

adding: "To put it bluntly, few Americans have a realistic idea of how our government works. We have instead a series of naive assumptions. If the message of this book were common knowledge, much of the sound and fury that currently caricatures our politics and our national image could be averted."

Harry Cummings McPherson Jr. was born on Aug. 22, 1929, in Tyler, Tex., the son of Harry and Nan Hight McPherson. He attended Southern Methodist University and graduated from the University of the South in 1949. He intended to be a writer and poet and enrolled in a graduate program in literature at Columbia in 1949. But when the Korean War broke out in 1950, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as an intelligence officer in Germany, assessing Soviet troop deployments.

His first marriage, to Clayton Read in 1952, ended in divorce. He married Mary Patricia DeGroot in 1981. Besides his wife, he is survived by two children from his first marriage, Coco and Peter, and a son from his second marriage, Samuel.

He earned a law degree in 1956 at the University of Texas. At the urging of a cousin who worked for Johnson, who was then a senator, Mr. McPherson went to Washington and was hired by the Democratic Policy Committee, which fashioned the legislative agenda for Senate Democrats. Johnson, the majority leader, was its chairman. Over the next seven years, Mr. McPherson rose to general counsel of the committee, serving under Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana after Johnson became vice president in 1961.

He was appointed deputy under secretary of the Army for international affairs in 1963 and assistant secretary of state for educational and cultural affairs in 1964. Nearly two years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Mr. McPherson joined President Johnson's White House staff in 1965, and over the next four years, he became one of Johnson's most trusted advisers.

In 1966 he helped organize a White House conference on civil rights, a gathering that included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Thurgood Marshall, who was then the solicitor general but would become America's first black Supreme Court justice a year later; and representatives of almost every major civil rights group in the country.

Mr. McPherson also became Johnson's chief speechwriter, shaping all of the president's major addresses from 1966 to 1969.

In 2008, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by American Lawyer magazine.

It is with great respect, I honor Harry C. McPherson, Jr. for his service to the country under President Lyndon B. Johnson and his many wonderful accomplishments upon his death.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their achievements as Class 2A FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading State Champions and most recently as Universal Cheerleaders Association's National Cheerleading Champions.

No single component by itself renders a champion, but rather to be a champion requires a combination of discipline, desire, focus, and determination. The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders have found the perfect blend of each element and serve as an example for other teams in the area. At the beginning of the season, the Fort Walton Beach High School Viking Cheerleaders said, "It's our year." Their words have come to culmination as they proved that this year was theirs to shine taking home the gold from UCA Nationals.

The Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders strive for perfection in everything they do. In cheerleading, not one person stands out or wins the overall competition. Rather, it requires uniformity and working together as a collective group. As they prepared to compete in UCA Nationals, they sought to perform their routine to the best of their abilities as a team. This commitment to excellence defines a true champion; however, their excellence extends far beyond the title. Whether it is car washes, 5k runs, or even performing for Florida's Governor, Rick Scott, this team goes above and beyond what is asked of them, and I commend their active role in the Fort Walton Beach community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Fort Walton Beach High School Cheerleaders on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

SPEECH OF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Mr. RUNYAN. Madam Speaker, on March 6th, the state of New Jersey, and more specifically Newark and its surrounding communities, lost a dedicated public servant, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Congressman PAYNE truly lived a life of service, first as an educator in the Newark and Passaic public school districts, an Essex County Freeholder, a member of the Newark Municipal Service, and finally as the first African-American Congressman from the state of New Jersey. Representative PAYNE's public service record was also dedicated to helping people through his volunteer work. His involvement with the Newark YMCA and Boy's and Girl's Club, showed his passion for helping children.

In Congress, Representative PAYNE played an instrumental role as an advocate in the treatment of AIDS and drug-resistant tuberculosis. His actions in Congress were always based on how he could best serve his constituents. Congressman PAYNE served as a role model for not only his district, but the entire State of New Jersey.

