

pride and gratitude for everything she has done for the good of her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 90th birthday of my friend H. Marie Smith and wish her many more years of success.

#### MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

### HON. KEVIN CRAMER

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, North Dakota's exceptional quality of life has often been recognized by those who live in my state and those who wish they did.

The secret to this quality of life can be found in the quality of our people, the many individuals who dedicate their careers and volunteer time to making their communities better.

Today, I want to recognize Rebekah Christensen, director of the Richland-Wilkin Kinship Program. She was presented with this year's Outstanding Citizen Award by the Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber of Commerce for her work as head of this program.

This Richland-Wilkin Kinship Program matches young people with volunteer adults. Its motto is "Mentors are ordinary people doing ordinary things that produce extraordinary results." This motto holds true as well with dynamic leaders like Rebekah, her mentor volunteers and board members, and the many community members who support the program financially and with community engagement opportunities.

They are all contributing to supporting young people in the Wahpeton-Breckenridge area and helping them transition into successful adults.

#### 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of the Peace Corps.

Since the program's establishment on March 1st, 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, the Peace Corps has been working to promote peace and friendship, and to help nations tackle some of the most pressing challenges they face. As we celebrate, let's remember that the Peace Corps is now active in over 130 nations and its volunteers remain committed to tackling issues such as climate change, pandemic disease, food security, and gender inequality and empowerment.

In the 55 years since its' founding, over 220,000 U.S. citizens, including current Members of Congress, have served their nation in the Peace Corps. And many more are eager to serve. In 2015, the Peace Corps received its highest number of applications (over 23,000) since 1975.

Peace Corps volunteers go abroad for deployments of 2 years aid in the social and

economic developments in some of the world's poorest countries. They serve as teachers and health care providers in communities that lack access to various necessities like food, water, education, healthcare, equality and disease prevention. They also help our nation by becoming the face of America to those they interact with while themselves gaining a better understanding of the culture and people of other nations. Volunteers often immerse themselves in the communities that they are sent to and play a unique role in shaping the lives of the individuals permanently living there.

I want to take a moment to congratulate the 22 residents of my congressional district who currently serve as Peace Corps volunteers. They have been deployed to South Africa, Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Ecuador, just to name a few. I wish these young men and women the best of luck as they begin to make a difference in the communities they have been deployed to. And I have no doubt that these talented and skilled young people will make an incredible difference as Peace Corps volunteers.

I strongly support the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps represents the best of America and the undimmed potential of "soft power" initiatives that help make our world a better place. In the midst of poverty and through war and conflict, the Peace Corps has shown the world a hopeful, uplifting side of America that reflects our fundamental values of peace, prosperity, and progress. The Peace Corps will be a vital part of the U.S. diplomatic and development response and a sign of our nation's long term commitment to help alleviate suffering around the globe.

Let us work to keep this program strong and in business for another 55 years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2016, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote Numbers 79 through 82. If present, I would have voted Yes on vote numbers 79 and 82 and voted No on vote numbers 80 and 81.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF POGROMS AGAINST ARME- NIANS

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twenty-eighth anniversary of the pogroms against people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

Peaceful demonstrations descended into chaos when Azerbaijani rioters attacked Armenian men and women advocating for democracy on February 27, 1988. After three days of unspeakable violence, hundreds of Armenians lost their lives and thousands more no longer had a place to call home.

Undeterred by Soviet oppression, the Armenian community and its dedication to democratic self-determination sparked a movement that finally helped bring an end to the dictatorship of the Soviet Union. The courage demonstrated by the Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh in demanding their rights even after all of the adversity is admirable and should never be forgotten.

Today, authoritarian leaders in Azerbaijan continue to aggravate efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group to achieve lasting peace in Nagorno Karabakh and the surrounding region. This ancient Christian land has borne witness to several crimes against humanity over the years, and I have hope the United States will take on its moral responsibility to ensure the people of Armenia do not live in fear.

On behalf of the thousands of Armenian Americans living in my congressional district, I invite my colleagues to stand with me and the proud people of Nagorno Karabakh in remembering the lives lost and reinvigorating our commitment to freedom and democracy.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BILL BAILEY

### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, and an icon of our Houston community, retired Harris County Precinct 8 Constable Bill Bailey.

Bill Bailey has been the voice of RodeoHouston for the past three decades. He has brought unparalleled enthusiasm and depth of expertise to his craft, honed by years of experience. Bill has been involved with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for over 50 years, where he serves as both a board member and a lifetime vice president.

Bill's iconic voice and announcing talent were honed by an equally prodigious career in broadcast radio, which saw Bill inducted into the Country Radio Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2010. Through the medium of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Bill Bailey has also been instrumental in raising millions of dollars for educational scholarships to benefit Texas area youth and to enrich countless other worthy causes across Southeast Texas.

Let me extend my most hearty congratulations to Bill Bailey as he retires from RodeoHouston and turns the page on another chapter in his storied life.

#### RECOGNIZING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

### HON. KEVIN CRAMER

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, North Dakota's research universities are nurturing bright students in a variety of programs that encourage them to learn, grow, innovate and even change the world.

Today, I congratulate North Dakota State University student Andrew Dalman, a graduate

student in the mechanical engineering program. He has been recognized by the U.S. Society of Manufacturing Engineering as one of the "30 Under 30 Brightest Manufacturing Engineers." And again, Forbes magazine has put Andrew on its list of "30 Under 30 in Manufacturing and Engineering in 2016."

