HONORING JAMES E. “JIM” YOUNG

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man . . . who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, James E. “Jim” Young’s work as President and C.E.O. of Citizen’s Trust Bank is present not only in DeKalb County, Georgia, but across this great Nation; and

Whereas, the giant of a man was a husband, father, businessman and financial educator; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time and his talent; never asking for fame or fortune, yet inspiring anybody to be involved in community activities, encouraging the everyday entrepreneur to build businesses which strengthen our communities and our Nation;

Whereas, James Young inspired citizens to be financially responsible, government officials to be just and small business persons to think and grow “Big”; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow special recognition on James E. “Jim” Young for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; and

Now therefore, I, Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr., do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that James E. “Jim” Young of Stone Mountain, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this “Congressional Recognition”—James E. “Jim” Young, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of March, 2012.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA KOELLING

HON. JACKIE SPEIER
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Foster City Councilmember Linda Koelling who is retiring after eight years of service on the council, including two terms as mayor. Linda’s upbeat personality and limitless energy will be deeply missed by her colleagues.

Linda’s accomplishments on the council were many and long-lasting. She created an Ad Hoc Transportation Committee to complete a transportation study plan for Foster City. She helped determine the fate of a property that will become the town center. She was a major advocate in the completion of the tee center at Leo Ryan Park. She was instrumental in building the partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. When she was chair of a League of the California Cities campaign committee to pass a local proposition, she rewrote the words to the song “Waterloo” that, with the help of council members from other communities, became a YouTube sensation.

On the council Linda represented Foster City on several San Mateo County boards such as CCAG, CMEQ, Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, Airport Round Table and the Airport Land Use Committee. She served on the Transportation, Public Works Policy Committee for two years and was the president of the Peninsula division of the League of California Cities.

Linda was born and raised in San Francisco. She graduated from Presentation High School in 1967, and she attended City College of San Francisco as a physical education major from 1967–69. She earned her BS in Parks and Recreation Management from Cal State University Hayward in 1971.

From 1972–77, Linda worked as a recreational supervisor for the city of Burlingame and was a member of the California Parks and Recreation Society. Among her responsibilities was the supervision of the recreational centers. One of the teachers who taught an after-holstery class happened to be my mother, Nancy Speier, who later became a staunch supporter when Linda first ran for city council in 2003. I had the great pleasure of working with Linda when she was on the council and I was in the California State Senate.

Linda is passionate about education and sports. She founded the original Kids Connection private preschool and elementary school in Foster City. She was the president of pony/collt baseball for two years, created and coordinated a girls softball league, coached AYSO soccer teams and her children’s softball team. Personally, she loves to play golf.

Linda and her husband Fred Koelling have been married for 40 years. They are the proud parents of Karen Koelling Gleason, Tommy Koelling and Bryan Koelling and have four grandchildren.

Though Linda is retiring from the city council, I have no doubt that she will continue to serve our community and pursue an active role in public life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to honor the work of Linda Koelling, my friend, extraordinary human being and an outstanding public servant.

REMEMBERING DAVID WALTZ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to remember the life of David L. Waltz, who died of brain cancer last month in Princeton, N.J., at age 68. David Waltz was one of the world’s leading experts and creative forces in computer science, and a fine example of a researcher, a teacher and mentor, and a life well lived. He was what we talk about when we talk about America’s creative spirit and educational excellence and path-breaking industry.

A pioneer in artificial intelligence, David produced early research that led to Internet search engines that we all use. He also invented techniques that allow designers to look at two dimensional data from three dimensional perspectives, and he showed how to extend those constraint-propagation techniques beyond visualization to optimization of scheduling, routing, or building. His ideas and computer techniques of neural networks and machine learning are eagerly applied by computer companies, power companies, medical researchers, and healthcare providers. David’s advances made it possible for computers to move beyond laborious bit-by-bit checking and referencing to a fixed checklist and to begin to recognize patterns, whether applied to images or speech or music.

Taught by the renowned Marvin Minsky at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where David received his Bachelor’s and Ph.D. degrees, he went on to teach at the University of Illinois and Brandeis University. As head of the software division of the iconic company Thinking Machines he produced software innovation that have long outlasted the company. A decade ago David founded the Columbia University Center for Computational Learning Systems, where he worked until his death.

