

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF G. IRENE SNYDER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant who is retiring after a 40-year career as a rural carrier with the Glenmoore Post Office in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

G. Irene Snyder started her career as a part-time carrier, serving residents in the Ludwig's Corner and Nantmeal Township areas. In a testament to her tireless work ethic, Irene held jobs as a bus driver and attendant at Ludwig's Gas Station in addition to her part-time mail delivery duties.

She started delivering mail full-time in 1981 and earned a reputation among her co-workers as loyal, dedicated and committed to the U.S. Postal Service and the residents on her route. Irene was always willing to lend a helping hand at work and at her church, Nantmeal Methodist, where she served as an organist, and still found time for farming on her property in Honey Brook.

Colleagues and friends will celebrate Irene's four decades of service and wish her well in retirement during a reception on July 1, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service of G. Irene Snyder and all public servants who go beyond what is expected to serve their communities.

JULY 4, 2010 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN HAMMOND

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who will take their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2010. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony will take place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, will be held at Harrison Park in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The upcoming oath ceremony will be a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the

world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2010, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: David Buabeng Agyen, Gordana Obradovic, Adesola Titilayo Ikene, Iryna Anatolitvna Hillemonds, Snezana Cude, Olufunmilayo Oluranti Adebayo, Kim Anh Tong, Kenneth Llanos Fabugais, Reshma Begum, Lubna Sairesh Hussain, Ummaima Sadaf Hussain, Hilda Marumbo Love, Gilberto Garcilazo Ambriz, Hossein Ali Safavi Naeini, Lorraine Emilia Von Tobel, Jose L. Guerrero, Ashok Sundaram, Lily Shajil, Amjad M.A. Ahmed, Delia Lord, Sonal Sanjay Shah, Alfredo Gerardo Discepolo, Corazon Samonte Jurado, Eric Udave Zaragoza, Dan Chen, Muriel Magalhaes Pessoa, Saber Zedan Khawaled, Justine Elizabeth Smith, Harvind Singh Azrot, Dragan Gjikoski, Gopikrishna Ratakonda, Surinder Singh, Manjeet Geeta, Maria Cristina Sanguenza, Rey Ancajas Sararana, Maynard Villavecencio Utayde, Eunice Jacobed Bojorquez, Olubunmi Emmanuel Adebayo, Amjad M. Amer, Rogelio Jose Munoz, Isabel De La Rosa Rangel, Juventino Flores, Jose Gutierrez Olivares, Vinh Quang Le, Eleazar Talili Tan, Nikunj Natvarlal Patel, Joel Erie Lingua, Mohannad Khaleel Alkaki, Dhirenkumar Jaswantlal Shah, and Ambrosia Ewican McLaughlin.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2010, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, will be guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

DAREN WOODWARD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daren Woodward. Daren is a very special young man who

has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1137, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daren has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daren has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daren has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Daren collected materials and renovated a fence for the City of North Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daren Woodward for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL QUEAR TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member of the Committee on Science and Technology, Michael Quear. Mike has served on Capitol Hill for over 20 years, most recently as the Staff Director for the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee.

Mike Quear grew up in Indiana on a farm where his work for 4H and his demanding piano teacher taught him the importance of principled, disciplined hard work. Every day Mike came to work for the Committee for the last 20 years, he brought that attitude to the job with him. It is hard to match either his stamina or the quality of his work.

In 1990, Mike came to the Science Committee from a fellowship with the State Department. Educated in Chemical Engineering, Mike brought with him real-world experience from working in industry as well as exposure to the thinking of the State Department about how to use science and technology to build stronger diplomatic ties among nations. He worked directly for then-Chairman George E. Brown, Jr. Brown was a passionate advocate for using scientific cooperation to bridge differences between nations. Mike supported his efforts, acting as his advisor for international scientific cooperation matters. At Brown's direction, Mike played a key role in negotiating the establishment of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science.

Beginning in 1995, Mike took the lead as the key Democratic staffer on technology issues and for reauthorization of programs at the National Institute of Technology and Standards. For the last 15 years, virtually every authorization or reauthorization of programs at NIST was the direct product of

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mike's work. Mike is well known to colleagues in the Senate and the House, among authorizers and appropriators, both on and off the Hill for his detailed knowledge of NIST, its programs and its problems. His work on NIST programs could be a perfect case study for any young Committee staffer trying to understand how to work with an agency.

Mike played a key role in crafting many pieces of legislation relating to standards, technology development, and competitiveness. I want to mention just two specifically. I am particularly indebted to Mike because he drafted the first bill I had signed into law as Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology: the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007. Secondly, Mike Quear was at the heart of the America COMPETES Act—taking the lead on all the technology provisions in that landmark legislation.

Mike has been a model staffer: creative, smart, hard-working, and loyal. While the Committee will miss his dedicated services, I am confident that he will retire to his farm in Pennsylvania and apply those same gifts to his passions of raising horses, driving buggies, and gardening. I want to thank him for his selfless professionalism and congratulate him on his hard earned retirement. We will miss you and cannot replace you.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4173,
DODD-FRANK WALL STREET RE-
FORM AND CONSUMER PROTEC-
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010.

We have already seen what happens to Main Street when Wall Street abuses run rampant. Over the past decade, Wall Street's protectors looked the other way while Wall Street fat cats gambled with our future and ran our economy into the ditch, and the North Carolina families I hear from every day paid the price. We have seen what that means for Main Street: 8 million jobs lost, \$17 trillion in hard-earned family savings—savings for retirement, college, or home buying—all wiped out overnight. Today we have the opportunity to say, "enough." We have had enough of the abuses, enough of risky speculation, enough of taxpayer-funded bailouts. It is time to put in place common sense rules of the road to protect Main Street and American taxpayers. This bill does just that. H.R. 4173 delivers a comprehensive set of financial regulations that increase accountability and oversight for Wall Street and America's financial sector.

H.R. 4173 addresses the "too big to fail" syndrome, and ends taxpayer funded bailouts. This bill makes sure the taxpayer is not responsible for bailing out such firms, by establishing a process for dismantling failing financial institutions like AIG or Lehman Brothers. With this reform, these large Wall Street firms will be in charge of paying the cost for the risks they create instead of taxpayers paying the tab. In addition, a Financial Stability Council will be created to identify and regulate fi-

nancial institutions that are so large or interconnected that they pose a system risk to the economy as a whole. While I hope that the dissolution measures are never necessary, it just makes sense to have an orderly way to wind down failing institutions as an insurance policy. This process will punish the corporate executives who are to blame for a failed bank, rather than the American taxpayer.

For years, I have called for an end to the wild west of speculation in derivatives markets. I am pleased that this bill includes my proposal to strengthen derivatives market oversight. For the first time ever, over-the-counter derivatives market for transactions between dealers and major swap participants will be required to be reported. This transparency means that regulators can monitor this trillion dollar market, and make sure that companies like AIG only make trades when they have enough capital to back them up. Unregulated speculation may well be responsible for wide swings and increases in the price of energy for consumers and feed for farms. This provision will help prevent entities from driving up the cost of commodities and products and manufacturing risk in the larger economy.

H.R. 4173 also takes a major step forward in consumer protection by creating the Consumer Financial Protection Agency (CFPA). This agency would make sure brokers tell folks what they are buying, clearly and honestly. It would be devoted to stopping unfair practices and preventing abusive financial products from entering the marketplace. The CFPA would impose effective consumer protections for subprime mortgages, overdraft fees, credit card practices, and other financial products, not just at banks but wherever these products are purchased.

This bill includes other critical provisions for oversight and streamlining of the financial system. It creates a Federal Insurance Office, reforms the credit ratings agencies that failed to assess the value of the many financial products in our economy, and cleans up abusive practices in the mortgage lending industry that contributed to the collapse of the housing market. This regulation is long overdue and will benefit all Americans and businesses that depend on our financial institutions.

We need to take action to put the interests of average Americans ahead of corporate special interests. Today we have an opportunity to clean up the mess on Wall Street, hold wrongdoers accountable for their actions and stand up for taxpayers. I call on my colleagues to put Main Street before Wall Street, and to join me in support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4173,
DODD-FRANK WALL STREET RE-
FORM AND CONSUMER PROTEC-
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4173, "the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010", also known as "the Dodd-Frank Act." This historic bill will go a long way to address

a variety of defects and shortcomings currently seen in our financial services system. It is a major step towards meaningful "measured" government regulation to protect the interests of consumers, investors and everyday working Americans. After years of consumer mistreatment, fraud, and abuse, this bill represents the first principled effort to bring financial fairness to all Americans and to ensure that financial transactions be both honest and transparent.

One of the strongest provisions designed to protect the consumer in this legislation is the formation of an independent Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, empowered to write rules for most consumer financial transactions. Existing consumer-protection authority is currently scattered and largely ignored by existing financial regulators. This Act will consolidate these authorities in the CFPB, and give the bureau teeth in exerting its power to enforce these protections. With this newly defined power, the creation of the CFPB will usher in a new era of oversight. I urge Congress to stand tall and create a society where unfair practices are stopped before they become pervasive, where the average consumer is protected from fraud and abuse, and where big bank bailouts are prevented before they come at the expense of taxpayers.

Another major provision in this bill is the establishment of broad statutory protections against abusive mortgages. These provisions include; requiring lenders to evaluate borrowers' ability to repay loans before and after teaser rates have expired; banning prepayment penalties that lock borrowers into high-cost loans; prohibiting incentives to steer borrowers into higher-cost loans that they don't even qualify for; limiting total fees for most loans; and banning mandatory arbitration clauses for mortgages.

In addition to these key provisions, this bill will also create a \$1 billion emergency loan fund to help families at risk of losing their homes due to unemployment or illness. Because unemployment—9.7 percent is partly a direct result of the reckless lending and collapse of the housing and financial markets, this fund is especially important in reversing these negative economic effects and providing assistance to those who have been hurt by unfair practices. A recent Center for Responsible Lending, CRL, report found that, unfortunately, the foreclosure crisis is far from over. Foreclosures are likely to continue to climb and losses will continue to increase, further burdening our economy and financial services system, unless the government decides to intervene by passing this Act.

The bill also addresses bank interchange fees, the fees charged on debit card transactions. Under the bill, such fees would be reduced. While the banks and credit unions opposed any reduction in fees as embraced by the Durbin amendment, the arguments advanced by the retailers won the day. While I support credit unions, which are the backbone of many communities and have traditionally served the special needs of teachers, public service employees and the average government worker, about the use of the fees to cover many bad transactions related to their debit card business, the fees generated by the debit card transactions represent a major profit making activity for the banking industry. These fees are generally passed onto the consumer in the form of higher retail prices. Interchange

fees also tend to fall disproportionately on minority and low-income consumers by making them pay higher prices.

Another issue the bill addresses is the underrepresentation of minorities and women in the financial services industry. The bill requires each of the federal financial services regulatory entities to establish Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion. These Offices will facilitate the participation of minority and women-owned business in nontraditional types of financial activities, something long overdue. In addition, the bill requires expanded efforts to recruit and to retain minority and women financial services professionals, traditionally excluded from the upper ranks of management in most of the federal financial services regulatory entities.

The bill preserves the role of community banks, recognized for their positive lending habits to small business and other major community stakeholders. These banks can always be counted on to lend for nontraditional purposes, while maintaining flexible lending standards based on risk assessment as it relates to a person's background and ties to the community. Many of these banks continued to lend during the liquidity crises, making it possible for small businesses to make payroll and for people to continue to pay their mortgages. Community banks remain pillars of strong communities and neighborhoods throughout this Nation, and this bill acknowledges their important role in the economy.

Further, the bill brings much needed sanity to the derivatives markets by requiring more rigorous standards related to over-the-counter derivatives; provides new rules related to transparency and accountability and our nation's credit agencies; institutes new mechanisms to avoid bank bailouts of financial firms that threaten the economy; and reforms the Federal Reserve by requiring greater oversight and transparency in its transactions.

Mr. Speaker, this Act is of extreme importance to the consumer, the investor, to the average American, and to the Nation's economy as a whole. It is time to end the Wall Street "joy ride" and give the American people the protections and information they need to be better informed consumers and investors in this highly technologically driven economy. The way the average consumer, borrower, and home-owner have been targeted by many of our Nation's financial institutions and lenders makes this legislation all the more important. These practices must end. H.R. 4172 will stop many of them. For these reasons, I urge my Colleagues to make the changes in our laws to protect the American people and to help strengthen the U.S. financial system.

IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American hero, Ssgt Jeremy Austin of Statesville, North Carolina. Jeremy is a Marine who lost both his legs in an IED explosion in Afghanistan on April 11, 2009. Like many of our men who have given so much for our country, Jeremy is a work of art. His courage, his faith, and his strength of character

are golden examples to us all. He and his wife Chrissy are a credit to our Nation and to the United States Marine Corps. Jeremy and the many fathers and mothers like him who were injured in the line of duty have set an example for our Nation's sons and daughters that will help carry them through life, and make our country a much better place. I ask that this poem, penned in honor of Jeremy and his family by Albert Carey Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

"I WANT"

(In Honor of an American Hero, SSgt Jeremy Austin, the United States Marines 2nd Force Recon CO)

I want to be!

Just, like my Father . . . my Daddy . . .

A United States Marine!

One of the greatest things, this country has ever seen!

I want, to grow up to be strong and tall!

With hearts of courage full, ready to answer our Nation's call!

To go where Angels, so fear to tread!

Who with tears in eyes, for my beloved brothers who have bled . . .

Someone, who stands for something!

For Honor, Faith, Courage, and Grace!

Who brings tears, to even our Lord's face . . .

To Teach people! To Reach People!

To All Hearts, To So Beseech People!

All in what, his fine life has said!

Who all in his lifetime, has never followed . . . but led!

Who Could give up his two fine legs . . . Who will not moan, will not beg!

And come back home, And rebuild with his courage all over again!

If only, I could be half the Man!

But, now I Know . . . I know I Can!

Because, inside of me . . . beats, his my fine Father's heart!

For part of him, is now of me . . . The best part!

For I am of his blood, and I have his heart! For I am so blessed, because my Father is one of America's best!

Superman and Batman, are not real!

But, my Daddy . . . He's an American Hero, The Real Deal!

And my Mommy is, for all she's been through!

Yes, I want! I Want To Be!

Just like Father, Just My Daddy!

A Freedom Fighter, A United States Marine

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. Next week, on July 6, His Holiness will celebrate his 75th birthday, an occasion that will be marked by Tibetans and Tibet supporters across the world.

The Dalai Lama was born as Lhamo Dhondup on July 6, 1935, to a farming family in village in northeastern Tibet. At the age of 2, he was recognized as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, the manifestation of the Bodhisattva of Compassion. He was later taken to Lhasa to be enthroned as the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people.

Throughout his life, His Holiness has championed nonviolence and peaceful means for

resolving conflicts around the world. He has advocated compassion, respect for human dignity, tolerance, and understanding between the world's great faiths, and dialogues between religious leaders and scientists. For these lifelong commitments, he has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal, and many other honors.

Fifty one-years ago, the Dalai Lama was forced into exile. From that moment he has worked tirelessly to achieve a solution for Tibet and to relieve the ongoing suffering of his people. The Dalai Lama has been courageous and patient in pursuing his "Middle Way Approach" of a peacefully negotiated resolution to the Tibet issue with China. Tibetans in Tibet continue to risk their lives in calling for the return of the Dalai Lama to his homeland.

The U.S. Congress has been resolute in its support for the Dalai Lama and his pursuit of freedom, democracy and human rights for Tibetans and others around the world. I had the great personal pleasure of meeting His Holiness during his visit to the United States Capitol in October 2009. I look forward to Congress giving him another warm welcome on his next visit to Washington.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th birthday of the Dalai Lama and offering our continued appreciation of his life's work of promoting compassion, peace and human rights for all.

GARRETT HULL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Hull. Garrett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Civil Air Patrol and earning the most prestigious General Billy Mitchell Award.

Garrett has been very active with his patrol, participating in many activities. Over the many years Garrett has been involved with the patrol, he has not only earned numerous decorations, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Garrett has earned the rank of First Sergeant and attended the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. Garrett has also contributed to his community by commanding his unit's color guard.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garrett Hull for his accomplishments with the Civil Air Patrol and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Mitchell Award.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD GARZA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant who has spent the past 36 years serving our troops and veterans. Richard Garza, Director of Monterey County

Military and Veterans Affairs Office, has assisted countless constituents with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. Today, Richard begins his retirement, but he will always continue to be an advocate for the men and women who've worn our nation's uniform.

Richard Garza was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1948. In 1961, he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and has been a California resident since. From 1968 to 1970, Richard was drafted and served in the United States Army. After his period of service, he continued his education. He received a Bachelor's of Arts in Interdisciplinary Social Science from California State University, San Francisco and a Master's of Public Administration from California State University, Hayward.

Richard began his public service career in 1974 as a Benefits Counselor and Program Administrator with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1980, he continued serving veterans as the Veterans Service Officer of Sonoma County. Since 2003, Richard has been with the Military and Veterans Affairs Office of Monterey County. As Director of the county office, he has assisted veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and welcomed home returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Moreover, Richard is the first individual in the State of California to become a Certified Veterans Advocate through the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

Madam Speaker, Richard Garza has dedicated his life to taking care of our veterans and troops. I know I speak for the whole House when I both commend him for his dedication to public service and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my best wishes to the people of Somalia living throughout the world on the 50th anniversary of Somali Independence.

It is my pleasure and honor to represent a large and vibrant Somali-American community in Minnesota. I want to offer my congratulations on this special day as they continue to work to advance the cause of peace.

I am grateful for the contributions of Somali-Americans to Minnesota's rich tradition of diversity. The Somali-American community continues to enrich our state through its lively culture, optimism, and wisdom.

Sadly, Somalis in their homeland have endured a tremendous amount of strife and suffering. On this anniversary we must continue to focus on diplomatic efforts to create a lasting peace for the people of Somalia. I continue to have faith that renewed diplomatic efforts will lead to good governance, respect for human rights, and democracy for the people of Somalia.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ROBERT R. O'BRIEN, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD NEW YORK SECTOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Captain Robert R. O'Brien, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement as Commander of the United States Coast Guard's New York Sector. He has served our Nation, and its greatest city, with distinction, and all Americans owe him a debt of gratitude.

Captain O'Brien assumed command of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector New York on June 15, 2006 after completing his previous assignment as the Commander of the USCG's Marine Safety Office in Hampton Roads, Virginia. I know that my distinguished colleagues join me in extending our appreciation and gratitude to Captain O'Brien, who throughout his career has courageously and selflessly dedicated himself to protecting, defending and serving his fellow Americans.

Captain Robert O'Brien's remarkable career in the United States Coast Guard has spanned more than four decades. Enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1970 after leaving the Roman Catholic Seminary, he first served aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Laurel in North Carolina. In 1976, he was assigned as Officer-in-Charge of the USCGC Blackberry, also stationed in North Carolina. Upon his promotion in 1979 to Chief Boatswain's Mate, he was transferred to the largest Aids to Navigation Team in the Atlantic Area as Officer-in-Charge.

In 1983, Robert O'Brien was promoted to Lieutenant, and for the next 20 years served with distinction in assignments that found him in areas ranging from Galveston, Texas to Detroit, Michigan, and numerous places in between. Upon his promotion to Captain in 2003, he assumed command of the Marine Safety Office in Hampton Roads, Virginia. After serving in that capacity for three years, he then became Commander of the New York Sector, where he has been stationed since.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in the United States Coast Guard, Captain Robert O'Brien has earned a number of awards and honors. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon, among many others.

