

the importance of agriculture inspired him to donate his time and resources to the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association, serving as state president and national secretary. He was also a member of the Colorado Livestock Association and Colorado Corn Growers Association. Throughout the years, he has won various awards for his commitment to agriculture, and even appeared in a Coors television commercial.

Despite Mr. Markham's accomplishments within his community, he is most proud to hold the title farmer. Mr. Markham is the owner of M&M Farms, where he has spent countless days growing Rocky Mountain Barley for Coors Brewing Company.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Bill Markham. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bill Markham for his accomplishments.

HONORING OAKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL AS FUTURE CITY FINALISTS

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the students of Oakwood Middle School, finalists in the Future City competition.

Each year, more than 40,000 students from 1,350 schools across the country compete in the Future City competition, which challenges students to create futuristic cities and solve sustainability issues within the city. Thirty-four eighth-grade students from Oakwood Middle School in Canton, Ohio participated in this year's competition under the guidance of their teacher, Ms. Vanessa Board.

This year's competition tasked the students to create an efficient, eco-friendly city set 100 years in the future. These talented students used their knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to create the city of Skotgeta, an Icelandic city powered by geothermal energy, which harnesses sustainable natural resources and utilizes technology to cure cancer. Their hard work earned them First Place at the regional competition and qualified them to compete in the national Future City competition.

The achievements of these students demonstrate the same ingenuity and determination of other Ohioans like Neil Armstrong, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers. I am confident in the future of our nation when Oakwood Middle School's Future City team represents the next generation of American leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this accomplishment is a testament to the students and their teacher's dedication to academic excellence. I am proud of each of these individuals, and I wish them much success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2017, I missed four votes as a result of personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 609, YES on H.R. 512, YES on H.R. 244, YES on H.R. 974.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) WILLIAM C. SPILLERS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) William C. Spillers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SFC Spillers died of a non-combat related injury in Baghdad, Iraq.

SFC Spillers worked at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Jackson, MS. He was assigned to the 230th Finance Detachment, 15th Finance Battalion, 13th Finance Group, Jackson, MS. Twenty-one members of his unit were mobilized in May 2006. They arrived in Iraq in August 2006.

SFC Spillers, a Terry, MS native, was described by Major General Harold Cross as a model soldier who was always attentive to his duties, Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. At the time of SFC Spillers's death, at least 47 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties had died in action since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SFC Spillers devoted his life as a full-time soldier in service to our nation. He is survived by his parents Robert E. Spillers and Sharon Johnson, his wife Kim, his daughter Hailey, and sons Daniel and Myles.

BOOSTING RATES OF AMERICAN VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 974, "Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act." "BRAVE Act" authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to give preference to companies with high concentrations of veteran employees when awarding VA contracts.

I support this bipartisan bill because it provides an incentive to companies to actively hire veterans.

H.R. 974 will spur the hiring of veterans into coveted positions within large government contractors.

The BRAVE Act also gives the VA authority to debar contracting for at least five years of any company determined to have willfully and

intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of its employees.

One of the biggest problems facing our veterans right now is finding good jobs in civilian life, especially those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our veterans have received the best training in the world.

They have unique skills and experience that cannot be acquired anywhere but in the United States military.

They have what it takes to excel in the civilian workforce; they do not need charity, just opportunity.

With this bill, we urge private companies to hire highly-trained, highly-skilled veterans who know how to get the job done, whatever job it may be.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 974.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL WEBSTER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Webster on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Webster has had a tremendous impact on agriculture in Colorado. He started Webster Land and Cattle Company at a young age and managed the company for over thirty years. After his retirement, Mr. Webster served in the Colorado State Legislature and as the Weld County Commissioner at Large. He has continuously been a leader in his community, serving on multiple boards and participating in various organizations. Today he is involved in the Greeley Rotary Club, T-Bone Club, First Congregational Church, and the American Legion.

In addition to being a leader in his community, Mr. Webster served his country for two years in the United States Army. After his many years of public service, Mr. Webster returned to Colorado State University to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Mr. Bill Webster has set an exceptional example of leadership and public service, and it is a great honor to call him a dear friend and my father-in-law.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Bill Webster. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bill Webster for his accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to my attendance at the White House for the signing ceremony for H.J. Res. 41 on Tuesday, February 14,

2017. Had I been present for roll call vote number 88, ordering the previous question of H. Res. 99, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 89, Adoption of H. Res. 99, the combined rule providing for consideration of H.R. 428—Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act and of H.J. Res. 42—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 90, ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 116—I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 91, Adoption of H. Res. 116—The combined rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 66—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees and of H.J. Res. 67—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, I would have voted yea.

