

them by driving them places, feeding them, making sure they have warm clothing. Mary also advises students and youth for court matters. Her dream is to see every child have the opportunity to be successful in whatever they want to do in life and it is clear in her day to day actions that she is dedicated to this dream.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mrs. Mary Ross and her admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo and the youth of our community. Mary's commitment is exceptional, and she is most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN POR-
TRAYED IN HIDDEN FIGURES—
DR. KATHERINE GOBLE JOHN-
SON, DOROTHY VAUGHAN, AND
MARY JACKSON

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Representatives ROBERT WITTMAN, DONALD MCEACHIN, and SCOTT TAYLOR to honor Dr. Katherine Goble Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, an extraordinary group of women from Hampton Roads, Virginia recently featured in the critically acclaimed and Oscar-nominated film *Hidden Figures*. Tomorrow evening, Senators WARNER, KAINE, and BROWN are joining me in hosting a screening of *Hidden Figures* here at the United States Capitol. I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of the remarkable women depicted in this film.

Breaking down barriers of both gender and race at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, these women, and many like them, laid the groundwork for John Glenn to become the first American to orbit the earth, and for Neil Armstrong to walk on the moon. I am proud that their stories are reaching a wider audience.

Though she began her career as an educator, in her 28 years working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (the forerunner to NASA) Dorothy Vaughan helped pave the way for the diverse workforce and leadership NASA enjoys today. Beginning at NACA Langley in 1943, Mrs. Vaughan was assigned to an all-black computer pool. By 1949, she was the Section Head of her group, becoming NACA's first black supervisor and one of NACA's first female supervisors. Mrs. Vaughan was one of the first to master computer programming and said that she felt like her work at NASA Langley put her on "the cutting edge of something very exciting."

While she broke barriers at NACA, Mrs. Vaughan also took an active role in her community as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and a longtime member of St. Paul AME Church of Newport News.

Early on, Dr. Katherine Goble Johnson showed that she was an exceptionally bright young woman. Graduating high school at 14 and college at 18, Dr. Johnson worked as an educator before relocating to Newport News where, in 1953, she began her work at NASA Langley. She too was assigned to an all-black

computer pool. Within weeks of her entry in the NASA ranks, Dr. Johnson was asked to temporarily assist in the Spacecraft Dynamics Branch in the Flight Dynamics and Control Division. She never left. There, she became known for her knowledge, accuracy and contributions in providing trajectories necessary to successful spaceflight.

Dr. Johnson has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout her 33 year career with NASA, and was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. A leader in her community, Dr. Johnson has served as President of the Lambda Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and as a Trustee and Elder at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia, where she continues to be a dedicated member.

Mary Jackson was born and raised in Hampton, Virginia, and attended the Hampton Institute, now Hampton University. She too was an educator prior to joining NASA, and after a circuitous journey found her way to NASA Langley working as a mathematician in 1951, reporting to Dorothy Vaughan. Following additional math and physics work at previously segregated Hampton High School, Mrs. Jackson became NASA's first black female engineer in 1958.

An accomplished mathematician, she remained committed to ensuring that NASA's female professionals had the opportunity to succeed and finished her 34 year career as Langley's Federal Women's Program Manager working to hire and mentor NASA's next generation of leaders.

Mrs. Jackson kept active in her community, as a member of Bethel AME Church in Hampton, the Newport News-Hampton Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*, for shining a spotlight on the remarkable story of these women. As the daughter of a NASA Langley scientist, Mrs. Shetterly was surely steeped in the accomplishments of these great women growing up. I would also like to thank Theodore Melfi, director of the film, actors Octavia Spencer, who played Dorothy Vaughan, Janelle Monae, who played Mary Jackson, and Taraji P. Henson, who played Katherine Johnson, and all others who played a part in telling these women's stories on the silver screen.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the stories of these exceptional women are no longer hidden. It is my hope that this film will help inspire the next generation of leaders to challenge themselves and to strive to break through any barriers they may face.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LOUDOUN
ABUSED WOMEN'S SHELTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize a local non-profit organization in Virginia's 10th Congressional District that has strengthened our Loudoun community for over 30 years by helping families in need. The Loudoun Abused