Captain Robert O'Brien was born in Savannah, Georgia and raised in Ridgeland, South Carolina. He and his wife, Martha, have three children: Reid, Jennifer and Caroline, all of whom must be tremendously proud of their father's accomplishments and honorable service to this Nation.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his lifetime of service to this country, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Captain Robert R. O'Brien, Jr., a distinguished member of our armed services and a patriotic

American who has devoted his professional life in service to our country. Captain O'Brien's selfless and enduring dedication to our Nation provides a worthy example for all of us.

HONORING REV. MARK DUANE HAIL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Mark Duane Hail, who has lived a dedicated life of service to his community, the ministry, and to our Nation. Reverend Hail is a man of many remarkable gifts and talents, and has been devoted to employing those gifts to benefit his fellow man.

In June 2010, Reverend Hail retired from the ministry after 27 years. He was ordained a minister in the Southern Baptist Church in 1983 and has served as pastor of several churches in Pulaski County, Kentucky. Mark was also an ordained deacon, teaching Sunday School and serving on church committees. Reverend Hail was also a veteran of the Korean War—serving in the United States Navy from 1955 through 1959. He was awarded the China Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He later served as the Chaplain of the American Legion Post 38 in Somerset.

Before entering the ministry, he taught in the Somerset Independent City School system for 30 years. After retiring from teaching in 1988, he remained active in the schools and in the community, joining the Retired Teachers Association, where he served as president in 1989, as well as serving two terms on the Somerset Independent Schools Board of Education. In 1990, he was elected as vice chairman of the Board of the Somerset Independent School System. In addition to his career as an educator and minister, Mark was also a farmer in the Dabney community for 12 years, worked as a real estate agent with Gosser Real Estate for 20 years, and was a member of the board of directors of the Somerset Pulaski County Development Foundation.

As an elected official in Somerset, Reverend Hail was very active in politics throughout his life. Mark was elected to three terms as the chairman of the Republican Party of Pulaski County. He served as county campaign chair for numerous Republican officials, including President George H.W. Bush, and Senators MITCH MCCONNELL and JIM BUNNING. He was a member of the Republican Lincoln Club and served as a Republican precinct officer for over 20 years. He was a Kentucky Colonel and active in many civic organizations.

These accomplishments only scratch the surface of Reverend Hail's accomplishments and contributions to his community. His work serves as a pattern for all of us who desire to serve our Nation. The Bible in First Timothy instructs us that "the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor." Madam Speaker, Reverend Hail has proven he is worthy of at least that much and more.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF DAN'S PAPERS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication Dan's Papers, celebrating its 50th anniversary as a purveyor of culture and a staple of community life on Eastern Long Island.

Dan's Papers was first published on July 1, 1960, by Dan Rattiner, who was at the time a junior at the University of Rochester. Dan's impetus for creating Dan's Papers stemmed from a desire to create a fun, light-hearted, and welcoming publication for tourists visiting Suffolk County, New York.

Gathering a devoted following, Dan's Papers was instrumental during a 1967 protest to prevent the U.S. Coast Guard from allowing the historic Montauk Point Lighthouse to fall victim to the eroding cliffs on which it is perched. Through the efforts organized by Dan's Papers, not only was the lighthouse saved, but the community was united in a common cause.

Dan worked individually for the first six summers of Dan's Papers, writing, editing, and crafting his newspaper to entertain residents and tourists alike. As populations grew and the demographics of the South Fork began to shift, so too did the scope of Dan's Papers, providing articles, editorials, and updates on the visitors and inhabitants of the East End.

Madam Speaker, Dan's Papers has played an important role in helping to promote the iconic culture of Long Island's South Fork and has personified the American spirit of creativity and community for five decades. I am proud to congratulate Dan's Papers on its 50th anniversary and join eastern Long Island in wishing the publication success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JUDGE DAVID TOBIN

HON. CHARLES A. WILSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the judicial and civic contributions of Judge David Tobin. This month, Columbiana County is losing a great public servant. Judge Tobin devoted twenty-five years of his life to serving on Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas, the second longest tenure of any judge on the Court. His time spent on the bench and prior decade of service as a Columbiana County Prosecuting Attorney greatly benefited the citizens of Columbiana County.

During his service, he had the honor of serving on the Ohio State Bar Association's Board of Character and Fitness as a Commissioner. He also worked hard to bring the Supreme Court of Ohio to the Columbiana County Courthouse to host a court session. These are just a few of the examples that illustrate the professional respect for Judge Tobin exhibited from Lisbon to Columbus.

He was also greatly respected throughout the community. From community service through the Calcutta Rotary, to his work with the Calcutta Community Park Committee, to his various coaching positions, Judge Tobin exhibited a strong commitment to his community.

The people of Columbiana County have been blessed by the long service of Judge Tobin, and upon his retirement this July, he will be sorely missed. I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring Judge Tobin, a respected judge and public servant who has been and will always be dedicated to the people of Columbiana County.

UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD
MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF MEDIA

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to a troubling situation occurring in Ukraine. Less than 100 days ago, President Victor Yanukovich assumed leadership of the Ukrainian government. During this short period of time, there have been alarming reports that many of the democratic achievements of the 2004 Orange Revolution are being rolled back—including the freedoms of speech and media.

Some of the reported actions occurring include the Ukrainian Security Service's, SBU, agents approaching university deans to warn them against their students' participation in pro-opposition rallies, as well as instances of the new government intimidating journalists. Furthermore, two TV channels with a history of independent coverage—Channel 5 and TVi—are under threat of imminent closure due to reported pressure from executive bodies, including SBU.

These troubling instances of pressure against Ukraine's beleaguered opposition and independent media outlets are arguably part of a disturbing, coordinated effort by the executive to squelch a healthy political debate and assure an uncritical coverage of the government's policies. In fact, these reports are so widespread that the United States Ambassador to Ukraine, John Tefft, even recently expressed his concerns about the increasingly difficult climate for Ukraine's independent media and stressed that "it is essential to protect and even expand the media freedoms that emerged" after the country's 2004 Orange Revolution.

I understand that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will visit Kiev, Ukraine on July 2, as part of her five-day, five-nation tour of Eastern Europe. I would encourage Secretary Clinton to raise these issues with President Yanukovich and reiterate the importance of not returning to Ukraine's old system of government pressure on journalists and media companies.

I am including a copy of an article titled, "Ukraine channels cry foul as frequencies pulled" that appeared in the June 8 issue of The Financial Times, Europe. As such, I urge my colleagues to follow and engage in this vitally important issue.

[From the Financial Times, June 8, 2010]

UKRAINE CHANNELS CRY FOUL AS
FREQUENCIES PULLED

(By Roman Olearchyk in Kiev)

Two Ukrainian television channels cried foul on Tuesday after a high court pulled crucial broadcasting frequencies away from them, sparking media freedom activists to reiterate concerns of an organized attempt to block objective news coverage.

The development follows weeks of growing complaints by journalists about the resurgence of censorship and heightens fears that a Kremlin-styled crackdown on media freedoms could be in the works five months into the presidency of the Moscow-friendly Viktor Yanukovich.

Management and journalists from channels 5 and TVi pledged to appeal against the controversial ruling and hope to remain on the air in the near term. But during a press conference held after Tuesday's regional administrative court ruling, they openly expressed fears that media freedoms and democratic gains made by Ukraine since 2004 could be at risk under Mr. Yanukovich. He is accused by oppositionists of setting up an authoritarian regime.

"We lived through 2004," said Channel 5 director Ivan Adamchuk, recalling attempts by authorities to muzzle the channel ahead of the pro-democracy Orange Revolution, which overturned a fraud-marred presidential vote for Mr. Yanukovich. "We could not imagine that those times would return, but they have," he added.

Oleh Rybachuk, a former presidential administration chief turned civic activist, said "censorship is re-emerging, and the opposition is not getting so much coverage. There are similarities to what [Vladimir] Putin did when he came to power. We are seeing Putin-style attempts to monopolise power."

With Mr. Yanukovich's coalition having swiftly consolidated control over the nation's legislative, executive and judicial branches of power, the channels could face an uphill battle if he opposes their survival.

Mr. Yanukovich's administration on Tuesday repeated denials of cracking down on free press. But media watchdogs warned that if stripped of the frequencies, the two channels—seen by media watchdogs as rare sources of reports critical of Mr. Yanukovich's coalition—would be blacked out from much of the country.

Such a scenario would preserve the strong grip over Ukraine's television airwaves held by Mr. Yanukovich's billionaire business backers.

One of them is Valery Khoroshkovsky, currently head of Kyiv's SBU spy agency and owner of UA Inter Media Group, the nation's largest television holding. The latter filed the court appeal asking for the frequencies to be pulled on grounds that they were wrongfully issued in January.

Both 5 and TVi have repeatedly accused Mr. Khoroshkovsky of abusing his power and influence to preserve his monopoly control over Ukraine's media airwaves and limit objective news reporting.

Mr. Khoroshkovsky denies wrongdoing and insists his wife manages his media empire as he dedicates his time to public service.

But on Tuesday, Mykola Knyazytsky, director of TVi, which was set up by exiled Russian businessmen, blamed Mr. Khoroshkovsky for the crack down on the two channels and described his simultaneous role as a presidential backer, intelligence chief and media mogul as a "huge and blatant conflict of interest."

RECOGNIZING THE COCKRUM FAMILY AS THE CRAWFORD COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cockrum family of Crawford County Arkansas. The Cockrum's have devoted their lives to the service of Crawford County and the State of Arkansas through the service and hard labors of cattle farming. It is because of their devotion and hard labors that they were named Crawford County's 2010 Farm Family of the Year.

For 63 years, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has honored farm families all across the State for their outstanding work both on their farms and in their communities. Recognition from the program is a reflection of the contribution to agriculture at the community and State level and its implications for improved farm practices and management.

The Cockrum's have worked diligently to contribute to the protection of the environment and the conservation of soil, water, and energy. Mr. Cockrum's journey began at the age of seventeen when he rented 32 acres of land and purchased his first twelve cows. Today, through hard work and determination, the Cockrum's now own more than 300 acres of land and two businesses.

I congratulate Randy, his wife Anjie, and their children Shelby, Tyler, and Siera for their outstanding achievements in agriculture and ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring them for this accomplishment. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors and look forward to the contributions they will offer in the future of Arkansas agriculture.

RECOGNIZING OF ARTHUR WOLF FOR DECADES OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Arthur Wolf, a great New Yorker and a great American who has devoted himself to serving others. Arthur provided top-notch public service to the citizens of the Empire State for decades as an official at the Social Security Administration and then at the New York City Department for the Aging. He has provided invaluable and expert advice to me on issues related to aging, and in particular, Social Security and Medicare, for the last seventeen years. Last month, he hosted a celebration of his upcoming 80th birthday (he will actually turn 80 on September 25) at a gathering at Aleo restaurant in Manhattan.

Here in Congress, we are elected by the people to make laws, but the job of implementing, applying and enforcing them falls to others. Throughout his professional life, Arthur Wolf has, in his own mild-mannered way, helped citizens overcome the barriers that sometimes exist between often byzantine bu-

reaucracies and the people whom government is supposed to serve.

A proud son of the Bronx, Arthur Wolf has been a consummate New Yorker throughout his life. He did venture far from home to begin his undergraduate education at the University of Georgia, where he witnessed first-hand the mean-spirited racial segregation that then permeated the region, an experience that helped inspire him to try to make a difference for the better. After two years, Arthur returned to his hometown to finish his undergraduate education at New York University, an outstanding institution of which he is a proud, loyal, generous, and highly revered alumnus. After earning his bachelors degree, Arthur became a welfare investigator. In areas like the South Bronx, Arthur Wolf ensured that often underprivileged New Yorkers got a fair shake from the government when it came to accessing benefits to which they were legitimately entitled. He was also a diligent steward of taxpayer dollars who made certain that the public till was not bilked by those who fraudulently tried to qualify for welfare benefits.

As a Social Security Administration official, Arthur helped countless senior citizens cut through red tape that stood between them and the benefits to which they were entitled. Many of these citizens would be penniless if it weren't for the dedicated work of this extraordinary man. In one memorable instance, Arthur helped an elderly widow tap into Social Security benefits to which she was unknowingly entitled, providing her with a sum in the six figures that constituted an enormous boost to her quality of life. He carries that same commitment to serving others everywhere he goes. A longtime resident of Peter Cooper Village, a bastion of middle class housing on Manhattan's East Side, Arthur often helps seniors in the neighborhood by offering uncompensated counsel on how to traverse the Social Security bureaucracy. His work ethic is only matched by his remarkable selflessness. A former Scout Master, he helped introduce inner-city kids to the great outdoors. For many years, he also volunteered his time hosting a radio show on Fordham University's radio station, WFUV, answering callers' Social Security inquiries.

An active member of many community, civic and fraternal organizations, Arthur Wolf is a Full Mason and upstanding member of the Grand Lodge of Accepted Masons of the State of New York, which he has served as Secretary for many years. He remains a longtime member of the Executive Board of the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club.

Madam Speaker, for his extraordinary contributions to others and to the civic life of our nation's greatest city, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Arthur Wolf.

COMING HOME: TRANSITION FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO CIVILIAN LIFE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise on this 4th of July Independence Day Weekend to congratulate and thank

Congressmen SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr. and CHARLES B. RANGEL for joining me last year in convening a powerful national dialogue at the 21st Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 39th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) held in Washington, DC. Our September 25, 2009 forum titled: Coming Home: Transitioning from Military Service to Civilian Life, brought together members of the Obama administration, federal agencies, distinguished scholars and professionals, and two of today's highest ranking black military officers to discuss the important challenges and obstacles facing thousands of returning soldiers and veterans who struggle to negotiate family life, jobs, education and health care after honorable discharge from the U.S. military.

As is our tradition, the morning session began with Dr. Zachery Tims, Jr., Senior Pastor, New Destiny Christian Center (NDCC) giving the invocation to bless the occasion, and inspiring international singer Brenda Jackson singing our national anthem, and a stirring rendition of 'Lift Every Voice and Sing,' the Negro National Anthem by Paul Lawrence Dunbar before a standing-room-only crowd of 400 people.

Rep. CHARLES B. RANGEL provided the framework for the forum using his own experience as a Korean War soldier who had experienced the difficulty of transitioning to the real world after a tour of combat. He opened the morning saying, "I went from being a respected and decorated Army staff sergeant to being viewed as nothing more than a high school drop-out." He was able to navigate his way using the GI Bill from underemployed in the garment district of New York City to obtaining his undergraduate and law degrees. But not everyone is as fortunate.

"Although we have a very effective Department of Veterans Affairs, thousands of today's veterans are falling through the cracks. Most of those who flounder are simply not aware of the assistance available from the VA and other service organizations," RANGEL said. "Our vision was that any veteran who walked into this session lost or disillusioned about the future—after hearing our speakers—would walk out feeling that the VA was there for him or her."

Our keynote speaker was Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the first Asian American Four Star General in American military history, a real 'Soldier's Soldier.' He was joined by two other distinguished military officers, Rear Admiral Michelle Howard, the first female graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy to command a U.S. naval vessel, and Four Star General William "Kip" Ward.

Adm. Howard made history as the commander of the USS *Rushmore* that led the successful rescue effort of Captain Richard Phillips and his crew of the *Mearsk Alabama* captured by Somali pirates during April 2009. Gen. Ward is a Morgan State University graduate and the highest ranking African American in the U.S. military. He spoke eloquently about his military career. He serves as the first-ever commander of the newly formed U.S. AFRICOM, one of six geographical commands within the Department of Defense, tasked with training African soldiers and delivering aid and resources to the continent's residents. Also in attendance were retired Generals Julius Becton, George Price, and Robert Cocroft.

Other federal agency representatives and distinguished scholars included Assistant Secretary Ray Jefferson of the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS), Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Johnston of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Corporate Liaison Officer Chuck Southern, Center for Veterans Enterprise, Department of Veterans Affairs, Chairman James Bombard, Veterans Advisory Committee on Education, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Drs. Shirley Marks, Chief, Mental Health Service, West Texas VA Health Care System, and Kristen Lester, Clinical Psychologist and VA Researcher, Women's Health Sciences Division, National Center for PTSD.

Thus, the forum sought to present the latest up-to-date and vital information to take home to veterans, their families and communities, particularly communities of color across the Nation. Secretary Shinseki's remarks focused on three specific areas: access to services and benefits, the VA disability backlog, and homelessness. He also described the VA footprint and new community health care delivery services such as telehealth, as well as a list of issues confronting the VA: homelessness (approximately 50 percent African American), depression, suicide, joblessness, substance abuse, PTSD, and TBI stigma. Secretary Shinseki, as well as others also graciously acknowledged FY 2010 funding levels as a congressionally enhanced budget, but more importantly, a special 'debt of honor.' He continued, "we intend to end homelessness among veterans as opposed to witnessing their downward spiral into hopelessness through education, jobs, mental health and housing as an investment in America's future." Coupled with announcing new VA initiatives such as increasing SBA to 15 percent, \$500 million going toward homeless veterans programs, along with 20,000 HUD VASH vouchers for housing support—the Obama administration and he will transform the VA into a 21st century organization. Lastly, he promised that 40 years after Vietnam, and 20 years after the first Gulf war, he will seek satisfactory answers to two nagging issues: (1) Agent Orange and its host of illnesses, and (2) Gulf War illness.

The afternoon session consisted of the Veterans Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion, Part II. The roundtable was moderated by Mr. Leonard Dunston, MSW, President Emeritus of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) and featured the following subject matter experts as discussants: Dr. William Lawson, MD, Ph.D., Chairman, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, Howard University, Dr. Jay Chunn, Director, National Center for Health Behavioral Change, Urban Medical Institute, Morgan State University; Dr. Cedric Bright, MD, VA Staff Physician, Dr. Reginald Wilson, Ph.D., Tuskegee Airman & Senior Scholar Emeritus, American Council on Education (ACE), Dr. Jerome Brandon, Ph.D., Professor of Exercise Physiology, Department of Kinesiology & Health, Georgia State University, Dr. Vincent Patton, III, Ed.D., Director of Community Outreach for Military.com, Dr. Donna Holland Barnes, Ph.D., Suicidologist, Howard University, Dr. Kristen Lester, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Women's Health Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD & member, American Psychological Association and commentary by Dr. Tom Berger, Ph.D., Senior Advisor at Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Peter Dougherty,

Director of VA Homeless Programs, Fredette West, former Chief of Staff for the Hon. Louis Stokes (D-OH), Retired, and Dr. James Woodard, Ed.D., JD, former Senior Staff Member for the late Hon. Joseph Moakley (D-MA), and original Braintrust member.

The mission of the roundtable discussion was to complement the morning session with greater details and re-analyses related to veterans transitional difficulties involving behavioral health, PTSD, TBI, suicide, depression and other mental illnesses with both a professional service provider and an interdisciplinary perspective—emphasizing that no one comes home from war unchanged, and unfortunately many emotionally and psychologically wounded troops fall through the cracks.

For example, veterans make up only 13 percent of the population, but account for 20 percent of the suicides. Dr. Barnes indicated veterans with PTSD are more than 3X as likely to die by suicide as their civilian counterpart. White college educated veterans living in rural areas are at the highest risk. Yet, African Americans may be the second highest especially those between the age 18–44. This concurring with Dr. Mark's earlier presentation, that veterans in the general US population are at an increased risk of suicide, with a projected rise in the incidence of functional impairment and psychiatric morbidity among veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Consequently, more clinical and community interventions that are directed towards veterans in both VA and non-VA healthcare facilities are needed. Dr. Chunn spoke about physical assault and attempted murder rates being more than 3X higher among Iraq and Afghanistan returnees, alluding to a direct correlation between homicide and suicide echoed by a number of mental health professionals. Even more so, that the VA is seeing only 40 percent of the behavioral health problems as opposed to the 60 percent in the general population. Dr. Berger pointed out that of the eight VA recommendations concerning suicide, there are no action plans, despite the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS) and the RAND Study of 2008. Correspondingly, risk factors such as multiple deployments, military sexual trauma, TBI linked to PTSD all appear to be disconnected. This is compounded by the fact that close to 50 percent of the National Guard troops come from rural areas of the country, strongly suggesting that the VA and military health systems are not working, because there is no connectivity!