Andy has helped develop an affordable 3D-printed prosthetic arm for children. He was on an NDSU team designing a new shape and type of ceramic dental implant. Now he is focusing on an advanced bone technology project to make medical testing cheaper, safer and more ethical.

The talents of young entrepreneurs and innovators like Andy bring hope and promise to our world as they focus their bright minds on some of the greatest challenges and opportunities facing us today. This is the highest calling of our state's higher education system, especially our outstanding research universities, and I commend all who are part of it.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of Elizabeth City State University—a public, historically black college in North Carolina's First Congressional District.

On March 3, 1891, Representative Hugh Cale, an African American member of the North Carolina General Assembly from Pasquotank County sponsored House Bill 383, which established a normal school to train African Americans to become primary school teachers. Dr. Peter W. Moore, a former slave, served as the school's first Principal, and then President until his retirement in 1928.

Dr. John Henry Bias became the school's second president in 1928 and was responsible for spearheading efforts to implement a baccalaureate program. In 1937, the school's name was officially changed to Elizabeth City State Teachers College after receiving approval from state officials to become a four year school. The first Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary Education were awarded in 1939.

In 1963, the school's name was changed to Elizabeth City State College and was ultimately named Elizabeth City State University in 1969 when the school began awarding graduate degrees. When the University of North Carolina System was formed in 1972, Elizabeth City State University was one of the 16 public institutions to be granted membership.

Nearly 2,500 students attend ECSU. The university now offers 28 undergraduate degrees and 4 graduate programs of study in fields like aviation, natural sciences, arts, mathematics, business, and economics. The ECSU Vikings compete in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Division II and have produced many star athletes over the years.

Elizabeth City State University, like many other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, has played an important part in African

American culture, the history of North Carolina, and has contributed to the overall success of American higher education.

For well over a century, ECSU has lived up to its motto "To Live is to Learn" by producing lifelong learners and affording generations of North Carolinians with the tools necessary to be leaders in our global society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Elizabeth City State University for 125 years of serving and educating African Americans seeking higher education in my state.

RECOGNIZING DAN EARL JONES

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Dan Earl Jones, Chairman of the South Carolina Cable Television Association from 2015–2016 and Vice President of Government Relations and Time Warner Cable of South Carolina, on his upcoming retirement.

In over 30 years as a community advocate in the state of South Carolina, Dan has achieved an exemplary and successful career. He has served with numerous organizations including the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia and Charleston Optimist Clubs, the Brookland-Cayce High School Education Foundation, and the Lexington Medical Center Board of Directors. A graduate of Charleston Southern University, he also currently serves on its Board of Visitors. I am grateful for his admirable service and dedication to the community.

While having the opportunity to serve in the South Carolina Senate and now Congress receiving briefings from Dan, I always could count on his integrity and honesty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 105 regarding the "Ensuring Removal of Terminated Providers from Medicaid and CHIP Act" (H.R. 3716). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JAMES L. DAVIS

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 3, 2016*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fifth generation African Methodist Episcopal minister, Presiding Prelate, Bishop James Levert Davis on the end of his outstanding tenure as the Presiding Prelate of the 9th African Methodist Episcopal District and for his dedicated and distinguished service to the State of Alabama.

Bishop Davis is the son of the late Mother Dorothy Lynch, the late Reverend Sam Davis and Mother Alma Davis. He is married to his partner in ministry, Arelis Beevers Davis. They are the proud parents of Dr. Nicole Davis Pass and Damarys Monique Burnett; and the proud grandparents of Patrick James Pass, Ashton James Pass, Baron Christopher Valentino Burnett and Noel Olivia Burnett.

Bishop Davis attended both public and private schools in Alabama and received the call to ministry at age 12. Bishop Davis is a graduate of Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree and later matriculated at Turner Theological Seminary where he earned his Master of Divinity degree. He also received a Doctorate of Ministry degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Bishop Davis' leadership roles have included the 123rd Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was appointed to the 19th Episcopal District which encompassed the Republic of South Africa. Bishop Davis furthered the legacy of self-help and self-reliance through his ministry during his time living on the continent of Africa from 2004 to 2008.

Bishop Davis has preached and taught for over 45 years and has served the African Methodist church and community faithfully. His exemplary work and commitment to his call has earned the respect and admiration of fellow ministers, church members, government leaders and our community.

It was under the leadership of Bishop Davis that the 9th Episcopal District was able to purchase and renovate the District Headquarters located in downtown Birmingham, AL. It took only twenty-five months for the District to celebrate burning their mortgage while reporting \$1.8 million in budget assessments and were able to donate over \$60,000 to local churches in need.

Bishop Davis continues to demonstrate an exemplary commitment to community service through his work as the chair of the Board of Directors for the Daniel Payne College where he promoted his remarkable vision for its property which could help generate funds for the church. Under his leadership, The Daniel Payne College Foundation, Inc. of the 9th Episcopal District was able to purchase the Daniel Payne Middle School making this the largest property owned by an African American institution in the State of Alabama.

On a personal note, Bishop Davis has motivated and inspired me to utilize my gifts and talents in planting and reaping and sowing good seeds throughout Alabama's 7th Congressional District. I want to thank him for his continued support and encouragement as we both seek to serve God's people for the advancement of a better world.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of Bishop James Levert Davis. We pay tribute to his distinguished career and contributions for the betterment of the State of Alabama and extend deep appreciation for his exemplary service as the Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District.