Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Craig Samuel for his exceptional foresight in the culinary business that has provided Brooklyn with tastes from around the country.

SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL REGIONAL DIRECTORS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Southeastern Region of the United States has many citizens that work to make our Region a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama appointed five outstanding individuals to serve as directors of the Southeastern agencies, Cassius Butts, Small Business Administration, Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Environmental Protection Agency, Edward Jennings, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Paulette Norvel Lewis, U.S. Department of Labor and Carlis V. Williams, Department of Health and Human Services, each individual being charged to bring community service, honor and excellence in government; and

Whereas, the Southeastern Regional Directors are promoting and providing the concept of One Community-One Goal by working with and for individuals in all walks of life to make our Region a place where the needs of the people are met; and

Whereas, these directors give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community and our nation by providing leadership and service; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by these directors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Cassius Butts, Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Edward Jennings, Paulette Norvel Lewis and Carlis V. Williams for their outstanding service to America;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 27, 2011 as Southeastern Federal Regional Directors Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of October, 2011.

HONORING RICHARD ''RICK'' ROBINSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Richard (Rick) Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, and to thank him for his leadership and dedication to the citizens of Stanislaus County.

Richard (Rick) Robinson was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in September, 2004. Prior to his appointment in Stanislaus County, he had, since 1991, held the position of Chief Administrator with Tehama County. Rick started his local government career in 1981 in the Tehama County Auditor-Controller's Office as an Accountant. In 1986, he was elected Auditor-Controller and ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 1990.

Mr. Robinson currently serves on several local Committees, including the Community Hospice Board of Directors, the Governing Board of Doctors Medical Center, Stanislaus Workforce Alliance Board of Directors, and the Valley First Credit Union Supervisory Committee.

Rick was recently honored by the Stanislaus County Equal Rights Commission as a recipient of the 2011 Annual Dale Butler Equal Rights Award for exemplary service in equal employment opportunity matters and leadership in promoting equal rights.

Faced with severe financial challenges during the current economic crisis, Mr. Robinson led an effort to develop a multi-year framework around which the County Budget functions—a strategy which enables the County to address both current and future year budget shortfalls in a systematic and proactive manner.

During his career with Stanislaus County, Rick led many efforts aimed at strengthening the County Health Care safety net, including successful initiatives to attain the Federally Qualified Health Care Facility Designation in the County's Health Clinic system, a multi-year effort to retain the County Residency Program, and the sale and transition of the Stanislaus Behavioral Health Center to private ownership.

Mr. Robinson has also led efforts to create an Animal Services Joint Powers Agency, construct a state-of-the-art Animal Shelter, create the new Modesto Regional Fire Authority, securitize future tobacco settlement revenues in excess of $40 million and establish, with board approval, a capital facilities revolving loan fund to assist in financing future County construction projects, and coordinate the County's 2011 redistricting efforts.

Rick was an honors graduate of California State University, Chico, earning his degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a lifetime selection to Beta Gamma Sigma, a national scholastic honor society for business graduates.

As Chief Executive Officer with Stanislaus County, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Robinson oversees all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which includes 26 County departments, a $900 million operating budget and over 3600 employees.

Rick has been married to his wife Kathy for thirty-seven years. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Richard (Rick) Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer, for his numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

A TRIBUTE TO KESHA TOWNSEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kesha Townsel for her devotion to the public education and youth in Brooklyn.

Ms. Townsel is the Assistant Principal of Public School 5. She has served in various positions since joining the staff of Public School 5 in September, 2000. Ms. Townsel was a third grade teacher for 5 years, Business Manager for 5 years, and is presently an assistant Principal. Ms. Townsel began her teaching career with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Brooklyn College. She then served in residence as a Speech Therapist in an Early Intervention Center at Downstate Hospital.

Ms. Townsel was a member of the first cohort of the New York City Teaching Fellows. Through that program she earned her Master Degree in Elementary Education. Although being a classroom teacher, Ms. Townsel continued to provide speech and language therapy services to children in NYC' s Early Intervention Program. Ms. Townsel has served as Business Manager and Staff Developer since September 2005. During that time Ms. Townsel earned her advanced Masters Degree in School District Leadership through a compact with the UFT and Stony Brook University.

In her management role, Ms. Townsel has provided various services to the children of Public School 5. Ms. Townsel collaborated in providing programs such as; New York Cares, Scholastic Book Fairs, Learning Gardens, Club Getaway, Poly-tech University & New York University. Ms. Townsel's collaboration with Poly-Tech University and NYU has increased the experiences in the Math, Science, Engineering and Technology areas for students at Public School 5. This collaboration helped to form Public School 5's first LEGO Robotics Team. Ms. Townsel, in collaboration with the Poly-Tech fellow during the 2010–2011 school year; assisted the team in winning a First Place trophy for ''Team Work'' and helped them qualify for the NYC competition at the Jacobs Javitz Center.

Ms. Townsel continues to strive for excellence for the students of Public School 5. She provides speech therapy, volunteers on her housing development board, and sings with a local community choir, as well as assists with various educationally founded organizations such as the Caring Educators and the Adelaide Sanford Institute. She has also taught NYC–DOE Budgeting as a guest speaker for the past two semesters at Long Island University.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Townsel for her unwavering support to education and youth in Brooklyn.

UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OF ALAN GROSS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere concern over the unjust imprisonment of Alan Gross by the Cuban government. A true humanitarian, Mr. Gross was sentenced in March to 15 years in prison for ''acts to undermine the integrity and independence'' of Cuba.

Before the sentencing earlier this year, Mr. Gross had already been imprisoned for two years without charge. He was in Cuba as part of a USAID contract to provide support to members of the Cuban Jewish community