VA researcher Dr. Lester responded that the VA is not a perfect system by any means. Additionally, that there are not a lot of studies comparing ethnic minorities and white PTSD treatment; other research problems stemming from too small sample sizes, and the need for more research targeting issues of relevance to OEF/OIF women service members. Furthermore, she indicated that women's exposure to combat results in increased dual risk, decreased social support, increased parental stress, unsupportive homecoming reception and barriers to health care. Therefore the need for evidence-based treatment and training is essential. Dr. Brandon added a systems reevaluation perspective, more specifically aimed at VA moving from a sick care system to a health care system which includes more individual responsibility and healthy thinking, or healthy lifestyle choices. He also refocused us on the triangulation of expectations such as knowledge, practices and programs, and outcomes. Lastly, with respect to practices, he

questioned effectiveness. Moreover, Dr. Lawson, reiterated, the VA is not culturally competent so mental disorders and traumatic brain injury are not recognized by professionals, nor appreciated as stigmatizing for veterans. Furthermore, the complexities of mental health issues are such that veterans are simply non-responsive to treatment, because they do not get state of the art treatment. With respect to trauma, he said, we know about self-medication and incarceration (the majority of which are non-violent drug abusers) and the revolving door cycle. For depression, he recommended, early screening, culturally relevant education and referral. Like other African Americans, he said, veterans have less access to services, poor recognition of mental disorder, and lack access to state-of-the-art care. Although better than civilians still there exist disparities in services and care!

In terms of the new GI Bill Dr. Wilson stated, today 30 percent of the modern military is black, versus high rates of unemployment plaguing black communities across the nation. Consequently, blacks are more inclined to reenlist, more are married, and have a couple of kids, thus ruling out college! Further, since the new GI Bill has only been in effect for a few months there are no statistics available. However, a recent higher education review reveals: 57 percent of higher education institutions have some kind of program, or service for veterans; 46 percent of private colleges have no program, or service; 22 percent provide special enrollment, and 75 percent provide credit for military occupational training. Yet, focus groups reveal that there is little provision for veterans with families and children, and online education is not recognized.

Also raised was the issue of the impact of non-veterans on veterans in the clinical setting, such as whether or not the peer to peer approach is best (i.e. comfort levels). However, no data currently exist to answer this question. VA staff physician Dr. Bright, a non-veteran talked about the importance of listening and stressed the need for Blacks to participate in clinical research and be informed, while encouraging community-based participatory research to tailor products to local needs, and stressed health equity. Tincie Lynch, a member of the new VA Community Advocates Program based in South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia commented on serving as a life coach to get veterans to the next level, and the start of a new Georgia Veterans Treatment Court. Still others insisted that domestic violence is related to PTSD, but suggested we are not looking at emergency room (ER) data. At the Howard University Hospital PTSD Symposium presenters pointed out that domestic violence is not necessarily included in the national dialogue about returning soldiers, or veterans, families and PTSD. Also widespread usage of new technology such as websites, cell phones, twitter, facebook, etc. by family members raised the issue of how do we capitalize on the worldwide phenomenon known as social networking to better serve veterans. Equally important, Dr. Lawson emphasized 'electronic medical records must be able to talk to one another.' There also seemed to be consensus about quality time with VA physicians and that 15 minute interactions are problematic. Consequently, unanimous agreement was voiced for 'changing reimbursement for primary care providers.' Other

comments consistently reinforced 'we have a broken system,' and 'can't just anyone engage no veteran!'

Furthermore, Ms. West, Mr. Dougherty and Dr. Woodard's commentaries provided a well-rounded critique of veterans' substantive issues, along with accurate assessment and reasonable recommendations through the prism of their own policy experience. West's critique highlighted that the military tradition runs in the family; also, families have PTSD. Thus, we need to look at a minority health bill now, and health care reform must include military, veterans and family coverage. Dougherty's commentary indicated 20 percent of people who called the VA suicide prevention hotline are homeless. He also emphasized that coordination of services and benefits are crucial, along with building relationships and new partnerships with others. Moreover, the VA is moving to a proactive stance in terms of criminal justice and justice outreach, court diversion, the GI Bill, expedited VA claims and planning, as well as plan redesign. Dr. Woodard's commentary, on the other hand, posed a more difficult set of questions: 'what is the nexus of sick care to health care transition, individual responsibility (vs. governmental obligation) and VA access and treatment issues?'

All told, the outcomes of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust 'Coming Home' forum (including the Howard University PTSD Symposium) can be measured in terms of: (1) three summary reports (a) Resulting Trauma: Identifying the Signs, Symptoms & Impact of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in African Americans; (b) Coming Home: Transitioning from Military Service to Civilian Life & Veterans Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion, Part II; and (c) Affirming Life: Suicide Prevention & Intervention in Communities of Color; (2) potential enhancements for Representative CHARLES RANGEL's legislation (H.R. 1963) and recommendations for CBC Chairwoman BARBARA LEE's (D-CA), Task Force on Veterans; (3) an outline of questions for future GAO research in the following three critical areas: (a) veterans' homelessness, (b) women veterans, particularly those single parents with children, and (c) mental health, especially PTSD, TBI, depression, suicide, and mental illness stigma; (4) the successful launching of a new round of issues education outreach workshops based on content and information from September 25th's Veterans Braintrust (2010 New Abstracts: Meeting the Needs of African American Homeless Veterans; U.S. Military Personnel: Women & Veterans of African Descent; & The Veterans Braintrust as a Strategic Intervention); (5) uncovered or identified at least four clearly relevant, but essentially unanswered questions with implications for veterans policy in the future: (a) why are Iraq and Afghanistan combat returnees not using the system, or VA services?, (b) why are African American veterans disproportionately represented among the homeless?, (c) why are only one-third of the entire veterans population enrolled in the VA?, and (d) what is the most effective method for advocating the VA system's needed 21st century transformation, especially, with respect to cultural competence and cultural diversity, or racial, ethnic, and gender differences based

on veteran's health equity? Last, but not least, several recommendations for legislative consideration or action in the future.

The evening's gala reception, "Saluting Veterans & Their Support Organizations" and "African Americans in Transportation," featuring special musical guest Chuck Brown, the 'Godfather of Go-Go', was sponsored by the Association of American Railroads and the A. Philip Randolph Institute and recognized me for my work as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. The U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute awardees included Lt. Col. William Calbert, USA, Ret., William Dabney, Herculano Dias, Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Glover, USA, Ret., Col Kathaleen Harris, USA, Ret., Stanley Murphy, Capt., USA, Vietnam, MSgt. Edwards Posey, USA, Ret., Dovey Johnson Roundtree, USA, WWII, Horace Taylor, USA, WWII, and Dr. James Woodard, Ed.D., JD, Capt., USA, Vietnam. Emile Milne, Legislative Director for the Hon. CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) was presented the Citizens Beneficiary Award by the Mike Handy Foundation & Fund for his unique contribution to our Nation's veterans, along with 2009 Veterans Braintrust awardees, including: Dr. E. Curtis Alexander, Leroy Archible, Lt. Gen. Julius Becton, Jr., USA, Ret., Aseneth (Mays) Blackwell, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter, Dr. Darlene Collins, Roy Foster, C.R. Gibbs, Brig. Gen. Stayce Harris, Wanda Ruth Lee, BGen. Allyson Solomon, Barbara Ward, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Enoch Williams, Joe Wilson, Jr., Eddie Beard Veterans Home, 9th Ordinance Training Battalion Alumni Association, The Units K-West & B-East (US) Reunion Booster Club, The Friends of Charlton Gardens, Sister Soldiers Project, African American Veterans Project of Lancaster County, Dayton African American Legacy Institute, The Legacy Museum of African American History—Much in Demand Exhibit, Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum & Black Veterans Archives.

Furthermore, in trying to capture the mood of the moment during the festive 2009 awards ceremony honoring veterans, their families, and friends the word that best describes the long, rich legacy of African American military contributions is "Service", not money. They admirably and nobly performed service to God and country despite the challenges of race and discrimination. And, no less important, their "Service" to family and friends constituted the essential building block of community.

Finally, as a member of the Veterans Braintrust leadership I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to speakers, panelists, authors, and attendees, but particularly Dr. Frank Smith, Jr., Dr. William Lawson, Dr. Donna Holland Barnes, Guilaine Kraft, Jason Young, Jean Davis, Constance Burns, Dr. Clarence Willie, Edna Wells Handy, Dr. Diane Elmore, Lucretia McClenney, Ralph Cooper, Robert Blackwell, Ervin Russell and T. Michael Sullivan, as well as congressional staff members Roshan Hodge, Lee Footer, Emile Milne, Robin Peguero, Kristen Rice-Jones, Holly Biglow, and Jonathan Halpern for what can only be described as, the best ever Veterans Braintrust.'

I want to once again thank the presenters at the forums and awardees for their long, rich

legacy of service, both in the military abroad and in the fight for equal rights at home.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH AFRICA ON FIRST TWO CONVICTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to express my support for House Resolution 1412, congratulating the Government of South Africa upon its first two successful convictions for human trafficking. I would like to thank Representative SMITH for his efforts on this resolution and his dedication to eradicating human trafficking throughout the world.

This summer people all over the world are watching South Africa. The country is hosting the 2010 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup. South Africa is estimated to attract nearly 2.7 million local spectators and anywhere between 350,000 and 500,000 visitors from around the world. South Africa has made huge efforts within the last several months to ensure that their country is safe, secure, clean, and comfortable for tourists and visitors. A large part of that effort to prepare for this event has been a notable reduction in, and increased prosecution of, human trafficking. This resolution congratulates South Africa on its efforts and the recent successful convictions for human trafficking.

The Department of State reports that, "South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children . . . Children are largely trafficked within the country . . . to urban centers like Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Bloemfontein—girls trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude; boys trafficked for forced street vending, food service, begging, crime, and agriculture . . ." I am very pleased that the South African government, in conjunction with other nongovernmental agencies including the Tshwane Counter-Trafficking Coalition for 2010 and Cape Town Tourism has invested resources and energy into preventing human trafficking during the 2010 FIFA World Cup and I hope that these efforts will continue.

I want to congratulate the South African Government for its enormous stride in addressing human trafficking. I also want to urge the government to move quickly to adopt the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill in order to facilitate future prosecutions, as well as prioritize anti-trafficking law enforcement during the 2010 FIFA World Cup through expanded law enforcement presence, raids, and other measures in areas where trafficking for labor and sexual exploitation are likely to occur. I truly believe that we can eradicate human trafficking and make this world a safer place for all people, and urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY & IN GRATITUDE OF DENNY MOE'S SUPERSTAR BARBERSHOP SECOND ANNUAL CUTTING FOR A CURE 48 HOUR MARATHON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of an outstanding act of community service by the organization and non-profit, Cutting For A Cure, and its founder, Dennis Mitchell. I am proud of the work being done by extraordinary people in the fight to bring awareness and combat very serious health issues, like HIV/AIDS, which has disproportionately affected Blacks, women and other minority members of the Harlem community and the city at large. At the forefront of that movement is Denny Moe's Barbershop and Cutting for a Cure, a community based organization founded to increase the awareness of preventive health care and the importance of early detection and screening.

In hosting the 2nd Annual Cutting for a Cure event, a 48 hour hair-cutting, medical screening and entertainment marathon which commenced on June 25 and ended on June 27, in partnership with National HIV Testing Day to gain exposure for its cause, the organization employed the help of volunteer barbers, entertainers, doctors, nurses and medical technicians to cause a tangible effect in Harlem by raising the awareness of early screening as a means of preventive health maintenance.

With a mobile medical van and team of medical personnel on location, the organization offered screening for diseases ranging from diabetes, high blood pressure and hypertension, high cholesterol, breast, prostate and colon cancer, asthma, kidney disease, and of course, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS in its effort to provide people with the means of early detection. Doctors have repeatedly offered evidence that early diagnosis of certain diseases such as cancers of the colon and the prostate give those who are diagnosed early ability to aggressively combat their illness in the hope of eliminating it and continuing their lives free of disease.

I would like to formally commend Cutting for a Cure for its work in raising health awareness and promoting early diagnosis of the health issues which unevenly affect minorities in our urban centers. The aim of the organization is to offer free health screening clinics with the support of local and corporate business sponsorship, area hospitals and health care professionals to provide local residents an opportunity to get tested right in their own neighborhoods and on their commercial streets and blocks. With help from sponsors such as the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, St. Luke's Roosevelt, Harlem Hospital Center, Central Harlem Health Revival, Harlem United, Barbershop Quartet, Apple Bank, The New York Times, Crunch Gyms and many others, Cutting for a Cure is effectively addressing an epidemic of preventable disease and death right here in Harlem, throughout my Congressional District and the greater New York City at large.

Founder, Mr. Dennis Mitchell, affectionately known as Denny Moe, is the Harlem barber-

shop owner of Denny Moe's Superstar Barbershop and the catalyst for the creation of Cutting for a Cure. Denny Moe was diagnosed earlier this year with Type II diabetes and has used his detection and influence in the community as a business owner to take action with the end goal of bettering lives. Inspired by the health concerns and issues he heard from his many customers who sat in the chairs of his barber shop and friends and family members who became affected by disease and various cancers, he noticed a pattern of certain diseases affecting his customers more than others and the tragedy of people dying due to being diagnosed too far along into their illnesses.

Denny realized that something must be done to stem the tide of African Americans who were losing their lives unnecessarily prematurely due to lack of awareness and inadequate health care. That realization was the seed for the birth of Cutting for a Cure and the work began to offer the community help in the form of education and medical evaluation. Emphasizing the importance of periodic check-ups and healthy living in order to prevent disease is the means used by Denny Moe's Superstar Barbershop to help the people of Harlem and the community around him in his effort to highlight the disparity in the quality of health care offered in urban communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, the efforts of this organization to effect positive change in the lives of other New Yorkers is invaluable and I am honored to commend its work. The organization's motto of "One ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure" is an ideal which it promotes heavily while educating the community that disease prevention is the best method of living a healthy life. The citizens of New York City can only benefit from individuals and organizations such as Mr. Dennis "Denny Moe" Mitchell and Cutting for a Cure as they enrich the lives of others as they continue to help our community.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res 1405, a resolution celebrating 50 Years of African independence. I thank Mr. RUSH for sponsoring this important resolution and for his work as a champion for Africa here in Congress. Mr. RUSH's leadership, along with that of Representatives DONALD PAYNE and ED ROYCE, in shaping policies that help foster economic vitality and good governance on the continent is truly commendable.

I was a lead cosponsor of this resolution because it recognizes the importance of good governance and democratic principles, which have flourished in many African countries over the past decade. Indeed, more than two-thirds of sub-Saharan African countries have held democratic elections since 2000. Moreover, several nations, from Senegal to Tanzania, and from Ghana to Zambia have seen suc-

cessful power changes over the past decade. The United States Department of State has expressed its commitment to supporting African efforts to fortify government accountability and overall good governance, which is crucial to the continent's future growth and global influence.

The resolution commends the socio-economic and political progress being made by African countries, while acknowledging the associated challenges that many still face. According to a June 2010 McKinsey Global Institute report entitled "Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies," over the past decade "Africa's economic pulse has quickened, infusing the continent with new commercial vibrancy." Africa's combined consumer spending in 2008 was \$860 billion, and America is committed to partnering with African nations to foster economic development, entrepreneurship and trade in the continent.

Kofi Annan, Chair of the Africa Progress Panel (APP) recently noted that "Africa's future is in its own hands, but that success in managing its own affairs depends on supportive global policies and agreements." H. Res. 1405 comes at a time when the world is taking notice of Africa's great progress in recent years and it reaffirms the United States' commitment to growth and prosperity in Africa.

This resolution is a celebration of the hope that resonates in the hearts and minds of the many Africans, African Americans, policy-makers, and NGOs that are committed to Africa's progress and prosperity. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING OF THE STICKBALL HALL OF FAME ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDUCTION OF ITS 2010 HONOREES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stickball Hall of Fame, an institution that promotes and preserves the great athletic tradition of stickball that has been a mainstay of urban life in America and has helped countless youths learn about the precepts of fair play, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence. The Stickball Hall of Fame has recognized and commemorated a sport which truly represents the spirit and innovation that exemplifies New York, our nation's greatest city.

Adapted from and closely linked to our great national pastime of baseball, stickball helped transform the urban landscape of 20th century America. Since the 1920s, the game of stickball has been an important team sport in cities across the country, where it served to strengthen personal relationships between families and friends, and forged strong bonds within the communities in which it was played.

In 1968 in New York City, a group known as the 111th Street Old Timers was formed. It organized an annual festival centered around the game of stickball. In 1999 the group began to focus its efforts on reaching out to the kids and seniors within the community. The group raised money to send youths to summer camp, established a scholarship fund, and distributed toys to children in hospitals. Today we

honor this organization for its meaningful contributions to the citizens of New York City.

In 2000, the 111th Street Old Timers founded the Stickball Hall of Fame in order to recognize the pastime which made these charitable works possible. The Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the game of stickball as well as commemorating great players and community activists for whom stickball was a beloved pastime. Annually, four to six members recognized for skills both in the game of stickball and for their community service are inducted into the Stickball Hall of Fame. Additionally, this year, the organization will pay tribute to a great player and citizen, Charlie Rivera, founder of the Puerto Rican Stickball League, who passed away in May 2010.

The current president of the Stickball Hall of Fame, Carlos Diaz, exemplifies the spirit of selfless service. He has long been devoted to community activism, serving on the advisory boards of many important institutions, including those of Con Edison and New York Telephone, the East Harlem Baseball Federation, and the George Conroy Educational Fund. He served as chairman of the East Harlem Council for Community Improvement, and founded a group called the Explorer's Program in which junior high school students were exposed to careers in healthcare. Last month, his years of tireless and effective community service were recognized and honored by the Community Advisory Board of Metropolitan Hospital.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the tremendous contributions made to the civic life of our nation by the game of stickball by its most skilled players, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Stickball Hall of Fame, which has helped preserve a great American tradition and is an inspiration to us all.

JOSE ANTONIO "ANTHONY"
ROCHE, JR. OF NOLANVILLE,
TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the life of Jose Antonio "Anthony" Roche, Jr. who was born in Chicago, IL, on November 11, 1976. In 1995, at the age of 17, Anthony joined the U.S. Army. As a Specialist (SPC) he served as a fuel and electrical systems repairer. He performed direct support and general support maintenance on fuel and electrical systems of wheel and track vehicles, brake system components, and on internal combustion engines associated with power generation equipment or material handling equipment. Anthony received the National Defense Service Medal/ARMY service ribbon.

After leaving the service, he was gainfully employed and hardworking his entire life. He worked for Cuttler Hammer of Puerto Rico. His most recent job was with Palau/Raytheon. On April 29, 2010, he returned home after serving one year in Q West, Iraq. He was working with many aircraft in distress and he assisted pilots as he grew in his knowledge of aircraft and skills.