Women's Shelter (LAWS), founded in 1984 under the name Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice, Inc., opened as a shelter where women and children fleeing domestic violence could find refuge. Since then, LAWS has grown immensely and now provides a plethora of different services to victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Aside from providing emergency shelter, LAWS now also offers counseling, a 24-hour hotline, legal services, support groups, community outreach, and even operates a thrift store in Leesburg called the Resourceful Woman. LAWS now has 30 employees, 75 volunteers, and a diverse Board of Directors, led by my constituent Nicole Acosta, from Purcellville, Virginia, all dedicated to eliminating personal and societal violence. Ms. Acosta started as a volunteer many years ago and her vision and dedication led to her employment by the organization in 2012 as the Executive Director. Since joining the board, she has championed efforts to not only expand the organization but also enhance its governance and oversight operations to the great benefit of Loudoun County.

In 1984, three women founded LAWS with a total of \$3,000 of donations, but today the organization, hosting several annual fundraisers and events, has morphed into a multi-million dollar non-profit. One reoccurring event which has garnered a great deal of popularity as a result of diligent staff and volunteering planning is the yearly Martini Matters event. It is fun, forward thinking community events, like Martini Matters, that have helped the organization thrive tremendously over the years.

Each year LAWS helps over 1,000 women and children lead better lives without fear and anxiety through their various services, and I am grateful to have such a prominent and resourceful organization in the 10th district. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding LAWS for its dedication to serving our community for so many years. I wish Ms. Acosta and the entire organization the best in their future endeavors.

CITYWIDE BANKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citywide Banks for being honored as the Medium Business of the Year by the West Chamber of Commerce.

Citywide Banks is an independent, family owned business that has been focused on moving the Front Range community forward for more than 50 years. With client needs as their focus, they have created a unique banking culture that continues to benefit their clients as well as their employees and the broader Colorado community.

This local focus means their customers' deposits stay in Colorado and get reinvested to help our community move forward. They work to help Colorado companies grow, ensure Coloradans' financial assets are protected, and give a hand-up to our neighbors in need. Citywide Banks provides local businesses equipment financing, lines of credit, construction loans and treasury management products to help simplify cash flow operations, strengthen fraud protection and maximize the earning power of their deposits.

I extend my deepest congratulations to City-wide Banks for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CONGRESSMAN ROBERT GARCIA

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Puerto Rico's sole elected representative in Congress to speak about a great man who gave up his voting rights in order to live and die in the place he loved so much, my Puerto Rico.

Former Congressman Robert "Bob" Garcia devoted his life to helping our nation become more open and diverse. Before 1990, being Hispanic was not even a classification in the census. Thanks to him, from 1990 on, Hispanics are now counted. Thanks to him, we now know that there are nearly 60 million Hispanics in America, over 50 million in the 50 states and over 3.4 million in Puerto Rico and the rest of our territories.

Thanks to Bob Garcia, the early divisions between African-Americans and Hispanics began to heal. Thanks to his solidarity, our nation now devotes a federal holiday to honor the most important African-American in our nation's history, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thanks to Bob Garcia and his fellow Congressman Jack Kemp, a Republican, their good idea of creating Enterprise Zones, where poverty is fought through job creation and not through handouts, became a reality. Today I stand for the expansion of this program.

Like hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans, Bob Garcia served in the United States Army, in his particular case during the Korean War as a radio operator with the Third Infantry Division. Yet, like his fellow veterans on the Island, his right to vote for the President and a full-fledged delegation in the U.S. Congress was taken away the minute he moved to Puerto Rico.

On a lighter note, every time I spoke to him, he would remind me that, since his first election to Congress in 1978, he had never voted for a Republican, that is, until he voted for me, a Republican woman, to represent him as a non-voting delegate in this House.

I am honored that for three weeks, Bob was my constituent. He and his wife Jane moved a few years ago to Puerto Rico, knowing that in so doing, they, like the other 3.4 million U.S. citizens residing on the Island, would become disenfranchised. Last November, they couldn't vote for the President, U.S. senators or voting members of Congress, but they chose me to be Puerto Rico's sole elected voice in this chamber. Bob empowered me to fight to give him back his voting rights, not through relocation to the states, but in the Puerto Rico he chose to live the last days of his long, fruitful and accomplished life.