His love of service was only outdone by the love he had for his family, from his late wife, to his children, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren. Congressman PAYNE will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall #103-106. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall #103: Yes—Himes of Connecticut Amendment No. 3

Rollcall #104: Yes—Ellison of Minnesota Amendment No. 5

Rollcall #105: Yes—Waters of California Amendment No. 6

Rollcall #106: Yes—Connolly of Virginia Amendment No. 9

ABILENE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I bring good news from West Texas. The 2011-2012 Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2A State basketball champions are the Abilene Christian High School Panthers.

In a close game that was covered by the national media, the Panthers beat Beren Academy 46-42 on March 3 in Waco, Texas to win the championship. Both schools are strong religiously based institutions. An Orthodox Jewish school from Houston, Beren Academy was a tough opponent made up of wonderful, religiously committed young men that kept the game close to the end.

The Panthers were led by 22 year-old Michael Bacon, a first-time head coach and college senior at Abilene Christian University. He coached the team along with Nick Smith and Colby Carr, all full-time college students and best friends. While some college students hold part-time jobs on the side, I suspect that most don't involve coaching a state championship-winning high school basketball team. Michael, Nick, and Colby are outstanding men and leaders that have a promising future ahead of them.

The championship caps a whirlwind season for the Panthers that ended with a 25-4 record. They played with discipline, determination, and tenacity the entire season. Michael Bacon said about the team: "We played like we were the smallest dog in the fight all season, and ended up the biggest." In every practice and game, the team gave their all and, in the end, it paid off.

The members of the team are Michael Avila, Ben George, Avron Payne, Trey Hampton, Clint Bruton, Samai Massaquoi, Harrison Hancock, Daniel Austin, Trevor Tyson, Bryton Fernandez, and J.D. Dos Santos. These fine young men are model Christian athletes. Strong in both body and spirit, their success on the basketball court reflects the deep commitment to their faith.

The state champion Panthers deserve our congratulations. They have excelled as athletes, students, and Texans,
And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SERGEANT JOSHUA A. BORN,
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness and deep sympathy that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Army Sergeant Joshua Born, of Niceville, Florida, was killed on February 23, 2012 in the Khogyani District in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, where he and other members of the 549th Military Police Company were attempting to maintain order during violent protests.

A student at Niceville High School in Northwest Florida, Joshua enlisted in the United States Army in March 2007. He was known as a well-respected soldier and young man. On February 23, Joshua paid the ultimate price in defense of our Nation's freedom. We know that freedom often demands of us a heavy and at times unbearable price. To his wife, Megan; his parents, Elizabeth and Craig; and to all of his friends; we owe our eternal gratitude. Throughout his service, there is no doubt that Joshua displayed dedication to duty and courage of heart. Joshua's life will continue to inspire those who knew him best and those who follow in his footsteps. He will always be remembered for his selfless dedication and commitment to this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor Sergeant Joshua Born and all the heroes we have lost. My wife, Vicki, joins me in offering our most sincere condolences and prayers to his family and friends. May God continue to bless them and the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

HONORING MS. SYLVIA G. IRIONDO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida's finest community leaders, Ms. Sylvia G. Iriondo.

Sylvia was born in the city of Havana, Cuba and currently resides in Key Biscayne, Florida. She has spent over 40 years in the real estate business, serving as Co-Owner and President of two successful businesses: Tarafa & Iriondo Corporation/Realtors and Tarafa & Iriondo Corporation/Property Management Services. She also currently serves as a Broker-Associate with the prestigious real-estate firm of Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell, Inc. of Key Biscayne. Sylvia has served the real estate community as Key Biscayne Chairperson for the Miami Board of Realtors, Founder and first President of the Real Estate Professional Association of Key Biscayne, and Board Member of the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce.