Anthony had a passion for fast cars and motorcycles. On May 1, 2010, he was found dead at his residence garage.

Jose is survived by his beloved father Jose, his mother Victoria, his sister Vickie, his brothers Jose, Edgardo and Alexander and his two English Bull Terrier dogs, Rocco and Maximo, better known as his "kids."

I offer my prayers and sympathy to the Roche family for the loss of Anthony and appreciate his service to the United States Army.

CONGRATULATING SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS ON THE OCCA- SION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THEIR NEW MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spirit AeroSystems on the grand opening of their new facility that will build major components for the Airbus A350 aircraft.

Spirit AeroSystems recently completed construction of a 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Kinston, North Carolina at the Global Transpark. Spirit AeroSystems will employ over 1,000 individuals who will be responsible for building the main fuselage and portions of the wings for Airbus' Xtra-Wide-Body A350 passenger aircraft.

Based in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit AeroSystems could have built a manufacturing facility anywhere in the world. But they chose eastern North Carolina, and I am grateful for their decision.

Madam Speaker, I represent the fourth poorest Congressional district in the country. The daily struggle to make ends meet for many of my constituents is an unfortunate reality. More than anything, eastern North Carolina needs good-paying jobs. And I hope that other companies who are looking to expand will see the great success and mutually beneficial relationship Spirit AeroSystems and Lenoir County have fostered. Eastern North Carolina's ready workforce and strategic location provide a competitive advantage for any organization.

North Carolina has a strong history of aviation. In 1903, the Wright Brothers took to flight in, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina—about 150 miles from where the Spirit AeroSystems facility is located today. As we all know, the Wright Brothers are credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane, and I am confident that Spirit AeroSystems will be credited with revolutionizing the aviation industry in eastern North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Spirit AeroSystems on the grand opening of their new manufacturing facility. I thank Spirit AeroSystems for the trust and confidence they have in the State of North Carolina, the Eastern Region, and most importantly the local, homegrown people that will proudly serve Spirit AeroSystems and their customers.

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER CLARIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4445, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act.

First, I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor. My colleague Congresswoman HEINRICH, the author of this legislation, has worked hard to ensure that the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is considered a part of tribal lands.

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a vital part of Pueblo history in New Mexico. Its mission is to preserve and perpetuate Pueblo culture and to advance understanding by presenting the accomplishments and evolving history of the Pueblo people of New Mexico. While the Pueblo people are located primarily in New Mexico, at one time the Pueblo's homeland reached into the states of Colorado and Arizona. Pueblo people rooted in this region of the southwest are descendants of an indigenous Native American culture that has established itself over many centuries.

H.R. 4445, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act, would strike a provision in current law which prohibits the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in New Mexico from being considered "Indian Country." When this provision is removed, it will give the Cultural Center the same tax-exempt status as other tribal trust lands and would prohibit the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department from levying taxes on Pueblo members who engage in business at the center. In addition, the legislation will prohibit any gaming from being conducted on the transferred property.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4445 because it makes an important correction to current law so that the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center can now be considered tax-exempt. This vital piece of New Mexican and Pueblo Indian Culture deserves our full support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4445. I yield the remainder of my time.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4173, DODD-FRANK WALL STREET RE- FORM AND CONSUMER PROTEC- TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2009, the Obama Administration released details of its proposal to establish a Consumer Financial Protection Agency. It proposed an independent agency housed within the executive branch to regulate the provision of financial products and services to consumers. Now, one year later, this proposal has morphed into

a 2,300 page bill that further extends the federal government's grasp on more aspects of our economy.

I voted against this bill on December 11, 2009 but despite my opposition, H.R. 4173 passed the House of Representatives on a straight party line vote—with not one Republican voting in favor of the legislation. On June 30, H.R. 4173 came back from the House-Senate Conference Committee, which ironed out the differences between the two bills. Again, I opposed this legislation. Despite my opposition, the bill ultimately passed by a margin of 237–192. The legislation now awaits further action in the Senate.

This is the wrong bill at the wrong time that punishes the wrong people. In the midst of continuing economic turmoil, this bill increases the size of government, expands its reach in the market place, jeopardizes the safety and soundness of many of America's financial companies and non-financial companies, and significantly increases the cost of credit for all consumers at a time when consumers can least afford it. This legislation overreaches and will affect companies and community banks that had nothing to do with the financial crisis.

These reforms will continue to perpetuate the bailout mentality that has plagued our nation and eliminate access to credit for many small businesses and families at a time when they need it most.

The conference report will abolish the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS). The transfer of its powers and duties will have to be done within one year after the conference report's enactment. The conference report will transfer to the FDIC the authority to regulate all state savings associations. The OCC, which would be a bureau within the Treasury Department, would regulate all federal savings associations. The conference report also preserves the thrift charter.

The conference report also requires the Federal Reserve to ensure the fees charged to merchants by credit card companies for credit or debit card transactions are reasonable and proportional to the cost of the processing those transactions. The consequences of government artificially imposing its heavy hand into private transaction will further slow our economy. We can't even get a federal budget passed, so what justification does the government have to determine transaction fees.

As one of my colleagues pointed out, economists don't often see eye to eye, but they seem to agree that if one side of the market has its costs artificially lowered, the other side of the market will see increased costs. This means that, in this battle between retailers and banks, debit card holders and account holders will likely foot the bill.

Creating more regulatory burdens and a new government agency full of unelected bureaucrats to pick the winners and losers in the private-sector is not the answer. This will only serve to crush more jobs and paralyze our economic growth even more. Kansans have had it with the only solution the administration continues to offer: more government.

I am in strong opposition to H.R. 4173. I worry about its impact on our economic freedom and will work to repeal these harmful policies.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ESIGN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. I rise in support of designating today as "National E-Sign Day" and commend Mr. McDermott for bringing this resolution to the Floor.

Ten years ago the thought of filing your taxes electronically, renewing your drivers license, and filling out a mortgage application on your computer was one that many feared. There was uncertainty about the security of the transaction and how to verify who was on each end of the keyboard. We recognized then that we needed rules of the road that would guide us into the information society. We needed to create trust in this emerging technology called the "internet" if it was going to grow into what we hoped would be at least a new and efficient way to do business electronically in both the public and private sector.

We stood at a crossroads ten years ago. We needed to eliminate obsolete barriers to electronic commerce such as undue pen and paper requirements and other practices that slowed down innovation. In March of 1999 I introduced the H.R. 1320, the Millennium Digital Commerce Act because I recognized that the growth of electronic commerce and electronic government transactions represented a powerful force for economic growth, consumer choice, improved civic participation, and wealth creation.

Less than a year later, in January of 2000, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act was signed into law.

As the information and innovation society is now fully integrated into almost every aspect of our lives, we stand here today to look back over the last ten years. Electronic commerce is now the driving force of our global economy. The level of confidence in the internet and the innovative tools it has created continues to grow. As we stood at that intersection ten years ago, we took our country and our consumers in the right direction.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 290 designating June 30th as "National E-Sign Day."

CONGRATULATING RICHARD L.
HARRIS ON JOINING THE NAFCU
BOARD

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Harris on his recent election to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Mr. Harris has shown tremendous leadership at Caltech Federal Credit Union, where he currently serves as president and CEO, as well as treasurer of the Caltech Credit Union

Board of Directors. Undoubtedly, NAFCU will benefit greatly from Mr. Harris's vast experience in credit union management which dates back to 1981.

Over the years Mr. Harris has been an active member of the NAFCU family and is a welcomed addition to the board at a time when Congress has taken up legislation that would significantly reform the financial services sector and the way credit unions do business.

It is because of the good work and leadership of Richard and others like him that the credit union community enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of credit unions and I wish Mr. Harris the best of luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with him in this capacity and I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Richard on this achievement.

IN MEMORY OF THE REV. DR.
FRANK WITMAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman, a close, personal friend of my wife, Janice, and me, who passed away on Tuesday.

Frank Witman had a calmness about him that belied his inner strength. He arrived in Simi Valley, California, in the summer of 1969 to assume the post of senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. It is not an understatement to say that the city was blessed by his presence.

Frank was the sixth of seven consecutive generations of United Methodist pastors on his father's side and the third of four consecutive generations on his mother's side. After serving as a pastor in Rialto and Pomona, he anchored his roots in Simi Valley and branched out into every aspect of community life.

In 1978, Frank founded the chaplain program for the Simi Valley Police Department and for more than 30 years served as the department's senior chaplain. He provided comfort, counseling, prayers and support during most of the city's traumatic and tragic events, including the untimely death of Officer Michael Clark. His support of the city and its police officers earned him the department's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997, the department's Lifetime Service Award in 2007, and recognition from the Simi Valley City Council in 2008.

When not at his church or the Police Department, Frank could frequently be found at Simi Valley Hospital, where he was a charter member of the Simi Valley Hospital Board Strategic Planning Committee, visiting church members and others in need. Following his retirement from the church in 1997, he remained active as a volunteer chaplain for the hospital, filling in for the staff chaplains as needed. Earlier this year, the hospital named its chapel the Witman Chapel in honor of his years of service.

In 1990, I had the honor of nominating Frank to offer a prayer to open a session of the House of Representatives as guest Chaplain, which he did on May 2, 1990.

Frank also co-authored a book on world hunger and two books on church administration. He served as an adjunct faculty member

at the Claremont School of Theology from 1992–2000, teaching church administration with his coauthors in four states.

Frank was recognized numerous times for his unselfish devotion, including the Paul Harris Award, one of the highest honors Rotary International bestows upon an individual, and the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elsie; sons, Mark and Paul; their wives, Luene and Barbara; and grandchildren, Lauren and Peter, as well as his two older brothers, Harold and Henry.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to Elsie and the Witman family, and in remembering a remarkable man whose life of service will live on in all those whose lives he touched.

HONORING MR. MATTHEW
LEONARD SIMMONS, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mr. Matthew Leonard Simmons, Jr., a constituent in the congressional district I represent. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize him for the tremendous inspiration he provided to the South Florida community.

Mr. Simmons was born on January 31, 1956 in Miami, Florida to Mrs. Blanche Simmons and the late Mr. Matthew L. Simmons, Sr. He was a product of the Miami-Dade Public School System and graduated from Miami Jackson Senior High School.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Simmons faithfully and patriotically served his country by joining the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He attained the rank of sergeant before being honorably discharged in 1979.

Mr. Simmons was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of his life and his interests. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the Simmons family.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Matthew Leonard Simmons, Jr. He will be missed by all who knew him, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the United States House of Representatives. While he will indeed be missed, his legacy, as well as the outstanding contributions he made to South Florida and our nation as a United States Army veteran will live on.

CONGRATULATING THE PARK
RIDGE FINE ARTS SOCIETY ON 50
YEARS OF SUMMER CONCERTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Park Ridge Fine Arts Soci-

ety as they celebrate 50 years of providing free summer concerts for the community. The purpose of the Park Ridge Fine Arts Society is to provide a musical showcase and the means for enjoyment of serious music through free community concerts, and to engage in such activities and programs that will foster all of the fine arts. The concerts draw crowds of 1,500 to 3,500 people, with a season total of more than 30,000 concertgoers.

These concerts are a wonderful way not only to bring beautiful, professional music to the community, but also to bring neighbors together and build a sense of community. Summer in Park Ridge is enriched by these wonderful weekly concerts in Hodges Park.

Frank York established the Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony Orchestra and the Park Ridge Fine Arts Society 50 years ago and remained at the helm of the organization, driven by his vision of excellence, until 2005. Throughout the organization's history, it has maintained the highest artistic standards. The Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony Orchestra is produced and coordinated by the Park Ridge Fine Arts Society to perform the summer concerts. It is a fully professional orchestra, made up of superb musicians from throughout the Chicago area, devoted to bringing the excitement and beauty of great classical music to the northwest suburbs.

I want to recognize the great work of the people who make sure that the concerts are of the highest quality and are available to the community each summer: Barbara Schubert, musical director and conductor; Emily Toy Kosaka, president; Daniel Aranda, vice president; Dennis Van Mieghem, treasurer; Dawn Himley-Grandi, secretary; and the board of directors: Ken Boyce, Pam Boyce, Kevin P. Costello, Doug Crawford, Mike Grandi, Mary Jersey, Russ Jersey, Jim Lange, Paul Lundberg, Debbie Maggio, Mike Maggio, Jack Owens, Christel Owens, and Nancy Tordai.

The orchestra and its concert series in Park Ridge is truly one of the great jewels of the northwest suburbs.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4173,
DODD-FRANK WALL STREET RE-
FORM AND CONSUMER PROTEC-
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, our mission from the American people was simple: pass Wall Street Reform that puts consumers first, holds Wall Street and Big Banks accountable, and ends the era of taxpayer-funded bailouts and "too-big-to-fail" institutions. By passing this legislation, we have fulfilled that mission.

We ensure that taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions. We enable regulators to shut down "too big to fail" banks before they take down the system. We impose tough new rules on the riskiest financial practices that were at the root cause of the crisis. We place a fiduciary duty on brokers to act in the best interests of their clients. We create a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and end the reliance on credit rating agencies that gave triple-A ratings to

risky mortgage-backed securities that they didn't understand or investigate.

To those who ask: will the Wall Street Reform we passed last night prevent another financial meltdown in the future—I answer with a firm and resounding yes.

HONORING CAPTAIN E. LORENZO
DICASAGRANDE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of Captain E. Lorenzo DiCasagrande, a shipping executive who helped transform Baltimore into a nationally recognized container port and thus contributed to the economic vitality of Maryland communities.

Captain DiCasagrande, who passed away May 21, 2010, was vice president of the Mediterranean Shipping Company for more than 20 years and was an early advocate of the Port of Baltimore. Within one year of joining the company, he had established weekly service for the line from East Coast ports, including Baltimore's South Locust Point Marine Terminal, which had previously been served by one ship once every two weeks. The company brought 8,000 containers each year to the South Locust Point shipping berth.

Captain DiCasagrande then paved the way for the success of the Seagirt Marine Terminal in 1990 by being the first container line to commit to the then-new terminal. Today, the company is committed to 150,000 containers a year and is still growing, with five ship calls every week to the Seagirt terminal. In fact, the Mediterranean Shipping Company is Baltimore's top container customer.

Earlier this year, Captain DiCasagrande celebrated with Maryland port officials as they broke ground on a new 50-foot berth for the Port, a long-time vision for him. The project will support 5,700 jobs and, when completed, accommodate larger ships and attract more cargo to Baltimore. It will help Baltimore maintain its current customers and attract new ones that will come aboard the larger ships of the future.

A native of Italy, Captain DiCasagrande adopted Baltimore as his second home, fiercely defending the city in business negotiations. He worked hard to win customers and built a strong relationship with the port community, elected officials and his employees. His friends and business associates alike described him as a great leader, well-respected and well-liked. He was also a dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today to honor the life of Captain Lorenzo E. DiCasagrande. His dedication as a tireless advocate for the Port of Baltimore is deserving of the utmost gratitude. He deserves credit for helping bring more cargo to Baltimore's piers and creating thousands of jobs for Maryland families.

CONGRATULATING BOYD
HUNEYCUTT

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of the most hard-working and inspirational people I've ever had the honor of knowing.

Last month at the U.S. Powerlifting Championships, Boyd Huneycutt, after an 18-year break from competing, set the national and world record in his weight class.

But what makes his story unique is that Boyd was born prematurely with numerous birth defects, and given 72 hours to live. 50 years later, Boyd is still touching lives and inspiring those around him.

You see, Boyd only has two fingers on one hand. And one on the other. He has metal braces on his legs. In his lifetime, he's had 72 orthopedic surgeries. The obstacles he's faced in his life are many, and may have stopped others.

But Boyd lives by the motto "Never Compromise, Always Improvise". And improvise he did.

He set his first North Carolina state record in 1989. He won his first state championship in 1990. In 1992, he won gold in his weight class while representing the United States on the U.S. national team.

And to top it off, he's undefeated. In more than two decades of competing, nobody has ever beaten him, and I doubt that anyone ever will.

It's because of his work ethic, determination, and refusal to take "no" for an answer that Boyd Huneycutt has become a world class athlete and world champion. I'm honored to know him, and look forward to many more national and world records to come.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR WESTERN SUGAR AND THE SCOTTSBLUFF SUGAR INDUSTRY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the success of the sugar beet industry in the Panhandle region of Nebraska for its relationship with Western Sugar and its various owners over the past 100 years.

Opened in 1909, the sugar beet factory operated by the Great Western Sugar Company—along with the development of improved irrigation canals—soon made the raising of sugar beets a major agricultural industry in Scotts Bluff County and the surrounding areas.

With the aid of the sugar factory, Scottsbluff was rapidly becoming the principal trading center of the valley. As people in surrounding farms and villages acquired automobiles, Scottsbluff was invariably their destination.

A century later—through tough economic times and even a tragic explosion in 1995—this stalwart factory has proven to be the bed-

rock it was in 1909. The company boasts 260 full time employees (a number which grows substantially during harvest) and a \$10.6 million annual payroll.

It is not a stretch to say without Western Sugar, there would be no sugar beet industry in the Scottsbluff-Gering area. Nearly one-third of the acreage in our region is designated for sugar beets—almost all of which are processed through the sugar factory.

Last week we celebrated 100 years of Western Sugar's successful processing factory. This success is directly attributable to the commitment and dedication of its employees, local businesses, sugar beet growers and their families.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM L.
TAYLOR

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Taylor, a Washington area lawyer who played a critical role in civil rights issues across the country. Taylor was instrumental in the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and dedicated over 40 years of his life to ensuring every American, regardless of race or creed, enjoy the freedom that is the promise of this great country.

William Taylor was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 4, 1931, to two Jewish immigrants. Though Taylor was subject to racial slurs and discrimination throughout his childhood, he chose to devote his life to guarantee equal rights for all. Taylor understood that the power of the voting booth was vital to liberty, and one's color, religion, social status, and should never restrict access to freedom.

Upon his 1954 graduation from Yale Law School, Taylor joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, serving under the great Thurgood Marshall. During his tenure, Taylor aided desegregation enforcement efforts, ensuring school districts abide by the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

Taylor was then appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, composing civil rights recommendations that were the basis for the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. I had the pleasure of working with Bill for a number of years as a member of the Missouri State Senate. During this time, I was witness to his brilliance and perseverance, while we crafted an amicable legislative solution that settled the long-running St. Louis Public School Desegregation issue. This feat concluded in the largest voluntary metropolitan school desegregation plan in the country.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Taylor, a man whose visionary leadership helped usher in a new era of justice. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. William Taylor.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF AEROJET'S REDMOND, WASHINGTON EMPLOYEES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the employees of Aerojet-General Corporation's Redmond, Washington operations facility. Aerojet-Redmond has recently been selected by the United Space Alliance to receive the Space Flight Awareness Supplier Award for Aerojet's sustained superior performance as a key supplier on NASA's Space Shuttle program over the course of nearly 30 years. This most significant achievement will be commemorated with a presentation from United Space Alliance and celebration ceremony held at Aerojet's facility in Redmond, Washington on Thursday, July 8, 2010.

Aerojet is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader principally serving the space and missile propulsion, defense and armaments markets. The Space Flight Awareness Supplier Award is a very prestigious award bestowed upon United Space Alliance supplier companies—from among over 2,000 active suppliers located throughout the United States—who have performed extraordinary work that added to safety, mission success, schedule compliance, and enhanced flight capability. Aerojet's Redmond Operations will be only the twenty-first company to receive this highly selective award.

Aerojet-Redmond is the world leader in the in-space propulsion market and as such is the manufacturer of the 38 primary and 6 vernier Reaction Control Thrusters used on every Space Shuttle mission. The Shuttle's Reaction Control System is used to position the Space Shuttle during flight operations such as payload insertions and International Space Station docking.

On the occasion of this most significant milestone, my colleagues and I are proud to join together and lend our voices to congratulate and honor the more than 425 Aerojet workers in Redmond, Washington on a job well-done.

SALUTING SERGEANT EDWARD
WAGNER

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Independence Day approaches I would like to take a moment to recognize all the men and women who have ever fought to defend the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness espoused by the Founding Fathers. Since the time when the Declaration of Independence was read in town squares across the 13 colonies in 1776 to today, more than 230 years later, our liberties and freedoms have been protected by the members of the Armed Forces. Specifically, I want to recognize Sgt. Edward C. Wagner, a Korean War veteran and lifelong constituent of mine from Greensburg, Pennsylvania who is turning 80 years old on July 6, 2010.

In June of 1952, Ed went through basic training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Infantry, "R" Company in the U.S. Army. Later that year he was deployed to Camp Drake in Japan. By Christmas, Ed was serving with the 35th Infantry Division—Tropic Lighting—Cacti Unit, in North Korea. In 1953 Ed earned the rank of Sergeant and continued to faithfully serve in North Korea until his return to the United States one year later.

Back home in Greensburg, Ed went to work for Bettis Atomic Power Lab as a Material Evaluation Laboratory Fuel Handler until retiring in 1992 as a quality insurance weld inspector. Not only a devoted soldier and worker, Sgt. Wagner has been a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to his wife Luella of 59 years, his three children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. When not spending time with his family, Ed serves as a member of the Free and Accepted Mason Philanthropy Lodge. He also has a passion for restoring old antique cars, driving both a 1937 Plymouth and a 1939 Chevy Master Deluxe.

Sgt. Edward C. Wagner is one of many who fought to preserve American values while in uniform and continue to "bear true faith and allegiance" to the Constitution. It was once said, "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." We owe each and every veteran a sincere 'Thank You' for their service and I would like to especially thank Sgt. Wagner and wish him a very happy and healthy birthday.

HONORING MR. LLOYD STUFFT

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our nation, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Stufft of New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stufft is a tireless volunteer and patriot who has made it his personal mission to honor deceased veterans buried in the Alle-Kiski region of the 12th Congressional District.

Growing up in rural Somerset County, Mr. Stufft joined the Army and served during World War II. He was deeply affected by what he saw. While stationed in France, he spent time burying veterans and maintaining their graves. After joining the American Legion, he continued to care for the graves of deceased veterans, and for the last 40 years, has volunteered as the graves-registration officer for the Robert L. Davies Post No. 868 of Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania. In this role he tends the graves of all the servicemen and women who served in the United States military. He ensures that each grave has an American flag and a marker denoting a veteran's military branch as well as service in any wars.

For the 50th anniversary of World War II, Mr. Stufft put together a color lithograph display of European cemeteries that contain the graves of American service members. In addition, he put together photo books of these cemeteries, including the French cemeteries where he helped to bury veterans and maintain their graves. This work has helped many people find out where their loved ones are buried.

To honor his service, the Pennsylvania American Legion presented Mr. Stufft with the Blue Cap Award for Legionnaire of the Year.

In addition to serving his fellow veterans, Mr. Stufft also cares for his loving wife of 62 years, Mrs. Jeneane Stufft.

Madam Speaker, I wish to conclude my remarks by thanking Mr. Lloyd Stufft for everything he has done to honor our deceased veterans. He is a man who lives by the ideals of the 4th of July every day, and has truly made a difference.

HONORING JIMMY WAYNE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the leadership and contributions of Jimmy Wayne to the State of Tennessee and the United States of America for his remarkable efforts to combat homelessness.

Jimmy Wayne began his "Meet Me Halfway" journey on January 1, 2010. He is in the midst of a 1,660-mile walk from Nashville, TN, to Phoenix, AZ, to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless youth in our country.

Being raised in a foster child system, Jimmy knows far too well the challenges and heartaches that go with being homeless. He grew up in multiple foster homes and periodically found himself homeless as a teen.

Luckily at age 16 he met Bea and Russell Costner who took him in and gave him a fresh start and a new lease on life. They gave him a place to stay but only if he agreed to "meet them halfway," by following the rules of their house.

I wish to honor Jimmy for using his "Meet Me Halfway" campaign to not only raise awareness but to raise funds for organizations that benefit homeless youth including Nashville's Monroe Harding and Phoenix HomeBase Youth Services. Through these groups, essential services are continuously provided to the homeless, allowing so many who fought the same circumstances as Jimmy did growing up a chance for a more productive, healthy and self-sufficient life.

Madam Speaker, all people should educate themselves about the impact of homelessness on teens and children in their communities. It is my hope that individuals will help address the problem of homelessness in our country by volunteering and donating their time and/or money to the foster child and foster parent programs in their local community.

Thank you, Jimmy Wayne, for your work, and I look forward to congratulating you once you finish this campaign.

ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE VILLAGE OF COCHRANE, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise in recognition of the Village of Cochrane in Western Wisconsin. Cochrane is

celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding on Saturday, July 3rd.

Located just east of the mighty Mississippi river, Cochrane is surrounded by natural beauty. Located in Buffalo County, it is one of the few areas in the Midwest untouched by the glaciers in the last ice age. Numerous hills and bluffs rise majestically above its many lakes and streams. This beauty is enjoyed by sportsmen from across Wisconsin, many of whom come to fish for trout in the nearby rivers and streams.

While Cochrane citizens once played a role in Wisconsin's timber industry in the mills of the nearby City of Buffalo, it has always been and always will be an agricultural center. Farming is the number one source of income in Buffalo County, and Cochrane is no exception. Cochrane's Lacrosse Milling Company plays a vital role in processing the natural grains produced across the Midwest. I am very proud of the citizens of Cochrane, who help to continue Wisconsin's agricultural tradition.

The Village of Cochrane exemplifies the enduring work ethic present in Western Wisconsin. Though not great in size, together communities such as Cochrane make up an important piece of the social fabric of our society. I hope you will join me in applauding the citizens of Cochrane for all that they have contributed to their State and our Country over the past 100 years. I also hope that they will continue to grow and prosper in the months and years ahead.

IN HONOR OF BERTHA MANECIO

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bertha "Bert" Manecio, a resident of Lumberton, New Jersey and dedicated volunteer at the Memorial Hospital Thrift Shop in Mount Holly, New Jersey.

Bert began her volunteer services at the Thrift Shop in 1970. Before her "retirement" in May 2010 she had volunteered for forty years and donated over 10,700 hours of her time. Bert helped maintain the shop by tagging and pricing donated garments and helping at the register. She has always given her total support and welcomed any changes with enthusiasm and excitement. She has been a valuable asset to the program and her selfless efforts must be recognized.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you please join me in congratulating Bert for her outstanding and dedicated community service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,203,473,753,968.10.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,565,048,007,674.3 so far this Congress. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

MERCER ISLAND'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, as the representative to this House for the 8th District of Washington, I want to congratulate and recognize a city within the 8th District that is celebrating a milestone anniversary today.

Mercer Island, with a population of 22,890, was incorporated on July 5, 1960. It is an island in Lake Washington, situated a few minutes east of Seattle. The City is breathtaking in many areas, with wonderful parks, open spaces, beautiful neighborhoods, and successful schools. My District Office is located on Mercer Island and the merchants and residents of the community could not be more accommodating or welcoming of my staff and the various guests who visit the office. Mercer Island is a gem of the 8th District.

Every August, Mercer Island has a front row seat to the extraordinary display put on by the Blue Angels and the boats on Lake Washington during the Seafair celebration; honestly, experiencing Seafair from Mercer Island is an experience that will not be forgotten. Additionally, Mercer Island's large multipurpose community center is an exceptionally valuable community asset and its parks provide the natural beauty and open space that is a hallmark of the Pacific Northwest.

Many fine business, civic and community leaders call Mercer Island home. Many fine students attend school on the island and receive first-class educational opportunities. Mercer Island is one-of-a-kind and I'm pleased to recognize its 50th anniversary of existence. To Mayor Jim Pearman, members of the City Council, and residents of Mercer Island, I say congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I missed two votes last week in order to attend an important community celebration in International Falls and to see the devastating impact of a tornado that struck Wadena. As a result, I was unable to record my vote on important legislation to ensure continued Medicare reimbursement for physicians and on comprehensive sanctions against Iran. Had I present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures (rollcall votes 393 and 394). I also missed seven votes on Tuesday in order to attend the funeral of Judge Gerald Heaney of Duluth. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall votes 395, 398, 399, 400 and 401; I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall vote 397, and I would have voted "present" on Rollcall vote 396.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SISTER MARY CELINE GRAHAM: "A WOMAN OF COMPASSION AND FAITH"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to memorialize a beloved member of our community, Sister Mary Celine Graham, who's mass will be celebrated tomorrow at Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church in her beloved Harlem. Her tragic and senseless death came as a result of a horrific accident and has left behind a deeply felt void within the Handmaids of Mary of the Most Pure Heart family and the greater Harlem community. The Handmaids of Mary have a special place in my heart going back to my youth, and the loss of Sister Mary Celine is especially profound.

Sister Mary Celine was born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in Detroit. At the age of 22, she joined the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary in Harlem, which is one of only three historically black orders of Roman Catholic nuns in the United States. She continued to share her love and services with her community for the next 61 years.

Her death at the age of 83 leaves behind a great legacy of tireless service and devotion to those who needed her. Sister Mary Celine is remembered as a woman of true compassion who believed in education for the young. She dedicated her life to being a teacher, director, and surrogate grandmother to the children of St. Benedict's Day Nursery on 124th Street at Marcus Garvey Park.

As the New York Times reported last week, Sister Mary Celine left an indelible mark on the children she cared for and educated. She was a gently firm yet caring teacher who recognized the potential in each individual and worked to bring that potential to fruition. Sister Mary Celine was not only an educator but was also a loving mother figure to the children. These children not only learned the basics of reading and numbers but also learned what it was to love, and what it was to serve others.

The undivided attention and care she poured out to the children and the community will be forever etched in the hearts of all those that encountered her. She was a true kindred spirit that emanated a sense of peace and order.

Madam Speaker, although her life was taken from us too abruptly, rather than mourn this tragedy, I hope that my colleagues will join me in remembering and celebrating the tremendous and loving spirit of Sister Mary Celine Graham—one of God's special angels who served Harlem at the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BRADLEY W. BEAL

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Brad Beal,

president and CEO of Nevada Federal Credit Union, and outgoing chairman of the Board for the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Mr. Beal's dedicated service at Nevada Federal Credit Union made him an outstanding candidate for chairman of the NAFCU Board, and his fellow board members bestowed on him this great distinction in the summer of 2008. From the outset of his chairmanship, Mr. Beal proved to be an invaluable asset to the NAFCU family. His more than 30 years of financial services experience served him well while sitting on several NAFCU committees, testifying before Congress on relevant legislation, and keeping a close eye on issues and legislation surrounding the entire credit union community.

Mr. Beal, a tireless advocate for federal credit unions across the country, faced the challenges and opportunities he was presented with during this time with great professionalism and vigor.

Mr. Beal's selfless commitment as chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions has not gone unnoticed. As he ends his term as chairman, I am sure his colleagues on the NAFCU Board will miss his leadership. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Brad Beal as his chairmanship comes to an end this July.

A TRIBUTE TO HON. RONALD B. MERRIWEATHER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my friend Ronald Merriweather. Dedicated to the law, Judge Merriweather worked to better his city and improve the lives of those living in Philadelphia. I know that my colleagues will join me in expressing our condolences to his family as well as thanking them for letting him brighten all of our lives.

Judge Merriweather was born May 27, 1938 and raised in Philadelphia. A product of the Philadelphia Public School System, he graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1956. After high school Judge Merriweather attended Morgan State University, graduating with a degree in Chemistry and a 2nd Lt. Commission in the U.S. Army. From 1960 to 1962 he served in the U.S. Army, being promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

After serving in the Army, Judge Merriweather was employed as a United States Treasury Agent with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. He served in this position for 5 years, earning the U.S. Secretary of Treasury Award for Outstanding Service. After, Judge Merriweather received his J.D. from UCLA Law School and became a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1973.

Judge Merriweather practiced law in Philadelphia for over ten years, before being elected to the Philadelphia Municipal Court in 1984. He worked on this court for 26 years, retiring in January 2010. During his tenure on the Municipal Court, Judge Merriweather garnered special recognition and numerous awards. He became a Senior Judge in 2009 and was honored with a Special Recognition Award from the Guardian Civic League.

Judge Ronald Merriweather's life showcases his commitment, service, and dedication to bettering his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Judge Merriweather, and offer his family our deepest sympathies at the loss of this great man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, I was not present for seven recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 395—"nay", roll No. 396—"yea", roll No. 397—"nay", roll No. 398—"nay", roll No. 399—"yea", roll No. 400—"yea", and roll No. 401—"yea."

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF PATRICIA A. DORR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Patricia A. Dorr, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Mrs. Dorr was also a community activist who served for many years as a Councilwoman representing the City of Berea.

Mrs. Dorr created a warm and inviting home for her family, friends and neighbors. She was an active participant in the lives and special events of her family. Her unwavering devotion to her family was reflected in the close relationships she shared with her children and grandchildren. Mrs. Dorr's strong sense of faith was a source of strength throughout her life. She was a devoted and loved member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Berea, Ohio.

Patricia was known for her kindness, energy and dedication to community. Following her dedicated service as Berea City Councilwoman, Mrs. Dorr remained active and participated in numerous community events and fundraisers. Her dedication to making a difference in the lives of others remained constant throughout her life.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of Mrs. Patricia A. Dorr, whose energetic spirit and joy for living will endure within the hearts and memories of those who loved and knew her best. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, James, Cynthia, Robert, Brian, Mary, and Brigitte; to her twelve grandchildren and special grandson; and to her extended family members and many friends.

THE RETIREMENT OF MS. LESLIE JUDITH GOLDBERG, R.N.

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Leslie Judith Gold-

berg, R.N. to thank her for her 20 years of service to the Members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Almost every staffer in the House complex, particularly those who work in the Cannon House Office Building, knows Nurse Leslie. Always smiling, extremely knowledgeable, and thorough, she has a legendary ability to help staff find the best possible health care services for their needs. For years, she has collected feedback on the quality of health practitioners and shared both praise and concerns with prospective patients. As a result, she was well-known in doctors' offices throughout the region; they were always asking, "Ahhh, you were referred by Nurse Goldberg? Who is this Nurse Leslie?"

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Leslie joined her mother and sister in this vital profession after graduating from the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn. She went on to work at the New York University Hospital in neurosurgery and the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents.

In 1990, Nurse Goldberg joined the Office of the Attending Physician and dedicated the end of her great career to serving and caring for the Members and staff of this institution. She is a part of our family. We mourned with her when her loving husband, Alan Goldberg, passed away far too early in life, and we celebrated when she returned to us—her adoptive, extended family.

We all know how much she adores her three sons, Michael, Aaron, and David and daughter-in-law, Lisa. And her grandson, Ari, is the light of her life. While we will miss her laughter, her smile, her caring, skillful techniques, and infinite knowledge, I applaud her for taking the time to fulfill her personal dreams—travel, volunteer, and most importantly take care of Ari and the grandchildren to come.

Nurse Goldberg, we will miss you terribly; you leave enormous shoes to fill. Thank you for your 20 years of service and keeping us safe, healthy, informed, and always smiling.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE UAW

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Gettelfinger and his masterful 8-year tenure as president of the United Auto Workers. Confronted with the leanest membership in the Union's history and the bankruptcy of two of Detroit's three automakers, the UAW required an effective leader who could balance the interests of members and the needs of their employers.

In Ron Gettelfinger, the UAW certainly had a wise and steadfast leader who could come to terms with this troubling dynamic and act accordingly.

He understood that saving the imperiled union would require a little sacrifice, and also he convinced his union to give up some of the jobs and benefits it had accumulated over the years for a better future. Mr. Gettelfinger thus played a crucial role in saving one of the United States' biggest industries during one of the nation's darkest economic hours.

Today he continues to be an outspoken defender of fair labor laws and better workers' rights, and I hope that he is as successful in his future endeavors as he was these past few years.

75TH BIRTHDAY OF SLINGER FRANCISCO

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th birthday of Slinger Francisco, better known as The Mighty Sparrow or The Birdie. With a career spanning over 50 years and counting, entertaining audiences from the Caribbean to Asia and all points in between, The Birdie is widely recognized as the "King of the Calypso World."

The Mighty Sparrow was born to poor, working-class parents in Gran Roi, Grenada and migrated to his adopted homeland of Trinidad when he was one year old. As a child, he attended New Town Boys School and sang in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where his talent was quickly recognized as he became head choirboy. His influences included Nat King Cole, Frankie Laine, Sarah Vaughn, Billy Eckstein, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, as well as calypso pioneers Lord Melody, Lord Kitchener, Lord Christo, Lord Invader and the Mighty Spoiler.

The Birdie had found success early with his hit "Jean and Dinah" at the age of 20. Not satisfied with early success, he followed up with a rapid succession of hits including "Carnival Boycott", "P.A.Y.E.", "Russian Satellite", "Theresa", "Good Citizen", "Salt Fish" and "Penny Commission" just to name a few. His songs covered a broad range of socially conscious topics including education, tyranny in Africa, animal cruelty and the welfare of his home of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Mighty Sparrow's accomplishments include multiple Trinidad and Tobago Road March Competition titles, multiple Calypso Monarch titles, an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, and his contributions to music and society led then-mayor Ed Koch to proclaim March 18th, 1986 "The Mighty Sparrow Day."

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in celebrating the birthday and extraordinary body of work that The Mighty Sparrow has contributed during his career as a lyricist, composer, singer, comedian and entertainer.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION THAT HONORS THE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I come before you today to offer a resolution that honors a group of fine Americans, the Patriot Guard Riders. Established in November of 2005, the Patriot Guard Riders were created to counter protesters of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who sought to disrupt the funerals of our heroes who died serving our country. Today, the

Patriot Guard Riders are over 190,000 members strong and they dedicate themselves to a mission of preventing interruptions at funerals honoring those servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our nation.

To date, the Patriot Guard Riders have participated in over 17,000 missions honoring our heroes around the country. They have also distinguished themselves in countless other ways, to include the establishment of the Fallen Warrior Scholarship Fund for U.S. military family members, visiting veteran's hospitals, and giving financial assistance to the families of our fallen heroes.

Madam Speaker, as we approach this Independence Day, it is appropriate to recognize these great Americans who have dedicated themselves to protecting the solemnity of the final farewells of those who died while serving to preserve the liberties that we exercise here in this House today. It is the actions of patriots like these, those who readily stand to support our fallen heroes, that help make this nation great.

MR. ARTHUR J. MYERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Arthur J. Myers. He served his country for almost 50 years, providing deployable combat support for warfighters and community services for those left behind. I have been privileged to work with him for a number of years on issues of concern to military members and their families.

Mr. Myers enlisted in the Air Force and served 20 years in key morale, welfare, and recreation, MWR, and financial positions. His civilian career took him from club manager to director of MWR for several major commands. He was hand-picked to become the first deputy director for the new Air Force MWR organization, and was later promoted to the Director of Air Force Services.

His leadership and vision shaped one of the most progressive and expansive quality of life programs in the military, with significant positive impact on Airmen and their families.

He deployed Airmen to provide foodservice, lodging, fitness, and other programs for contingency operations, personally visiting even the most remote sites and forward bases.

His "Fit to Fight" program resulted in a 30 percent increase in fitness center usage, a 2-point improvement in fitness scores, and an aggressive program to upgrade fitness facilities.

He expanded quality affordable child care by over 4,000 spaces and established a new subsidy for those unable to get into base childcare facilities, saving parents money and keeping family emergencies from disrupting the mission.

He operated the port mortuary at Dover Air Force Base for members of all Services killed in action, others who die overseas, and occasionally victims of Stateside mass casualties. His plan for media access to the Dover Mor-

tuary was approved by the President, reversing a long-standing ban on media coverage for the arrival of remains of fallen military members.

He pioneered the Survivor Assistance Program to assist families of deceased members, and later expanded the program to care for Airmen wounded in action.

He energized industry leaders, trade groups and professional associations to sponsor new programs and services, scholarships, promotional activities, training and certification program for managers and staff, and outreach programs.

He testified at numerous Congressional hearings, and met often with the First Lady and senior Administration leaders on programs to enhance quality of life for service members and their families.

Mr. Myers was consistently recognized with numerous military and civilian awards, including three Presidential Rank Awards and the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award. He received the Leadership Award from the International Military Community Executives Association, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Logistics Association, and a National Service to Youth Award from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which also inducted him into their Alumni Hall of Fame. However, his highest honor came when the top senior enlisted leaders in the Air Force made him an honorary Chief Master Sergeant.

Over the years, Mr. Myers built a highly-effective team to maintain our Nation's number one weapons system: the Airmen. His efforts tied directly to Air Force success in combat arenas and on the home front. As he retires now for the second time, I want to thank him on behalf of the citizens of this country. He leaves a lasting legacy of support for generations of Airmen and their families, and I know he will continue to be a strong advocate for them.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE ANNUAL FREEDOM CELEBRATION OF THE WESTSIDE VET
CENTER OF PARMA, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Westside Vet Center of Parma, Ohio. Their dedication to providing quality health care services to the men and women who have sacrificed for our nation deserves the deepest gratitude.

The lives of many veterans and their families have been improved by the outreach efforts of the Westside Vet Center. The Center provides vital resources, including services and assistance focused on their emotional, psychological, medical, financial, and employment needs.

The quality support provided by the Westside Vet Center is the least that can be done for the veterans in our community—our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, moth-

ers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers—thousands of whom have suffered great personal loss resulting from their service.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and tribute of the staff and volunteers of the Westside Vet Center as they celebrate the Westside Vet Center's Annual Freedom Celebration. Their service and sacrifice will always be remembered and honored.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 400TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF
HAMPTON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor the 400th Anniversary of the City of Hampton, Virginia.

I am pleased to recognize and honor the City of Hampton as it celebrates its 400th Anniversary on July 9, 2010. The City of Hampton is America's first and oldest continuous English-speaking settlement. It is one of seven major cities that comprise the Hampton Roads areas, and is located on the southeastern end of the Virginia Peninsula and borders the Chesapeake Bay.

On April 30, 1607, Captain John Smith landed at Strawberry Banks. Three years later, on July 9, 1610, English Colonists established a small town at the entrance of the James River and the Chesapeake Bay. Well-situated, the area became one of the leading ports in America and the entrance to the Commonwealth of Virginia with many settlers passed by its shores before moving into the interior.

Early settlers also saw the strategic defensive importance of the area, establishing Old Point Comfort where the Elizabeth, Nansemond and James rivers empty into the Chesapeake Bay. In 1830, construction of Fort Monroe began. Named in honor of President James Monroe, the fort is the oldest active duty fort in the nation.

By the 1600s, the South King Street waterfront was the center of a prosperous settlement and hub for the seafood industry. Wharves and maritime merchants extended along the waterfront, and crab skiffs, oyster canoes and buy boats lined the river and creeks giving rise to the nickname 'Crabtown.' The crabs caught became world famous, winning prizes at the Berlin, London and Paris World Fair's. This gave rise to shipyards, shipfitters, carpenters, blacksmiths and coopers to support the maritime industry.

The City of Hampton continues to play a central role in the Hampton Roads area attracting a wide array of businesses, research facilities, residential areas, historic sites and waterfront beaches. It is home to Langley Air Force Base, NASA Langley Research Center, the Virginia Air & Space Museum and historic Hampton University. The City of Hampton invites visitors from around the world to explore Hampton in 2010.

Madam Speaker, the City of Hampton is rich in history, resources and natural beauty. I am proud to recognize the City of Hampton on this significant occasion, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 400th anniversary of the City of Hampton.

CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program. The House Fellows Program, run by the Office of the House Historian, is a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education American history and government teachers to experience firsthand the inner-workings of Congress. These educators have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, are dedicated to educating our Nation's youth and are truly deserving of our recognition.

One of the goals of the House Fellows Program is to develop curriculum on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. During the program, fellows prepare a brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, which is then shared with the other fellows. These plans will become part of a larger teaching resource database on the House. During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow is responsible for presenting his or her experience and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

The House Fellows Program began in 2006, and since then 75 teachers from across the country have participated in this innovative program.

An additional 45 teachers will be taking part in this summer's program. With plans to select a teacher from every Congressional district over the next several years, the House Fellows Program will impact thousands of high school teachers and their students and will energize thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

As a former U.S. history teacher, I believe strongly in the importance of civic education. We must continue our efforts to get our youth involved in the political process in districts across the country. Educating teachers about the "People's House" is one of the best ways to do that. I congratulate the following educators who are participating in the 1st session of this summer's 2010 House Fellows Program:

Ms. Katherine Brantley (Ruppersberger, MD-02), Mr. Brian Rock (Pallone, NJ-06), Ms. Elizabeth Murphy (Payne, NJ-10), Ms. Esme Scott (Price, NC-04), Mr. Charles Zappa (Serrano, NY-16), Mr. Nate Cole (Serrano, NY-16), Mr. John Burns (Pastor, AZ-04), Mr. Darios Felix (Rohrabacher, CA-46), Mr. Roy Greenland (Goodlatte, VA-06), Mr. Duane Baker (Hoekstra, MI-02), Ms. Laura Howard (Kingston, GA-01), Mr. Daniel Hayden (King, NY-03), Mr. Randy 'Scotty' Hicks (Duncan, TN-02), Ms. Mary Helen Story (Duncan, TN-02) and Mr. Timothy Rodman (Bartlett, MD-06).

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Thanks to Dr. Robert Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler for their outstanding leadership, and Dr. Thomas Rushford, Mr. Anthony Wallis and Mr. Benjamin Hayes for providing the crucial staff support.

Thank you also to the Office of the Historian interns: Ms. Jacqueline Burns, Mr. Michael Karlik, Ms. Madeleine Rosenberg and Ms. Debbie Kobrin.

BENJAMIN R. DECOSTA, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great public servant of Metro Atlanta and the international aviation community.

For 12 years, Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta has led the City of Atlanta's Aviation Department and successfully managed Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport—the world's busiest passenger airport. Located in my congressional district, this outstanding internationally-recognized transportation center employs more than 56,000 people and generates more than 400,000 jobs and \$23.5 billion in Metro Atlanta's economy. Recently, Mr. DeCosta announced that he will be leaving Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

I am proud to have known and worked with Mr. DeCosta for over a decade. Whenever I call Ben and his staff about national aviation policy issues and the impact on Hartsfield-Jackson—I could always expect an honest, thorough, and researched answer. Ben successfully led the effort to open a 5th runway, the Maynard H. Jackson, Jr. International terminal, a consolidated rental car center, and upgrades to the central passenger terminal complex. He also managed to award almost 40 percent of contracts that were part of this \$6 billion capital improvement initiative to women- and minority-owned businesses.

Consumed with improving customer service and setting higher standards for passengers, Ben has led the airport's team in making the entire experience smoother for those traveling, to, from, and through Hartsfield-Jackson. For example, we worked together to improve the security screening processes at the airport. Now the passenger wait times average less than 10 minutes; the lines may be long, but they move. He also brought numerous retailers to the airport; on both sides of the security check points, you can find great food and shopping for whatever your needs may be while you wait.

It has not been easy; many would have walked away a long time ago. Somehow, Ben rose to the challenge. The aviation community took notice of his successes. Last year, the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) recognized him as the recipient of the 2009 prestigious National Leadership Award. In 2007, Airport Revenue Magazine voted him Best Director. Under his leadership, Hartsfield-Jackson was recognized as the World's Most Efficient Airport for three consecutive years, the world's top airport with Wi-Fi connectivity, and the Executive Traveler's Best Large U.S. airport.

Ben came to Atlanta from New York where he worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and served as the general manager of Newark International Airport. He earned a physics undergraduate degree from

Queens College and a Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School, and continued his studies as part of a senior executive program for local and state governments at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

I would like to thank Mr. DeCosta for his service, dedication and success to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and the Metro Atlanta community. I wish him and his family continued success and happiness in the next chapter of his great career.

THE TATEUCHI FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in 2006, the fundraising campaign for Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE) began in earnest and a new performing arts center is set to open in 2013 in my District—Washington's 8th. The PACE campaign just received a \$25 million gift from the Tateuchi Foundation, and a renewed life has been breathed into a campaign for cultural vibrancy, economic vitality, and artistic expression.

Madam Speaker, the generosity of the Tateuchi Foundation to the PACE campaign is nothing short of phenomenal. For its incredible gift, the Foundation received the naming rights of the performing arts center. Therefore, it will now be known as the Tateuchi Center, and I'm extremely pleased to see the campaign receive such a significant boost.

The spirit of giving and philanthropy is alive and well, Madam Speaker. This extraordinary gift has reminded our community that belief in unique and worthwhile entertainment and art is essential to a vibrant community. The realization of a state-of-the-art performing arts center in the 8th District will provide jobs and enhance the quality of life and cultural infrastructure of the entire Puget Sound region. According to recent studies, the Tateuchi Center will have a \$470 million impact on King County over the next decade and will generate \$70 million in new tax revenues for federal, state, county and city governments. Beyond that, Madam Speaker, a unique, exciting venue like the Tateuchi Center will help businesses in the Puget Sound region—such as Microsoft—continue to recruit top talent and excel in a highly desirable area.

The campaign to bring a one-of-a-kind performing arts center to the 8th District is driven by the desire to transform lives and enrich the community by presenting artistic, cultural, educational, and entertainment experiences of the highest quality for everyone. The momentous gift of the Tateuchi Foundation is helping make that desire a reality. The overall fundraising goal will be reached, and that's a testament to civic pride, business leadership, and the public good. Madam Speaker, I thank the leaders of the campaign to bring the arts to the 8th District. And of course, I join my constituents in thanking the Tateuchi Foundation for its generosity. The continued dedication to this cause is remarkable and worthwhile.

Madam Speaker, even in this difficult economic time, the Tateuchi Center campaign demonstrates that the desire for artistic expression is as limitless as the expression itself.

and is sending a clear message: the inclusion of arts in a community will make that community a better place to work, live, and create.

HONORING MRS. JUDITH BERNICE SEEMAN DEL ROSSI AND MR. FRANCIS JOSEPH DEL ROSSI

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Judith Bernice Seeman Del Rossi and Mr. Francis Joseph Del Rossi on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Judith and Joseph were married at St. John's Catholic Church in Collingswood, New Jersey, on June 11, 1960. Together, they raised three children: Angeline Rita, Mary Frances, and Francis Joseph. As longtime residents of Pennsauken, New Jersey, Frank taught at Pennsauken High School for 37 years, where he also coached the school's basketball team. Judy served in many Parent Teacher Association leadership roles while her children were young. She recently retired from her job at the Claridge Casino after more than 20 years of service.

Today, Judy and Frank are residing in Marlton, New Jersey. Their 50 years of marriage is a true testament to the loyalty and love they demonstrate in all aspects of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me on congratulating Judith and Joseph Del Rossi upon the occasion of their 50th anniversary. For their commitment and generosity to family, friends, and each other, they are to be commended.

HONORING MRS. EGLANTINE MELITA GORDON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Eglantine Melita Gordon. It is with both profound sadness but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to both her church and community.

Affectionately known as "Mama G," Mrs. Gordon was born in Riverside, Hanover, Jamaica on November 26, 1916 to the late Jabez Buchanan and Florence Johnson. She attended Riverside All-Age School, Rusea's Comprehensive High School and Bethlehem Teachers College.

Upon graduation, Mrs. Gordon began her professional career as a teacher at Riverside, Wesley, Elletson, and New Providence primary schools in Jamaica and William Gordon Elementary School in the Bahamas. She was also a private tutor.

She was a member of the Meadowbrook United Church in Jamaica and served as an elder, member of the Women's Guild, and participated in the Social Services Outreach Program.

In Miami, Florida, Mrs. Gordon was a member of Bay Shore Lutheran Church. She served as a greeter and member of the Lutheran Women Missionary League. She was the recipient of the Good Samaritan Award of Bay Shore Lutheran Church, which was awarded by the Lutheran Services of Florida.

Mrs. Gordon was married to the late Rupert Carlton Gordon. They had three daughters: Yvonne Elaine Hill, Patricia Evadne Ferdinand and Rose-Marie Gordon-Wallace. She was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her three daughters; sons-in-law, Tyrone Hill, Donald Ferdinand, Frederick Myers, and Roy Anthony Wallace; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Eglantine Melita Gordon. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Gordon for her invaluable service and tireless dedication to both her church and local community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives.

FIREARMS EXCISE TAX IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is long overdue. For years, there have been inconsistencies in the manner in which manufacturers pay their taxes. Under current law, firearm and ammunition manufacturers pay excise taxes into the fund on a bi-weekly basis. All other manufacturers pay on a quarterly basis. This legislation will change this inconsistency and bring a little commonsense into our crazy tax system.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 510, to amend the Internal Revenue Code to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly. The frequency of tax payments for the firearm and ammunition manufacturers is a burden on the industry. In fact, some manufacturers are forced to secure short-term loans to pay their taxes, thus incurring additional expenses and adding to administrative overhead. The end result is that money is diverted away from core business areas to finance tax payments.

Through this legislation, firearm and ammunition manufacturers will now be able to reinvest more funds into researching and developing new products, purchasing new manufacturing machinery, and increasing marketing and outreach to the hunting and sport shooting community. The federal government will get their taxes, on a quarterly basis as it does from every other manufacturer, so no revenue will be lost.

I urge my colleagues to support the Firearms Excise Tax Improvement Act.

RECOGNIZING THE SALTER FAMILY AS THE 2010 SANTA ROSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize the Salter family for being named the 2010 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. The hard work and dedication of this family helps not only feed many in the community, but also so many throughout the country. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize their accomplishments.

John, Stacy and their daughter Kailee are fourth generation farmers. The Salter family has been a vital part of the Chumuckla community since the late 1800s. While many things have changed in the field of agricultural science since the 1800s, the Salter family has remained steadfast in their honored tradition of working hard and providing quality goods to market.

In addition to having a determined work ethic that is deeply rooted in the Salter family, they have also begun to sow the seeds of voluntarism in the Northwest Florida community. Mr. John Salter has served as the Chairman of the Blackwater Soil and Conservation District for the past 12 years and is currently Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Farm Service Agency County Committee. Furthermore, Mr. Salter serves as a council member of the Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council. He is also a member of Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Peanut Producers Association and the Southeast Peanut Farmers' Association.

Madam Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Salters serve as an example to all our nation's family farmers. On behalf of the entire United States Congress I applaud their efforts and congratulate them on being named the Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. My wife Vicki and I thank them for their work and wish them continued success in the future.

IN MEMORY OF MR. ROBIN WHITLEY HOOD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robin Whitley Hood, who passed away on Sunday, June 27, in Raleigh, NC. Best known for the smile he brought to other's faces and his lifelong community involvement, Whitley will surely be missed.

Robin Whitley Hood was born on January 1, 1932, in Johnston County to parents John Robert and Cleo Wood Hood. He attended Campbell College and graduated from Wake Forest University, where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. After graduation, Whitley established Robin Hood Enterprises Inc., which still flourishes today. His companies include Whitley Hood Insurance Agency,

Robin Hood Truck Stop and Restaurant, and Robin Hood Oil Company.

In addition to his entrepreneurial endeavors, Mr. Hood served as mayor of the town of Benson from 1971–1979. He was instrumental in the development and growth of Benson, where he was a strong advocate for the community. He played a key role in developing a water line to Benson from the Neuse River and argued strongly for 1–40's current route near Benson over a counterproposal that would have taken it further north. He was named Benson's Citizen of the Year in 1973.

Whitley remained an active member of the community long after his public service. He was a member of the Benson Lions Club, a past patron of Eastern Star, a member of the Benson Stock Club, a member of the Benson GBO, an active member of Benson Baptist Church and a past deacon. He was also a prominent Mason and Shriner.

My best memories of Whitley involve his work as director of the Sudan Clowns for almost 50 years. Whitley loved to bring joy to people's faces and to spread laughs and good cheer to those he met. Many of the Dunn community are familiar with "Happy" the clown and the clown cards he would leave behind; I know that I will never forget the happiness he brought to those around him and I am sure his bright light will not soon be forgotten by others in our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Mr. Robin Whitley Hood, a beacon of his community and a true exemplar of civic involvement. May he even in passing bring a smile to his loved ones' faces for the wonderful legacy he has left behind.

EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY
GIVEN BY LORNE CRANER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit excerpts from the testimony of Lorne Craner, president of the International Republican Institute, IRI, speaking before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on June 10.

Mr. Craner spoke with great clarity about a number of important issues regarding the promotion of human rights and democracy in the context of U.S. foreign policy.

He opened with reflections on President Reagan's conviction that freedom is a birthright—one that ought to be enjoyed by all peoples. Mr. Craner testified:

"President Reagan said 'We must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings. So states the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights . . .'

"But Reagan went beyond simply noting the importance of freedom in the speech. He laid out a strategy to achieve it, stating that 'If the rest of this century is to witness the gradual growth of freedom and democratic ideals, we must take actions to assist the campaign for democracy. While we must be cautious about forcing the pace of change, we must not hesitate to declare our ultimate objectives and to take concrete actions to move towards them.'

"Further, he enunciated a method to help achieve the strategy, saying 'the objective I propose is quite simple . . . to foster the infrastructure of democracy, the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities, which allows a people to choose their own way to develop their own culture, to reconcile their differences through peaceful means.'

"Reagan counseled patience, noting that 'the task I've set forth will long outlive our generation.' He would be characteristically modest about his role, but within eight years, the number of 'free countries' in Freedom House's survey had risen to 76, compared to 51 at the time of his inaugural, 'partly free countries' had risen to 65 from 51, and 'not free' countries had declined from 60 to 42. Most dramatically, the Soviet bloc had disintegrated. While many West Europeans now claim it was engagement—exemplified by 'Ostpolitik'—that ended the Cold War, those who lived under Soviet domination instead give much credit to Pope John Paul II, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan . . ."

Later in his testimony Mr. Craner remarked on the critical role that Congress plays in pressing the State Department to elevate these issues of human rights and religious freedom . . . issues which often are downplayed in the name of bilateral relations. Craner noted:

"Indeed, for more than 30 years, beyond the inception of NED, Congress has truly been at the forefront on issues of human rights. For example, the State Department Bureau I headed, for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, was also founded by an act of Congress. On many occasions the Congress has actually led on human rights and democracy policy. The annual State Department Country Reports on Human Rights were established over the objections of the then-administration. I referred earlier to Congressional action on human rights early in the Reagan administration. In the 1990s and this decade, a number of the entities within the State Department intended to advance human rights—the Office of International Religious Freedom, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism—were also established over administration opposition. The recent Advance Democracy Act was opposed by the then-administration. Legislative action regarding human rights in various countries, from China to El Salvador to South Africa, has been taken by Congress despite the administration's wishes. It is especially important to note that passage of such legislation was undertaken by Congresses with Democratic or Republican majorities during both Democratic and Republican administrations."

Lastly, he spoke compellingly of the need for "Strong, consistent, leadership on democracy and human rights from the top of the administration . . ." He gave several reasons:

"First, much attention is paid to the administration's funding levels for democracy programming. This is substantively important, given what democratic foreign leaders point to as the results of America's democracy programming over the past quarter century, from Chile to the Philippines to Poland, Mongolia, Serbia, Georgia, Moldova, and many others. Here in Washington, it is also seen as a symbolic measure of U.S. support for democracy in countries in remaining repressive countries such as Cuba, Belarus, Iran, and Burma. In in-

stances such as these, Congress can exert its influence by earmarking funds certain countries. The implementation of such earmarks can be greatly influenced by the second reason for strong presidential/administration support: the message sent within the bureaucracy.

"Too often it is easy for the career bureaucracy to minimize democracy and human rights because these elements complicate other bilateral issues, such as economic or trade or security relationships. Skilled diplomats know that it is possible to achieve both. But clear statements by the President and Secretary of State on democracy and human rights contribute to the degree to which efforts will be made by U.S. Country Teams to implement programs and seek to garner international support for those seeking to better their conditions under authoritarian regimes. Under President Clinton and Secretary Albright and President Bush and Secretaries Powell and Rice, for example, U.S. diplomats understood that human rights and democracy were strong emphases of U.S. foreign policy.

"Third, and perhaps most important, the degree of administration support for democracy and human rights is watched closely by autocratic and totalitarian foreign leaders. They are trying to discern how to manage relations with the world's most powerful country. When American leaders diminish our emphasis and consistency on democracy and human rights, foreign leaders understand that they don't have to do as much on those issues to maintain good relations with Washington."

Mr. Craner closed by noting that the Obama administration has gotten off to a weak start on these issues, and that this has not gone unnoticed by those to whom U.S. policy in this regard matters most . . . "democrats and dissidents."

Craner remarked, "Commenting on President Obama's delayed meeting with the Dalai Lama, former Czech President Vaclav Havel said of Beijing 'they respect it when someone is standing his ground, when someone is not afraid of them. When someone soils his pants prematurely, then they do not respect you more for it.'

"Cyberdissident Ahed Al-Hendi stated that previously, in Syria 'when a single dissident was arrested . . . at the very least the White House would condemn it. Under the Obama administration, nothing.'

"Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim said 'Our concern is that the Obama administration is perceived to be softening on human rights . . . once you give a perception that you are softening on human rights, then you are strengthening the hands of autocrats to punish dissidents throughout the world.'

"According to Egypt's Saad Eddin Ibrahim, 'George W. Bush is missed by activists in Cairo and elsewhere who—despite possible misgivings about his policies in Iraq and Afghanistan—benefited from his firm stance on democratic progress. During the time he kept up pressure on dictators, there were openings for a democratic opposition to flourish. The current Obama policy seems weak and inconsistent by contrast.'

I share Mr. Craner's concerns and echo his charge to Congress to stand in the gap even in the face of an administration that is struggling to find its voice on matters which ought to be central in American foreign policy.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR
INFORMATION DOMINANCE,
CORY STATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize the Center for Information Dominance (CID) Corry Station for their countless hours of service to the community of Northwest Florida. CID Corry Station has gone above and beyond the call of duty, further serving their country through their community involvement.

Encompassing all branches of the Armed Forces, the service members of CID Corry Station have set a shining example for Americans everywhere through their unwavering and unselfish dedication. Members of every rank have contributed toward an astronomical number of hours being recorded in the period spanning July of 2009 to June of 2010. In this period, the members of CID Corry Station have contributed a total of 9,481 volunteers recording 87,801 community volunteer hours. These volunteers have touched the lives of 107,807 citizens of Northwest Florida, all of which are eternally grateful for the selflessness of these service members.

The service members of CID Corry Station have assisted the efforts of many volunteer organizations in Northwest Florida. CID Corry Station has volunteered alongside organizations such as Manna Food Pantry, Pensacola Boys Base, Meals on Wheels, Saturday Scholars, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Sports, Junior Achievements, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, just to name a few of the enumerable ways in which these service members have bettered their community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the service members of Center for Information Dominance Corry Station for their service to their country and the community of Northwest Florida. May they continue in their efforts to provide a brilliant example for others to follow.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIFEM-U.S.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2010 NA-
TIONAL CONFERENCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and to the United States National Committee for UNIFEM. This month, the UNIFEM-U.S. National Committee (USNC), in partnership with the National Council for Research on Women, is holding its 2010 Annual National Conference in New York City. The theme of this year's conference, "Strategic Imperatives for Ending Violence Against Women," is timely and important, and I salute UNIFEM-USNC for convening prominent leaders and activists to address these critical issues. The Conference is being held at Hunter College of the City University of New York on Manhattan's Upper East Side and is being co-hosted by

the College's Women & Gender Studies Program and historic Roosevelt House.

The 2010 Conference is helping to increase awareness of the nexus between violence against women and its harmful effect on key indicators, be they economic, educational, or relating to public health. Convening prominent leaders and activists from the worlds of business, academia, philanthropy, advocacy, non-profit organizing, and public policy, the Conference will advance UNIFEM's critical mission and develop and promote strategies to combat gender-based violence.

UNIFEM's vital mission is to advance women's rights and achieve gender equality around the world. UNIFEM begins with the fundamental premise that all women have a right to live a life free from discrimination and violence. By supporting national as well as local programs, UNIFEM has helped pave the way toward a more just society, free of gender discrimination and the oppression of women. UNIFEM supports the advancement of existing international commitments for gender equality on a national level. It has helped advance some of our loftiest ideals, values of human and civil rights embraced by the vast majority of U.N. member nations, as embodied by important initiatives such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

UNIFEM is active all across the globe, from sub-Saharan Africa to the islands of the Caribbean. Its staff works with countries to formulate and implement laws and programs to promote gender equality in all aspects of civil society, working to secure fair and fairly compensated employment opportunities for women, to end the scourge of violence against women, and to help secure their inheritance and property rights. In Sudan, UNIFEM has partnered with the United Nations Mission in Darfur to promote awareness of, and to try to stem, the surge in violence against women. Its staff works closely with tribal leaders and refugee camps to teach women how to protect themselves from sexual assault and violence, achieving a noticeable positive impact on the area.

UNIFEM also strives in collaboration with governments to achieve greater gender equality and increase awareness of the basic human rights of women. In collaboration with various NGOs, UNIFEM has successfully pushed for increased female representation in the legislatures of numerous governments in the Middle East and Asia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join in recognizing the remarkable contributions toward improving the quality of women's lives around the world made by UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and the UNIFEM United States National Committee, on the occasion of its 2010 Annual National Conference. For thirty-four years UNIFEM has worked closely with governments and organizations across the globe to make the ideals that we hold a reality, and all citizens of the world owe a debt of gratitude to UNIFEM and to UNIFEM-USNC.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NETTIE B.
ROGERS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nettie Brown Rogers, a woman of keen faith and conviction who selflessly served the spiritual community of Memphis, Tennessee for over fifty years. Born in Memphis to Arthur and Bertha Brown on October 25, 1922, Nettie Rogers was a committed wife to Floyd Rogers, a caring mother of seven children and a community leader among the city's Baptist Churches.

Deeply devoted to her Christian faith, Mrs. Rogers was a pioneering woman who accepted her calling to religion "no matter what men might say." In 1958, she and 22 other community members co-founded Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis. A committed member of Grace M.B. Church, Mrs. Rogers also served for ten years as an associate minister at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church where she was said to have done everything but preach.

In 1968, Mrs. Rogers founded the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., a non-profit that supports spiritual growth, Christian and public education and initiatives to reduce crime, juvenile delinquency and illiteracy. Under Mrs. Rogers's leadership, the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship pursued creative initiatives, such as the "Back to Church School Crusade," which established National Church School Day on the first Sunday in June. Through Operation Bread Basket, Mrs. Rogers provided food for over 30 years to individuals, churches, nursing homes and other community agencies. Endowed with faith, wisdom, and an unselfish love, Mrs. Rogers's life was characterized by such acts of unwavering commitment to Christian and community service.

Mrs. Rogers's home in South Memphis was adorned with awards and letters from churches, schools and organizations documenting the achievements of her distinguished life. In 2009, she was posthumously awarded the Ruby R. Wharton Outstanding Woman award in the area of Youth and Delinquency by Mayor AC. Wharton. That same year she was inducted into the Memphis African American Museum's Hall of Pulpits, the only woman among 12 male preachers. In 2007 and 2008, I issued Congressional proclamations commending her outstanding work in the community supporting youth engagement. In 2006 and 2008, the State of Tennessee House of Representatives passed Joint Resolutions honoring Mrs. Rogers for her strength in character and commitment to selfless good works. In 2002, the City of Memphis renamed the street she lived on to Fountain Court in her honor. Mrs. Rogers also received awards and recognition from the April 4th Foundation, Grace M.B. Church, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and LeMoyne-Owen College, among other well-deserved distinctions.

Nettie Rogers passed away at her home in South Memphis on February 12, 2009 at the age of 86. She is survived by four daughters, two sons, 14 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and the legacy of her faith and public

service. In the words of her daughter, Dr. Inetta F. Rogers who serves as the President of Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, "I saw her as a role model in the community and I'm preaching in pulpits where she couldn't." Memphis has been blessed to have benefited from the good deeds of this exceptional mother, wife, friend, spiritual advisor and ministry leader. Hers was a life well lived.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2010
GRADUATES OF THE PRINCE
WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY
ACADEMY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the most recent graduates of the Prince William County Public Safety Academy. As they join the ranks of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, these men and women are entering a proud profession with a rich history.

Securing a position as a first responder begins with a competitive application process. Recruits must then complete a rigorous and comprehensive 23-week training program before graduating as a Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Technician I.

A Technician I is trained in emergency medical services, fire prevention and countless other public safety measures. The certifications required to reach the status of a Technician I cannot be accomplished without complete dedication and hard work. The graduates have completed the requisite coursework for certification in CPR, Infection Control, CISM, EMT-B, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, EVOC 2, EVOC 3, Flashover Simulation, RIT, Mayday, Hazmat Awareness/Operations, Swift Water Rescue Awareness, LPG with Simulation, Rural Water Supply, BLS Protocols, Rope Rescue Awareness, Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Child Passenger Safety Seat Installation. Each graduate has completed more than 600 hours of training and education.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the Prince William Department of Fire and Rescue Recruit Class 2010-1:

Benjamin Draxler, Shannon Frick, Nels Jorgenson, Hanif Majeed, Nathaniel Matthews, Timothy Moore, Ariel Morales, Ethan Newham, Chris Payne, Jajuan Reed, Adam Renner, Raymond Sanz, Nicholas Soper and Alexander Thomson.

There are many reasons that firefighters and first responders are known as America's Heroes. These brave men and women regularly put the lives and well being of those they serve ahead of their own. I am confident that this newest group of graduates will serve the citizens of Prince William County with distinction and honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I have just two other words I would like to say to them: Stay Safe.

HONORING ERNIE PLANTZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American for a lifetime of service to his country and community. Ernie Plantz of Gales Ferry is a World War II veteran with an incredible story and an enduring passion for public service. On several occasions, I have had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the hard work that Ernie puts in on behalf of Connecticut's veterans.

Ernie is a retired Lieutenant in the United States Navy. He survived the sinking of a submarine, the USS *Perch*, and was taken as a Prisoner of War by Japanese forces during World War II. He remained as a Prisoner of War for more than 3 years, living through unthinkable physical and emotion pain.

Today he is a proud member of the Groton Submarine Veterans and has spent much time teaching the children of eastern Connecticut about the history of World War II and sharing his story. It is not unusual to see Ernie at the forefront of any event helping or honoring Connecticut veterans. He is the recipient of a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He is also an active member of the Lions Club, and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions International. This is the highest award for humanitarian service bestowed by the organization.

While Ernie is a survivor in the purest sense, what truly prevails when you meet him is his love of helping others and giving back. For someone that has seen the darkest sides of war, I am inspired by the amount of time and energy that he puts in to help his fellow veterans and citizens on a daily basis. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ernie and thank him for his service to our Nation.

HONORING SERGEANT BRANDON
SILK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Army Sergeant Brandon Silk of Orono, Maine, who was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan.

Brandon was well-loved by everyone in his family and community. He is remembered for his personality, self-determination and self-confidence. On June 21st, Sergeant Silk died from injuries he suffered in a hard landing on his second Afghanistan tour. At 25 years old, Sergeant Silk's youth punctuates an already painful loss.

Brandon Silk, a fan of hunting, music, motorcycles and the Red Sox, graduated from Orono High School in 2003, where he excelled in football and track. After graduating, Brandon enlisted in the U.S. Army, volunteering to serve and protect his country. He was a Black Hawk crew chief and a member of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was on his fourth tour of duty having served in Korea, Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan.

In Maine, our communities are known for coming together during a crisis, and I know

that everyone in the state stands together to support the Silk family. Brandon is mourned by all as a true American hero and a defender of the freedom we all hold dear.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Sergeant Brandon Silk for his patriotism and devotion to his community and his country.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH, ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia which has served as a tower of strength for the people of the Second Congressional District. The church was founded on July 11, 1920 in a small wooden house located at 627 Society Avenue under the noble leadership of the late Reverend Grant Edgar Hall.

The church was christened by Mr. Jubie Johnson, who was also one of the first members of the church. During its inception, worship services were held on the first and third Sundays of each month. The church's first pastor, Reverend Edgar Hall, retired in 1956 due to ill health and old age. He was succeeded by Reverend R.J. Polk. Since then, the church has been blessed by several pastors who have served the people of Albany as evangelists, prophets, teachers, counselors, and friends. Reverend Polk was followed by dynamic leaders like Reverend P.E. Davenport, Reverend J.L. Jones, Reverend J.E. Brown, Reverend C.W. Heath, Reverend R.E. Ousley, Reverend Jimmy Sneed, Reverend Carl K. Rolle, Reverend Veron D. Lloyd, Reverend Clayton D. Smith and Reverend Dr. James B. Rodgers.

In the last 90 years, the church has seen exponential growth. The church's original edifice was expanded under the guidance of Reverend Ousley. The adjacent land and Annex South were developed with Reverend Rolle's valuable assistance and Annex East was purchased and refurbished under Reverend Smith's guidance. With the effective leadership from the church's pastors and tremendous public support, the church has continued to expand. Under the Reverend Walter L. Ingram, Jr., the church relocated to its larger permanent residence on 1501 Newton Road.

Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church has served as a pillar of strength for the Albany community. Through its numerous outreach ministries, it has strived to serve the people of the great state of Georgia and the city of Albany. By reaching out to those in need and comforting those who are suffering, the church has become a source of spiritual support for the people of the community.

On the occasion of its 90th Anniversary, it gives me great honor to recognize Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church for all its efforts. I thank the church and its congregation for all their years of service. I wish and hope that they continue to spread the word of God and continue serving the community in Albany. To God Be The Glory!

CONGRATULATING PASTOR
CHARLES A. LUNDY ON HIS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY AT EBENEZER
BAPTIST CHURCH IN
WOODBIDGE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Charles Arthur Lundy of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Woodbridge, Va.

Pastor Lundy has a long and distinguished career in the service of the Lord. He was baptized at the age of 13 at the Wayland Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md., under Reverend W. W. Payne. In February of 1981, Pastor Lundy was ordained a deacon, and just three years later, he was licensed by the Star Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Triangle, Va., under the Reverend Dr. Frederick S. Jones. Pastor Lundy was ordained a Gospel Minister in August of 1987 and served as the director of Christian Education for Star Bethlehem.

He was called to be the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church on June 23, 1990. On his first Sunday at the pulpit he delivered the sermon, "Stay in the Ship," and established his pastoral focus of "putting the family back together." During his 20 years of leadership, Pastor Lundy has grown the Ebenezer Church family. In June 2000, the church's Family Life Center was dedicated to accommodate an expanding ministry. Pastor Lundy has grown his flock by developing a message that offers spiritual guidance and comfort. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Washington Bible College and earned his Masters of Divinity from Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. His ministry is constantly evolving to accommodate the needs of his congregation and make Ebenezer a welcoming place to worship.

Pastor Lundy has never been one to shy away from service. He spent 26 years in the United States Marine Corps before he retired with the rank of Major as an Engineer Officer. He is the past-Parliamentarian for the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. He is the past-Chairman of the Nominating Committee and a former member of their Commission on Evangelism. He is a former Assistant Secretary for the Northern Virginia Minister's Conference, and he is a former member of the United Way for the National Capital Area. In 2009, Pastor Lundy was elected as President of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology Alumni Association. In each of these positions, Pastor Lundy has inspired others with his leadership and energy.

Pastor Lundy is married to the former Jacquelyn Hinton McWhite, and they are the proud parents of five daughters, two sons, and the grandparents of nine grandsons, and two granddaughters.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pastor Charles Arthur Lundy on his 20 years of service to Ebenezer Baptist Church. He is a pillar of the community with countless individuals depending on his counsel and support. He bears this burden with the peace of mind of man who knows his purpose is justified and his mission is pure.

RECOGNIZING THE GENOA, OHIO
AMERICAN LEGION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 90th anniversary of the American Legion in Genoa, Ohio. The members and friends of the post and its auxiliary commemorated the milestone during the annual Genoa Homecoming Festival Parade along with hundreds of others celebrating this major community event.

The Genoa American Legion has been an anchor in its community since the early days of the last century. Through the decades it has provided a sanctuary and camaraderie to veterans returning from service as its members have worked to move the community and our nation forward. Its civic efforts include public works, while the post has also provided individual assistance in numerous ways to many.

Following in the tradition of the American Legion since its national founding, members of the Genoa Post have been among the "keepers of the flame" honoring the sacrifice of the victims of combat while teaching the next generations of their place in history. The American Legion ensures we "will never forget" and focuses attention on the needs of our nation's veterans and their service for freedom's cause.

The Genoa American Legion Auxiliary kept "the home fires burning" making significant contributions to the community and nation on our own soil. When veterans return from service, the Auxiliary is there to support and pay special attention to the families' needs. The Legion and its Auxiliary are hand-in-hand in a strong partnership in service to country. Together, these members will continue to meet the needs of veterans and the community of Genoa on their journey toward their centennial. Godspeed.

IN MEMORIAL OF VETERAN JAMES
DANIEL "J.D." LANCASTER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of veteran James Daniel "J.D." Lancaster, who passed away at the age of 90 on Friday, June 25, 2010. In his passing, I lost a friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens; a man whose bravery and valor won't soon be forgotten.

J.D. Lancaster, son of the late Reverend W.H. and Lena Lancaster, grew up in Selma, NC and always kept the church close to his heart. His father, a Baptist preacher, introduced him to the church as a young boy and he continued his devout commitment to the Baptist church throughout his life.

J.D. was a veteran of United States Navy and served in World War II. Before his passing, J.D. was one of only 21 living survivors of the attack on the USS Arizona on December 7, 1941 and the only living survivor from our great state of North Carolina. During the at-

tack, J.D. was blown off the deck of the ship, but he swam through the oil-filled waters to eventually rescue ten of his fellow shipmates.

This would not be the only time J.D. survived a sinking ship in WWII. He survived another attack aboard LTS 342, while transporting troops from Guadalcanal to the island of Munda. Later in the war, J.D. managed to escape death a third time aboard a transport plane that crashed. His untiring dedication to his country and his outstanding bravery are apparent. He is a shining example of the devotion and allegiance that members of our armed forces show our nation every day. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his military service, including the Purple Heart.