Twelve days ago, while lying in state in the territorial Capitol building, Bob Garcia was honored by the people of Puerto Rico. Today, I join my fellow members in honoring a friend and mentor who left his mark in this body and in the history of a nation. May God bless Congressman Bob Garcia and his legacy.

RECOGNIZING HOME DEPOT STORE
1234 FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO
SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN
THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the managers and employees of Home Depot Store 1234, who have consistently gone out of their way to support and restore a clean and safe community in Buffalo, New York. Their service and work with community leaders is recognized today by None Like You/We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

Employees from the Service Desk, Pro Desk and the Garden, Paint and Plumbing departments have been instrumental in helping to restore several houses on Southampton Street and other areas in the Eastside and Westside of the City of Buffalo. They have given paint for inside and outside house projects for over 30 years and have also been a tremendous help in providing flowers, shrubs, bushes, top soil and mulch for the past several years. These materials have gone to help community gardens, and the properties of seniors, disabled residents and families who could not otherwise afford it.

During the Christmas season, Home Depot Store 1234 has supplied None Like You/We Care Outreach and St. Luke's Mission of Mercy with fresh cut Christmas trees for families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Home Depot Store 1234 and their admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo. Home Depot and its employees have made many dreams come true for the citizens of our community and certainly deserve this recognition by None Like You/We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

BOOSTING RATES OF AMERICAN
VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of H.R. 974, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment (BRAVE) Act.

There is no question that post-9/11 veterans face a harsher economic reality than other Americans. Although in recent years the unemployment rate of post-9/11 veterans decreased since the double digit highs of 2011, the veteran unemployment rate among veterans remains higher than the national average. Those who have sacrificed most for our nation are often left behind or forgotten by businesses and employers when they return home. The transition from military to civilian life is a challenging one for many veterans, and we must address the harsh realities our veterans face when they attempt to reintegrate into the economy.

As we consider the best ways to boost veteran employment in the 115th Congress, we must concentrate our efforts on what many

major veterans organizations are urging us to do. The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars have all argued that the Department of Veterans Affairs, when granting contracts, should give preference to businesses that employ a high concentration of veterans on a full-time basis. This is a common-sense proposal.

Each year the Department of Veterans Affairs contracts tens of billions of taxpayer dollars on various goods and services. H.R. 974 would ensure that when awarding a contract for goods or services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs give preference to businesses that employ full-time a high percentage of veterans. H.R. 974 would also grant the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the power to debar for five years from contracting with the Department those offerors who willfully misrepresent the veteran status of their employees. This discourages potential businesses from over-reporting the percentage of veterans that make up their workforce.

I believe that H.R. 974 would also have a ripple effect across other agencies in the government and ultimately help a countless number of veterans attain full-time employment. Today, there are an estimated 24,000 businesses that work on federal contracts and employ about 28 million workers in the process. In FY 2015, in my home state of Georgia, an estimated 50,000 workers were employed by Department of Defense contracts alone. In my opinion, H.R. 974 would spark other federal agencies to adopt similar provisions that would give preference to businesses that employ large concentrations of veterans on a full-time basis.

I ask that my colleagues support this bill.

THE RETIREMENT OF MS. KAREN
SPAR AFTER A 37-YEAR CAREER
OF SERVICE AT THE CONGRES-
SIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE
(CRS)

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Karen Spar on the occasion of her retirement from a lifetime of dedicated service at the Congressional Research Service. Since she began her career in 1980 at CRS, Karen has risen from an analyst to the head of the Children and Families Section and eventually the Division of Social Policy's first Division Research Coordinator.

In her early days as an analyst, Karen worked on major legislative initiatives of American social policy, including the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, the Job Training Partnership Act of 1983, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, and the Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997.

As head of the Children and Families Section, she supervised work in many of these same policy areas, including income support, child care, nutrition assistance, housing, child welfare, vulnerable youth, child support enforcement, poverty, and others. Her leadership efforts shaped a disparate group of policy areas and analysts from different backgrounds. They became a coherent and highly