Sylvia has made a tremendous impact in Miami and throughout the state of Florida with her civic engagement. She served as a United Way of Dade County volunteer Board Member for eight years, the maximum allowable term, and also was appointed member of the Advisory Board and Chairperson of the Program Committee for the Salvation Army. Additionally, Sylvia was appointed by Florida Governor Bob Graham to serve on two major statewide initiatives concerning elderly residents: the Governor's Commission on Aging and the State of Florida Department of Elderly Affairs.

Staying true to her cultural heritage, Sylvia has also devoted her life to advocacy for, and service to, a free and democratic Cuba. Her work began with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the first agency in Miami to provide assistance to thousands of Cuban refugees fleeing Castro's communist regime, and the State Department of Public Welfare—Cuban Refugee Emergency Center. Sylvia continues fighting relentlessly for Cuba's freedom today, as a co-founder of M.A.R. por Cuba (Mothers & Women Against Oppression), and the Assembly of the Cuban Resistance. This organization is committed to the defense of human rights and freedoms of Cuban people, the support of Cuban political prisoners and their families, and advocating for measures and sanctions against the Castro regime. Sylvia works daily to accelerate democratic change in Cuba; her solidarity to the Cuban people is truly inspiring and admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Sylvia G. Iriondo for her continued service to the Miami community. She is a woman of unmatched compassion and dedication, serving as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, businesswoman, leader, activist and philanthropist. Sylvia's impression upon the Miami community will last for decades to come, and she will surely inspire countless young women to follow in her footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, and I wish her continued success and happiness in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHIP CRAVAACK

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 95 for H.R. 3637, to designate the "Roy Schallern Rood Post Office Building" in Jupiter, Florida, I originally intended to vote "yes," however, I inadvertently voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEM-
BROKE

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke on the 125th anniversary of its founding.

In 1887 the General Assembly of North Carolina chartered the Croatan Normal

School, created to train American Indian public school teachers. This school, with a total of fifteen students enrolled and only one instructor, was the foundation for what has now become one of the 17 campuses in the greater University of North Carolina system.

UNC Pembroke is a center of higher learning for over 6,000 students, boasting 41 undergraduate Programs and 17 graduate programs. I am impressed by how much this institution has grown since its beginnings. Yet, despite this growth, the University prides itself on the ability to give individualized attention to each one of its students with a 15:1 student to faculty ratio.

UNC Pembroke has achieved national recognition for its diversity as well as its strong ties with the community. U.S. News and World Report has deemed the University "the most diverse University in the South," the Princeton Review has named UNC Pembroke among the "Best in the Southeast," and the University was named to President Obama's Community Service Honor Roll for three consecutive years. Additionally, the Carnegie Foundation awarded the University the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, one of its most prestigious awards.

I am especially pleased by the naming of the University as a "Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs Magazine for a fifth consecutive year. Access to education for our military veterans is something I am passionate about, and I am encouraged that UNC Pembroke has embraced our veterans and supported their pursuit of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of North Carolina at Pembroke as it celebrates 125 years. May it continue its tradition of excellence and its development of the future leaders of North Carolina and our nation.

HONORING VOLUNTEER FIRE
CHIEF M.L. "PUG" WELLS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Volunteer Fire Chief M.L. "Pug" Wells, a devoted public servant to the people of Elliston and Montgomery County, who passed away unexpectedly on March 7, 2012.

For nearly 55 years, Pug was a member of the Elliston Fire Department. He led as Chief for 48 of those years. Pug was a founding member of both the department in 1957 and of the New River Valley Swift Water Rescue and Recovery. Never tiring, Pug even found time to assist the Shawsville Rescue Squad.

In a recent interview, Pug said his greatest enjoyment came from "being able to help people." His selfless sacrifice is truly admirable. A committed family man, a noble community leader, and a friend of many, Pug will be greatly missed by his colleagues and those he served. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mary Lee; his four children; his family; and his friends.

Well known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the Montgomery community, I am honored to pay tribute to this man's many contributions. His legacy and influence will be