in appreciating Bill Guthridge's contribution to our community. Ask anyone who knew him—and many who didn't—and you will hear about his quiet devotion to the students he coached, his loyalty to his colleagues and friends, and his commitment to community betterment.

I feel very fortunate to have called Bill Guthridge a friend, and I am honored to pay tribute to his many contributions and the lasting impact they have made on the University and the community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 240 through 242.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #240, yes on #241, and yes on #242.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 2015 EASTERN AREA CONFERENCE OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, from April 22nd through April 26th, 2015, The Eastern Area of the Links, Incorporated hosted their 43rd Eastern Area Conference at the elegant Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Connecticut. This year's

conference theme "Leveraging the Legacy of Friendship and Service" is apropos as we congratulate the 2015 Eastern Area Conference Co-Chairs Sister Links Price and Wilson for organizing this annual meeting. The Eastern Area of the Links is comprised of 73 chapters in the states of Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

As one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary women, the Links are committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. With a membership of 12,000 professional women of color, which also includes my beautiful wife Alma Rangel and my daughter Alicia, the Links Incorporated has established 274 chapters in forty-two states and in three sovereign nations.

Throughout my public and political career, I have witnessed the astonishing work and outstanding community service provided by The Eastern Area of the Links, which has attracted hundreds of distinguished individual achievers and accomplished women of color, who continue to make a difference for our most vulnerable communities in the Eastern States of our Nation. Today, under the leadership of Eastern Area Director Dianne S. Hardison, the outstanding programming of the Eastern Area of the Links, Incorporated has five facets which include Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.

The Eastern Area of the Links initiated a Women's Issues Program, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Marcella Maxwell that evolved into a National Trends Facet Component. The focus of the Women's Issues Program for 2013–2015 was to honor and empower Women who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces as they transitioned from military life to civilian life. The Eastern Area Links initiated programs to mentor, educate, train, and employ women veterans as they transitioned from Combat to Corporate.

Partnering with Dress For Success, FedEx, Citi Corporation, Home Depot, Macy's, College and Universities; and veteran organizations such as the 369th Veterans' Association, New York City Mayor's Office of Military Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Temple University, Syracuse University, Philadelphia Community College, Medgar Evers College, York College, and the Borough of Manhattan College of the City University of New York, the Eastern Area of the Links Combat to Corporate program has successfully given women veterans, many of whom are single mothers and homeless the opportunity to achieve the American dream and raise their families with dignity and resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my esteemed colleagues of the great Eastern States of our Union join me in recognition of the 2015 Eastern Area Conference of the Links, Incorporated, which has focused its mission to support Women Veterans From Combat to Corporate and Women in the Armed Forces that continue to serve our Country proudly and with distinction today.

#### REMEMBERING MAURIE BERMAN

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important and respected member of the Chicago community.

On May 17th we lost a local legend. Mr. Maurie Berman, founder of the famous Superdawg passed away at the age of 89.

After serving his nation in WWII, Mr. Berman returned to Chicago to serve his community. His vision was to serve delicious Chicago style hotdogs without customers even having to leave their cars. In May 1948, Maurie and his wife, Flaurie, opened the first Superdawg at the end of the streetcar line at Devon and Milwaukee Avenues in Chicago. It would be one of the first drive-in restaurants of its time with Flaurie as the first car-hop.

Almost 60 years later, and countless hungry people fed, Superdawg has become a Chicago institution. The business has been passed down from generation to generation with Maurie's great-granddaughter putting in her first shift just a few weeks ago.

Mr. Berman was known not only for serving one of the best hotdogs, but also for being a truly caring person. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend as well as a highly respected member of his community. Maurie never missed an opportunity to help his employees in times of need.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life and accomplishments of Mr. Maurie Berman.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 2014 FAIRFAX COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION AND TREE PRESERVATION AWARDEES

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 20, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of Fairfax County 2014 Land Conservation and Tree Preservation and Planting Awards. Fairfax County is considered one of the best counties in the nation in which to live, work, and raise a family. One reason for this designation is the innovative environmental protection policies that have been implemented by the County and embraced by its business partners, and I was pleased to have led that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. These awards recognize the following developers, designers, and site superintendents, who have excelled in their stewardship of the environment:

LARGE COMMERCIAL: CINDER BED ROAD BUS DIVISION

Owner: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Project Manager: Fred Robertson

Superintendent: Denver Callahan

Contractor: Strittmatter Contracting, LLC

Engineer: Wendel

Site Inspector: Jim Getts

LARGE SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL: GAMBRILL POINTE

Owner: Brookfield Ridge Road, LLC