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN
NETANYAHU VISIT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump warmly welcomed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House today on his first official state visit of the new Administration. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE, I am confident that this visit will leave no doubt that the United States stands firmly with our ally, Israel.

Throughout his campaign and since being sworn in as President, Donald Trump has made it a priority to stand up for Israel and promote peace in the Middle East, specifically, by opposing growing Iranian aggression. Just last week, the President swiftly imposed strong sanctions on Iranian officials for testing yet another intercontinental ballistic missile to threaten American families with death.

I look forward to working with President Trump to show our support for Israel and I appreciate that he has appointed Governor Nikki Haley as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, where she will be a strong voice for American families.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. God Bless Benjamin Netanyahu, a dynamic leader of peace through strength.

TRIBUTE TO BILL C. HUNTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to Bill Hunter, the father of one of my long-time staff. I did not have the privilege of knowing

Bill personally. However, I know how deeply he was loved and how greatly he is missed. I offer my condolences to his family as they both mourn his loss and celebrate his life after his home-going on January 17th of this year.

Known to many as Hunter, Bill was raised in West Texas and embodied many classic American traits—independent, driven, and fiercely loyal. His childhood was not easy, and it engendered in him his lifelong drive to work hard, fight for the underdog, and aid those in need. Bill lost his father when he was only 5, causing him to grow up early to help his mother pay the bills, whether as a paperboy, grocery clerk, or telegram courier. He recalled how it was cold in West Texas and his family couldn't make the gas payment. So, at only 7, he biked a paper route around 5 in the morning and then wore his cold, wet shoes the remainder of the day at school just to do his part. Bill put himself through college at Texas Tech and law school at Southern Methodist University. Key accomplishments for a boy from Monahans, Texas.

Bill lived, loved, and practiced law for over 50 years. Legal adversaries and allies agree that Bill was a brilliant attorney and a formidable opponent who earned the respect of his peers for his innovative legal arguments and his vigorous advocacy for his clients. Bill was tough as nails but soft as a kitten. He could aggressively fight a bully in court or quietly teach Sunday school or speak in silly voices to show his pets how much he cared for them. Bill deeply enjoyed providing high-caliber legal assistance to those who couldn't afford it. However, he didn't announce his efforts to help others. Rather, his family and friends learned of his extensive pro bono work when community members would share how much Bill had helped, be it the staff of his favorite restaurant or the workers at his retirement village.

Dallas was Bill's true home. He was President of the Dallas School Board, a member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, a part-owner of the ABA basketball team the Dallas Chaparrals, a frequenter of Dallas' wonderful museums, and an avid Cowboys fan. He loved God and his family. He was very proud of his children and delighted in watching his grandchildren and step-grandchildren grow.

Bill leaves behind many who loved him: his wife, Pati, her 5 children and 5 grandchildren; his three children—Sam, Chris, and Jill, and his 9 grandchildren; and hundreds of attorneys, judge and friends who know that Dallas and the legal community lost an important member.

Although I did not know Bill personally, I know how much his family and community miss him. I imagine that his family can take comfort in knowing that Bill can still enjoy many of his favorite past times in heaven—engaging in some healthy arguments with St. Peter, listening to country music, whistling some tunes to pass the time, working challenging crossword puzzles, laughing at clever comic strips, or, most importantly, watching his beloved Cowboys.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 89, 90 and 91 on February 14, 2017.

I missed these votes while attending the swearing-in ceremony at the White House for VA Secretary Shulkin.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89, YEA on Roll Call No. 90, and YEA on Roll Call No. 91.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT
MILLER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Miller's retirement after a lifetime of service to the state of Colorado and the United States.

Bob Miller has dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice and order in our country. Bob received his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado in 1965. He then worked 51 years in the legal profession as the first full-time District Attorney of Weld County, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, and an equity partner at Perkins Coie LLP. In addition to his work in the legal profession, he also served our nation as a member of the United States Air Force.

Besides his incredibly successful career, Bob Miller is most proud to have raised his family in Greeley, Colorado. In fact, his fondest memory is of watching his son, now Assistant District Attorney of Weld County, succeed in cracking a horrendous murder cold case.

Though he is stepping down as a partner at Perkins Coie LLP, Mr. Miller will continue to serve the people in a consulting role with the firm. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Robert Miller for his accomplishments.

HONORING THE NAACP FOR 108
YEARS OF REMARKABLE SERV-
ICE AND EXTRAORDINARY CON-
TRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the oldest, largest, most historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, known to all simply as the NAACP.

The NAACP is the oldest, largest, most historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States.

First organized in 1905, the group was known as the Niagara Movement when members began meeting at a hotel situated on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls.