

everywhere in the world should have a part in creating our solutions. We in the Congress, who have been supportive of Taiwan's participation countless times in the past, must make ourselves heard again on this matter.

On this occasion, I wish President Tsai every success as her administration continues to unfold, and I want her—as well as her fellow citizens—to know that we stand with them.

#### HONORING TY'RIANNE PERRY

##### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ty'Rianne Perry.

Ty'Rianne has played a big part in community service and helping out her peers. She has participated in the breast cancer awareness walk. Ty'Rianne volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club once a month. She also tutors and mentors young children. She volunteers at the Golden Living Nursing Home where she plays games and reads stories to the patients.

Ty'Rianne's outspoken nature serves her as she advocates for the voiceless children and citizens who cannot speak up for themselves.

Ty'Rianne participates in a Blood Drive twice a year, as she loves helping others in all capacities. Because of her activism and philanthropy, Ty'Rianne was able to attend the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. She was also selected to attend Camp John Hay, a program for selected teenagers who volunteered at Boys and Girls Club.

Ty'Rianne has walked in the MLK March many times. She encourages everyone to make a difference in their community and get up and help out.

Mr. Speaker please help us to congratulate Ms. Ty'Rianne Perry for making a difference in her community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on May 16, 2017 due to travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA for rollcall vote 258.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II

##### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the United States Merchant Mariners and their vital contributions to the victory of the Allies in World War II. This year, 72 years after our victory in that war, is a fitting time to recognize the contributions of our merchant mariners to the war effort.

There were more than 250,000 men serving in the Merchant Marine during WWII, all volunteers. They had the distinction of being the only non-segregated service. The Merchant Marine was critical to the mission of our military service members around the world during the war.

Many of the important contributions of the Merchant Marine are not well known, including the fact that they had the highest rate of casualties in the Armed Services. More than 700 merchant ships were sunk and more than 8,000 U.S. merchant mariners were killed during the war. The losses suffered are even more remarkable given that the U.S. Merchant Marine was not considered a military branch and was composed of volunteers classified by the government as civilians. Every invasion during the war involved the Merchant Marine. They suffered tremendous casualties during the Battle of the Atlantic, the Murmansk Run, D-Day, and as an integral part of every island invasion in the Pacific Theater. As we come close to Memorial Day, it is fitting to pause and remember their heroism and sacrifice.

The United States built nearly 6,000 merchant vessels and naval auxiliaries in 16 shipyards with over 650,000 workers. This was an economic and military feat of enormous scale. As part of a government effort to encourage more American participation in the war effort, ships were named after famous American counties and cities. 150 colleges and universities also had victory class merchant ships named for them. Many of these institutions of higher education supported important military training programs on their campuses. I am proud that 13 of these victory class ships were named for institutions in Pennsylvania, including three in the third district: Allegheny College, Grove City College, and Westminster College.

I am sure all my colleagues join me in taking great pride in the history of the United States Merchant Marine and the special place in our nation's history associated with their ships and the men who sailed them. They have helped preserve our freedom and they deserve our gratitude.

#### RECOGNIZING PATTY SIMONIAN IN CELEBRATION OF HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mrs. Patty Simonian's 75th birthday. Patty is a beloved mother, grandmother, godmother and friend to many.

Patty Simonian was born in Merced, California to John and Mary Costa. She attended Central Union High School, where she met her high school sweetheart, Peter Simonian. They would be married on August 26, 1961.

In 1971, Pete and Patty decided to go into farming for themselves, forming P. Simonian Farms. The third generation family-run farm was passed down from Patty's grandfather. Patty is proud to be one of few female organic growers in California. She was quoted as saying, "... I'm outside working, irrigating and doing everything that's necessary on the ranch, with the help of my children".

Patty is the proud mother of three children Talbert, Nanette and Peter John. She is also blessed with five grandchildren, Matthew, Jerad, Kylie, Cassidy and Caydin.

Patty is a loving and generous mother to her children and was very active in their lives when they were in school. She is now playing a similar role with her beloved grandchildren. Patty's family is the greatest source of love and pride in her life.

Patty and her husband Peter were active members of the Cabrillo Club, a Portuguese civic club that is dedicated to civic progress of Californians of Portuguese descent. Patty currently serves as the President of the Fresno chapter, a position her husband also held from 1997 through 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that Patty's 75th birthday is an especially significant occasion, as Patty is my first cousin. In keeping with the Portuguese Catholic tradition, she is also my godmother.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Patty Simonian as she celebrates her 75th birthday. I ask that you join me in wishing her and her family continued health and happiness.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST CALEB MICHAEL COLLINS

##### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Specialist Caleb Michael Collins, a New Orleans, Louisiana native, who passed away on July 25, 2015, at the tender age of 22.

Specialist Collins was a graduate of St. Augustine High School class of 2011, and a former member of the Marching 100 at the historic all-male Catholic high school in the 7th Ward of New Orleans.

In July 2015, stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, Specialist Collins distinguished himself by disregarding his personal safety by jumping off of a 25 foot ledge into the ocean to save a fellow soldier who had been swept off the Halona Blowhole ledge by a wave. Through his courageous actions, Specialist Collins made the ultimate sacrifice. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism and reflect distinct credit upon himself, 25th Composite Truck Company, 524th Sustainment Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Specialist Collins has been awarded the Soldier's Medal. The Soldier's Medal is awarded to an individual whom while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, is recognized by heroism not concerning direct encounter with an enemy. The Soldier's Medal is the highest military peacetime award for bravery.

Specialist Collins' legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to service embodies the spirit of New Orleans. Specialist Collins' survivors include his parents, Ernest L. and Dawn Moore Collins and sisters Chelsi Marie and Briana Monique Collins.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Caleb Michael Collins was a tremendously positive young man,

always with a word of encouragement for his family and friends. I celebrate the life and legacy of Specialist Collins, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family.

HONORING YAZOO CITY ALUMNAE  
CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA  
THETA SORORITY, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

The Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter was granted their 30th chartering in the state of Mississippi on February 2, 1997. Francine Wallace and Edwina Fox, in 1995, had the idea to create a chapter in Yazoo and placed an article in the local newspaper. Other Delta's in the area quickly responded, desiring to continue the mission to which they had pledged themselves in their college years and together they worked with the state leadership, the southern Region Manager and the national Headquarters to achieve this objective. Not being swayed, it took several attempts to acquire the approvals to establish the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter. The Yazoo City Deltas traveled to the State Cluster to share their desire to focus on the high rate of teenage pregnancies in Yazoo County as it was the highest rate in the state of Mississippi. Relating their dedication to fighting this devastating trend, the Southern Region Manager, on their second attempt approved the chartering of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter. On February 2, 1997 at the St. Stephen United Methodist Church 12 members, Mary Ann Brewer, Teresa Bonner, Diane Delaware, Zellee Delaware, Sandra Younger, Tamara Dodd, Edwina Gordon-Fox, Marilyn Hathorne, Gloria Elayne Owens, Francine Wallace, the late Juanita Scott-Washington and Mary Joshua Young stood and committed to carry out the public service mission of their beloved sisterhood throughout Yazoo County. Thus, this was the beginning of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN  
VINTNERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mexican-American

Vintners Association (MAVA), whose members include many of the hard-working, entrepreneurial families and individuals who serve as a backbone to the wine community in my district.

The Mexican-American Vintners Association was revived in May 2010 with the mission to recognize Napa and Sonoma Wine produced by Mexican-American Vintners, advocate for quality standards, promote the contributions of Mexican-Americans to the wine community, and to educate and preserve traditions for future vintners. In the words of Member Hugo Maldonado, MAVA "are not just in the vineyards anymore, they're a force to be reckoned with."

Many members of MAVA have traveled to Washington, DC this week, including Ceja Vineyards, Mi Sueño Winery, Maldonado Family Vineyards, and the Robledo Family Winery. They are here, not only to support the mission of the Smithsonian Institution, but also to further educate Congress about their vital contributions to our economy and community. Their stories of immigration, sacrifice and determination are what make America great.

In addition to supporting their current members, the Mexican-American Vintners Association works to support future vintners by providing scholarships to deserving students. By helping those who will follow them, the Vintners are preserving the traditions of making and selling quality wine which they have worked hard to build.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our Mexican-American Vintners. Their organization preserves and promotes a great tradition of hard work and resilience in our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2017, I was not present to vote on H.R. 1616, the Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present for roll call No. 258, I would have voted YEA.

COL STEVEN OWENS

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Steven Owens on his retirement from the United States Army, and to thank him for his dedicated service to the United States of America.

Colonel Owens' many years of service include a deployment as the ARNG Medical Advisor for the Multi-National Corps—Iraq Surgeon's Office, Baghdad, Iraq, where he was hand-selected to be 1st Corps Surgeon's Liaison with the Iraqi Ground Forces Command Surgeon and Medical Trainer for COIN.

I have had the pleasure of serving under Colonel Owens, in his assignment as Deputy

Director for Reserve Affairs and Sr. ARNG Advisor at the Office of the Surgeon General at the Defense Health Headquarters, and have greatly appreciated his leadership and expertise.

Congratulations to Colonel Owens, to his wife Lonna, on a new chapter, and I thank him for his mentorship and friendship.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD HAGER

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent, Harold Hager, who is celebrating his 100th birthday today.

Mr. Hager has dedicated his life to serving our country and local community. During World War II, he served in the United States Navy as a gunner on the USS *Taconic*. After the war, Mr. Hager returned home and worked for many years as a melding technician and foreman at Corning Glass Works. In 1972, after our area was devastated by Hurricane Agnes, Mr. Hager delivered urgently needed food and supplies to his neighbors in Elmira, New York.

Mr. Hager has served as a volunteer with the Steuben County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program since February 2012. He was previously assigned to the Painted Post Food Pantry and he currently serves at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Corning, New York. Mr. Hager has accumulated more than 4,500 lifetime service hours and, in 2016, he averaged 84 hours per month. He is truly an inspiration.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Harold Hager's 100th birthday and recognizing his life-long commitment to service.

HONORING JANA LEIGH CLANTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, the late Ms. Jana Leigh Clanton. Jana was born January 24, 1996 in Flowood, Mississippi.

Jana confessed Christ at an early age and joined Mt. Able Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Willie A. Travis, Sr., where she was a faithful steward, serving as a clerical volunteer to the church secretarial staff and a member of the Mt. Able Anointed Believers Praise Dance Ministry.

Jana was a Presidential Scholar at Tougaloo College, where she majored in English with an emphasis in Pre-Law and was a student leader, serving as a member of the Student Government Association, a member of Alpha Lambda Delta honor society and member of the Tougaloo Ambassadors for Meritorious Scholars (T.A.M.S.), student recruitment association.

Jana graduated with honors from Madison Central High School in May 2014, most recently became licensed as a Certified Pharmacy Technician, and accepted a position at