

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