J.D. Lancaster was active in his community, boasting membership at the VFW, American Legion, Loyal Order of the Moose, and Lanwood Chapel FWW Church. Those who knew J.D. well know he always had a smile on his face and a positive word to share. He will be remembered for his unwavering devotion to his family, his church and his country.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy Lancaster; daughters Carol Lancaster of Goldsboro, Beth Sitts, and her husband Justin of Pine Level, and Danielle Lancaster of Selma; son Jay Lancaster of Selma; and granddaughters, Jenna and Katelyn.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing one of our nation's true military heroes, J.D. Lancaster. He was a respected veteran, a dedicated family man, and a great North Carolinian. I am pleased to rise to honor him and his family today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 412, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE STAND BY YOUR OIL POLLUTION ACT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, in 1989 the Exxon Valdez oil tanker ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling 10.9 million gallons of oil that eventually coated 1,100 miles of Alaskan coastline. Following this disaster, Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act in 1990 to require that oil companies pay the full cleanup costs of oil spills. However, this legislation has a couple of loopholes that need to be closed. If an oil company subsidiary is responsible for the spill, that subsidiary can declare bankruptcy and sell its assets, even to its parent company, without passing on cleanup cost liabilities. The SPILL Act, which the House will vote on this week, will close this loophole so that liability follows subsidiary assets. Whether or not the SPILL Act becomes law, there will be another loophole in the Oil Pollution Act: If a subsidiary is

responsible for an oil spill, it can declare bankruptcy and not sell its assets, in which case the parent company would not inherit cleanup liabilities.

This is a realistic scenario, given the high cost of oil spills. Even a well capitalized company worth several billion dollars could be responsible for an oil spill that costs tens of billions of dollars to clean up. The Exxon Valdez spill cost over \$2 billion just to clean up 10.9 million gallons of oil. As of late June, the Deepwater Horizon spill had already cost BP \$2.65 billion with total cleanup cost estimates as high as \$100 billion. Moreover, if Congress increases the cap on private liability under the Oil Pollution Act, oil companies could be responsible for much greater costs. The fishing industry in the Gulf is worth \$5.5 billion annually. Just losing 50% of western Florida's tourism would cost the state \$10 billion. If Congress eliminates the private liability cap under OPA then an oil company responsible for a spill could be responsible for tens of billions of dollars to reimburse property owners and workers for lost property and wages. Given the extraordinarily high cleanup and private liability costs of oil spills, we must close the loophole that allows parent companies to escape liability by letting subsidiaries go bankrupt.

I have introduced legislation, the Stand by your Oil Pollution (STOP) Act, to prevent oil companies from shedding liabilities of subsidiaries. This legislation is necessary to ensure that BP doesn't escape its cleanup responsibilities in the Gulf and to prevent oil companies from setting up subsidiaries to avoid liability for spills in the future.

HONORING TAIWAN FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO OIL RESPONSE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Taiwanese government for their efforts in assisting the ongoing response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

More than 70 days have passed since the Deepwater Horizon platform sank on April 20, 2010. During this time, the United States has received assistance from seventeen countries and four international bodies in the form of equipment, expertise and general assistance.

Particularly worthy of mention is Taiwan's offer of 600 feet of fire boom to the Gulf.

When the government of the Republic of China received the request for boom from the International Spill Control Organization and British Petroleum, officials in Taiwan cut all the red tape and immediately airlifted the boom to the Gulf for use.

Efforts like these, when the United States is truly in a time of need, should not go unnoticed, and Taiwan's latest offer is another genuine example of Taiwan being a responsible member of the international community.

I believe Taiwan has a vital role to play in this and many other areas.

We thank Taiwan for its offer of assistance. Taiwan is a true friend of the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO SECOND LIEUTENANT McMAHON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Second Lieutenant John E. McMahon of the U.S. Army Air Corps, and his distinguished service in World War II as a Radar Navigator flying the B-24 Liberator.

Volunteering for service on November 2, 1942, Second Lieutenant McMahon underwent training in the United States. He was then assigned to the 528th Squadron of the 380th Bombardment Group (Heavy) and reported for duty in the Western Pacific. Second Lieutenant McMahon flew 27 missions from airstrips on New Guinea, Luzon, Mindoro, the Philippines, and Okinawa. His campaigns included the Western Pacific, Southern Philippines, Luzon, Air Offensive Japan, and the China Offensive Campaign. His decorations and campaign awards include the Air Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with silver star), and the Philippines Liberation Medal (with one bronze star). Through his bravery and selfless service in direct combat actions, he helped take the fight to the enemy and bring the war to a decisive and victorious close.

After his service in World War II, he chose to settle in Fort Worth, Texas. He graduated from Texas Christian University and married the former Willie Mae Wittie, his wife of 60 years.

This Nation should always remember how much we owe the Greatest Generation. The service and sacrifice of John McMahon and his brothers in arms is a manifestation of all that makes this country great. We are honored to have such men walk among us, and must always remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and are no longer with us.

I wish to extend my greatest appreciation to Second Lieutenant John E. McMahon for his gallant service to our Nation in World War II.

SEMINOLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Seminole Community Library is one of the greatest educational resources of the City of Seminole, Florida I have the privilege to represent. Later this month, the library, its staff and its thousands of patrons will celebrate its golden 50th anniversary.

Founded by a dedicated group of volunteers in 1960, the library has outgrown its facilities on a number of occasions before locating at its present site on the campus of The St. Petersburg College. Now named the Dennis L. Jones Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College, after my good friend and Florida State Senator, the partnership between the library, the city and the college makes this one of the most unique facilities of its kind in our entire area.

Madam Speaker, one thing has transcended the history of this great library, from its early days in the "cottage" to its present operations in a state-of-the-art educational facility, and that is service to people of all ages.

It is a real honor for me to have the library as a valuable neighbor to my Seminole Congressional District Office and to visit with folks there as they come and go. Please join me in congratulating those early leaders who had a vision that has grown into this great library and to thank all those who provide support to the current facility. This includes the City of Seminole, The St. Petersburg College, the library's professional staff and dedicated volunteers, the Friends of the Library organization, the Library Advisory Board and the Library Youth Advisory Board.

As the library embarks upon its next 50 years of service to our community, it remains focused on its goal to remember the past, serve the present and plan for the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SISTER ANN BRAWLEY, RSM

HON. MARCY KAPTUR-

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. I rise today to recall the generous, self-giving life of Sister Ann Brawley, of the Mercy Order of Roman Catholic sisters in Lima who in 2010 has passed from this life into the next. Sr. Ann spent 77 of the 94 years of her life on Earth serving in Christ Jesus' name. She put into practice His words to live by—to "remain in my love." Her joy was complete, as was the joy she conveyed to others.

Sr. Ann's imprimatur on our community is large. Starting as a bookkeeper for Mercy and St. Charles Hospitals in Toledo, she befriended all people who worked and visited the hospitals in which she worked. Of deep and committed social conscience, she was key in the establishment of the Toledo Catholic Diocese's Central Development Office. She offered accounting services to several area schools, the Migrant Information Office, Aurora Shelter for Women, and Bittersweet Farms community for adults with autism. She was invited to help in the development of Lima, Ohio's Kibby Corners Neighborhood Project.

In addition to Sr. Ann's accounting skill, she had a gift and a passion for the course of the Nation and politics. I came to know her when she offered her counsel, prayers and talents to me during my first campaign in 1982. Her humor, wit, and acumen were sharp and appreciated by all whose lives she touched. Not all business, Sr. Ann also had a passion for sports.

Sr. Ann had a compassionate heart and open arms, and the source of her hope was the unconditional love of Jesus. As Sister Joan Nemann, RSM noted in her eulogy, "More than ten years ago when she asked me to give the homily at her funeral she emphasized these words repeatedly, remain in my love. This was such good news for her—and for us. Today, in her room I found a piece of birch bark that Ann had kept for a number of years. I recall that some years ago I came to the Pines to make a retreat. At that time the birch trees were shedding their bark. I found

a lovely piece and wrote on it, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love.' I gave it to Ann, and she kept it all these years since." Sister Joan's story illustrates to those of us privileged to know her: to her core, the essence of Love. May Sister be granted eternal rest for her life of abiding good deeds.

REMEMBERING ENSIGN ROBERT W. LANGWELL

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, nearly sixty years ago, Ensign Robert W. Langwell gave his life in service to our great Nation. Shortly after hostilities began in the Korean War, Ensign Langwell was lost at sea when his Navy minesweeper was sunk off the coast of South Korea. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I wish to thank members of the Korean government and U.S. military who were instrumental in recovering the body of Ensign Langwell. After decades of fruitless searching, he will finally receive the burial he deserves when he is laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on July 12, 2010.

Ensign Langwell was a native of my hometown—Columbus, Indiana—who served in both World War II and the Korean War. He later moved to Indianapolis where he graduated from high school, and then served two years in the Navy during World War II, including time at Pearl Harbor. Upon his return, Ensign Langwell attended Indiana University where he graduated with a degree in marketing. He was later called to serve in the Korean War before passing away in October 1950 at the age of 26.

I offer my sincere condolences to David Parker, first cousin; Jerry Redford, Phyllis Johnson, and Brenda Showalter, all second cousins; Mary Parker, aunt; Jim Parker, first cousin; Nancy Cook, first cousin; John Parker, first cousin; and Karen Sprauer, second cousin. While Ensign Langwell's young life was tragically cut short, his valiant sacrifice is not forgotten.

CONFERENCE REPORT OF H.R. 4173,
DODD-FRANK WALL STREET RE-
FORM AND CONSUMER PROTEC-
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

I frequently talk with central New Jersey residents who are frustrated with the reckless way Wall Street and big banks gamed the system with exotic financial schemes, while families and small businesses paid the price.

Wall Street reform will protect consumers from deceptive business practices and hidden fees through the creation of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Reform also will

protect homebuyers from some of the worst predatory lending practices that contributed to the financial meltdown of 2008.

Reform finally will restore accountability to Wall Street. Banks no longer will be able to gamble with depositors' savings for their profits. Unregulated derivatives—called "financial weapons of mass destruction" by Warren Buffett—will now be traded in the open. Stockholders will vote on executive pay. And hedge fund managers will have to come out from the shadows and register with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Reform will prevent taxpayer-funded bailouts of financial giants, establishing an orderly process for liquidating failing companies that will be paid for by their investors and creditors—not taxpayers.

While no bill is perfect, this is the strongest reform since the Great Depression. It will put the cops back on the beat on Wall Street and will help give Americans confidence that the system works for individuals, families and small businesses—not big banks.

COMMENDING RESTORATION AND
PRESERVATION OF "FAME"

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the restoration and preservation of the 40-foot gaff rigged schooner, *Fame*, a piece of nautical history, and one of America's maritime treasures.

Fame is a 1910 Schooner rigged daysailer that was designed by B.B. Crowninshield, a naval architect from Boston, Massachusetts, and built by Rice Bros. Co., East Boothbay, Maine. In designing *Fame*, he wanted to create "the largest and fastest boat he could handle and take care of alone." *Fame* is also noted to be the sister vessel to *Fortune*, a 50 foot schooner built in 1925, also designed by B.B. Crowninshield.

Fame's second owner was Theodore (Ted) M. Dunlap, who in partnership with Fred W. Weston, purchased her in 1926. Dunlap, known as "The Commodore," taught many young people to sail aboard *Fame* in the waters of Lake Michigan. Three Lake Michigan clubs have named trophies after *Fame*, and she is well known along its shores.

At one point in her history, *Fame* had been in dire need of repair, and was auctioned off to Ray Kazlas and Gint Karaitus, who began her rehabilitation. In the 1990s, her next owners continued fixing the aged schooner. Unfortunately, in 1995, on a passage from Chicago, Illinois, to Racine, Wisconsin, *Fame* sank when she took on water from large waves and her pumps failed. Luckily, she was quickly raised.

Thanks to the steadfast vision and immense generosity of her most recent owner, Dennis Conner, the famous racing skipper and four time winner of the America's Cup and seven time yachtsman of the year, *Fame* has once again made a comeback. Mr. Conner previously restored the 80-year-old Q boat, *Cotton Blossom II*.

According to some classic yacht enthusiasts, *Fame* has once again been restored to her original beauty. *Fame* will celebrate her

100th Birthday at the San Diego Yacht Club, in San Diego, California, on Sunday, July 11, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in recognizing *Fame*, in her centenary year. It's with *Fame's* restoration and preservation that she will be again admired by yachting enthusiasts and maritime historians now and in the future.

SECURE ALL FACILITIES TO EF-
FECTIVELY GUARD THE UNITED
STATES AGAINST AND RESPOND
TO DANGEROUS SPILLS ACT

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, seventy-one days have passed, and the oil spill response and containment effort in the Gulf still lacks clear direction. As we've seen by the failure of the blowout preventer in the BP disaster, an uncontrolled discharge of oil is truly a worst-case scenario that oil companies and the Federal Government should be required to have an established plan for. I rise today to introduce the Secure All Facilities to Effectively Guard the United States Against and Respond to Dangerous Spills Act of 2010, or the SAFEGUARDS Act, legislation to prevent and respond to future disastrous oil spills by addressing some of the systematic breakdowns which led to the BP Deepwater Horizon catastrophe.

We are currently witnessing the disastrous effects an uncontrolled discharge of oil has on the fragile environment of the Gulf of Mexico. While the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has established specific safeguards for take into account the effects that drilling has on our environment, BP was permitted categorical exclusions from these requirements. No oil company should be exempt from addressing the environmental impact that their drilling activities impose. The SAFEGUARDS Act will ensure that NEPA requirements are not ignored again by, first, prohibiting categorical exclusions from NEPA, and, second, extending the time period regulatory agencies have to review oil explorations proposals. Regulatory agencies currently have only a 30-day period to review extensive and intricate drilling proposals, however this bill will give regulatory agencies up to 150 days to ensure exploration plans are properly reviewed.

Not only was BP granted exemptions from environmental standards, they were also allowed to move forward without a prepared response plan for the failure of the blowout preventer. The SAFEGUARDS Act addresses problem by requiring all oil spill response plans to account for a true worst possible scenario, including the uncontrolled discharge of oil resulting from the failure of a blowout preventer or other containment devices.

The oil disaster in the Gulf has also brought much attention to the leadership and organization of the response and containment efforts currently in place. While the Coast Guard is ultimately responsible for leading the government's response to an oil spill in America's coastal waters, they are not required to approve oil spill response plans submitted by oil

rigs. Instead, each rig is only required to submit their spill response plans to the Minerals Management Service, an agency with many well-documented issues with administering rig safety standards. Oversight by the Coast Guard is necessary to ensure a fully coordinated response effort. If the Coast Guard has to clean up the spills, they should review the clean up plans ahead of time. The SAFE-GUARDS Act will make this a requirement for all current and future oil rigs, as well as establish the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the National Incident Commander to oversee the Federal Government's response to large oil spills in coastal waters.

Finally, the SAFEGUARDS Act will address some of the inadequacies in federal response efforts highlighted by the current spill. The framework of the National Contingency Plan, which is the Federal Government response plan for all oil spills, has not been updated since 1994. Oil spills in our coastal waters are unique disasters that deserve their own response plan. The SAFEGUARDS Act will require the response plan to be updated at least every five years. Further, this bill will require the EPA to begin monitoring water quality within forty-eight hours after an oil spill is discovered. It is important for the public to have accurate information about how our water, our wildlife and our beaches are being affected as quickly as possible.

The Federal Government's reaction to the Gulf disaster over the last few weeks has been insufficient, to say the least. BP's response has not been much better. The Clean Water Act requires the President and the Federal Government to lead the cleanup efforts, and we owe it to the American people and the entire Gulf coast to do better. The SAFE-GUARDS Act presents common sense solutions to help prevent a disaster of this magnitude from ever happening again, and improves the federal response in the event it ever does. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure to modernize and improve the governments prevention and response efforts to oil spills.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT C. BYRD, A
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF
WEST VIRGINIA

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost respect and admiration for the late Senator ROBERT CARLYLE BYRD that I recognize his passing. Senator BYRD was known as a man of the people. He dedicated his life's work to the

American citizens and his beloved constituency in the Mountain State of West Virginia.

Born November 20, 1917 in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, the young BYRD moved with family to West Virginia where he grew up and would later meet his soon to be wife, Erma Ora James. Their marriage spanned more than six decades until her death in 2006. Initially, he was unable to afford college, but eventually attended Beckley College, Concord College, Morris Harvey College, and Marshall College, all in West Virginia. Senator BYRD's public service career began after he won a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1946. Six years later, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. It was during this time he began night classes at American University's Washington College of Law in 1953. With a tenacious spirit and made up mind, he would earn his law degree some ten years later in 1963.

Along the course of his professional and academic career, BYRD was elected to the United States Senate and would serve 51 years making him the longest serving senator in history. His time in office was well-spent and fruitful where he would serve in a myriad of leadership roles. Most notably: President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; Democratic Caucus Senate Majority leader; Senate Minority leader; and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Senator BYRD, like many of us, lived a full life filled with high peaks and valleys low. I too, had some reservations about meeting this one-time member of the Klu Klux Klan who for 14 hours filibustered the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But, when our paths crossed, I soon learned of the great character of man he truly was. He believed whole-heartedly in the United States Constitution and a clear demonstration was the pocket version he always carried in his coat pocket. Another love he had was for taking afternoon walks on the West Front side of the Capitol. It was during that time of day where I knew I could find him whenever I needed to seek the voice of wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss those afternoon strolls with the Historian of the Senate. Senator BYRD loved the American people, loved his state and loved our great nation. Although he no longer is with us on the terrestrial, his legacy will live deeply within the halls of Congress and in the hearts of humanity.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT C. BYRD, A
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF
WEST VIRGINIA

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the memory of United States Senator ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia.

Born in West Virginia, I have known Senator BYRD my whole life. Senator BYRD faithfully served West Virginia in Congress for more than 57 years. Throughout his career in the House and the Senate, he improved the lives and welfare of the people of West Virginia for whom he cared so much. He worked endlessly to fight for democratic principles, defend the Constitution, and ensure that the American Dream was in reach for all families.

Senator BYRD grew up in the southern coal-fields of West Virginia, first working as a gas station attendant briefly and then in a local food market. He started his political career in the West Virginia House of Delegates, serving from 1947 to 1950, followed by two years in the West Virginia Senate. After being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952, he enrolled in night law school classes despite not having a bachelor's degree. In 1958, West Virginia elected him to the U.S. Senate where he became its longest-serving member.

Senator BYRD was an energetic defender of the U.S. Senate as an institution, persistently seeking to preserve its dignity and traditions. He literally wrote the book on the Senate—a four-volume history of the institution that is a treasure. To read his books and to read his speeches is to see Senator BYRD as a self-taught great orator and historian, someone who could readily quote from Shakespeare, Greek tragedies, and the King James Bible.

I always will remember him for his extraordinary devotion and service to the people of West Virginia. He paid exceptional attention to his constituents and their individual concerns. Staff members told me that at night they would receive calls at home from the Senator, quizzing them on people who had signed his guestbook that day and asking how he could help them. He would recognize people in a crowd and ask them if his constituent service to them years before took care of their problem.

My thoughts and condolences go out to his daughters, his family, and all of his friends and neighbors in West Virginia. Senator BYRD dedicated every day of his service in the U.S. Congress to strengthening the institution and the country that he loved so deeply.

He will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace with his beloved wife Erma.