David’s colleagues called him a listener who inspired thinking, someone who was as eager a listener as a talker, and who carried his great stature in the field gently and with genuine humility. He imbued his research teams with optimism by always drawing out merit of the work of others. And he built teamwork by sharing his interests in art, literature, music, and culture well beyond the immediate concerns of the research team. He encouraged his students and colleagues not to narrow their thinking; as a result the group could contribute as much to the treatment of epilepsy as to power grid blackouts. Everything was food for thought and an opportunity for an amusing or inventive insight.

Probably the greatest praise for David’s leadership came from women who have worked with him. Some credited him with providing the greatest opportunities for career advancement for women of anyone in the field. David recruited and promoted women not as a crusader for equal rights but because it was for him obviously the right and wise thing to do.

The lessons that teachers, researchers, supervisors—in fact any of us here in this House or elsewhere—can draw from David Waltz are not primarily about computer science and artificial intelligence. They are that the greatest creativity comes from inspiring others; the greatest technique of team-building is listening; the greatest innovation comes from devoting time to others’ ideas; and the greatest wisdom is kindness.

I know all this to be true about David Waltz because he was a good friend of mine, and I personally also know he brought all of his wonderful qualities of uplifting and inspiring and nurturing others to his wonderful wife Bonnie and his two children, Jeremy and Vanessa.
HONORING ROBBIE DAVIS GUNN

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR. OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 23, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman who has given of herself to her family, church, community, and Nation; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn’s good works are present in Nashville, Tennessee as an exemplary mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, neighbor, community worker and friend; and

Whereas, this giant of a woman, who was raised up in the Providence Community, was born on August 20, 1928, to Rev. Robert Mitchell Davis and Mrs. Ada Edmondson Davis; and

Whereas, Robbie Davis Gunn was a virtuous woman, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of her community and family which in turn uplifted others; and

Whereas, she was an exemplary mother and mother-in-law, serving as compass and wise counselor and bringing great joy to her own children and their spouses and friends; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn loved her family, encouraging all of those around her to make a difference, be it her children, her elected officials, her neighbors and her church members at Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church where she was a faithful member for 72 years; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, never asking for fame or fortune as she became a quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional Recognition on Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Nashville and the Nation; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHN-SON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 112th Con-gress that Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn of Nash-ville, Tennessee is deemed worthy and de-erving of this “Congressional Recognition”— Mrs. Robbie Davis Gunn, U.S. Citizen of Dis-tinction.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of March, 2012.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

SMALL BUSINESS TAX CUT ACT

Small Business Tax Cut Act

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the fallacy that is H.R. 9.

I am always happy to support policy initiatives that stimulate economic growth and job creation and believe a private-public partnership during this time of economic recovery is essential.

Unfortunately, H.R. 9, the so-called Small Business Tax Cut Act, is a broad measure affecting 99.6 percent of all businesses that is not targeted at job creation.

The benefits it provides will be meted out unevenly and in an arbitrary manner, accruing in large measure to the wealthiest taxpayers.

While these facts alone argue for its rejection, this temporary and expensive provision is also the very antithesis of tax reform. It couldn’t be further from the truth.

Yet again the Republican tax plan in the form of H.R. 9 would along with the Ryan Re- publican Budget Plan, serve to dismantle Medicare and instead hand older and disabled people a voucher toward the cost of private in-surance. It’s not a new or creative idea, and it will actually add more costs to families and to our Nation’s bottom line. You cannot have a tax giveaway to a select few businesses who can least afford it and those who have already suffered, ultimately hurting our most vulnerable.

While claiming to “preserve” Medicare, the plan would actually imperil the community pro-gram and shift much of the costs to the very people it is supposed to help. As private plans aggressively court the healthiest and least costly beneficiaries, the traditional Medicare program would be left with an ever dwindling pool of beneficiaries—those who are too sick and poor to purchase private insurance with the help of Mr. Ryan’s coupon.

In time, Medicare will “wither on the vine,” as those who oppose the program have long intended. Like last year’s proposal from Mr. Ryan and last week’s proposal from Senate Republicans, this plan does nothing to really preserve Medicare or to solve our Nation’s skyrocketing healthcare costs.

It only slams those costs onto individuals who can least afford them: older and disabled Americans, while jeopardizing their health care, adding profits to corporations, and let-ting millionaires off the hook.

Similarly, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program is our most important anti-hun-ger program, with over 46 million Americans in more than 21 million households relying on it to help feed themselves and their families. Yet, by advancing H.R. 9 this Majority takes away money that could be used to shore up this program which serves the truly destitute.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-gram, SNAP, is the cornerstone of the Na-tion’s nutrition assistance safety net. SNAP touches the lives of over one in seven Ameri-cans. Indeed you could say SNAP saves lives. Everyone’s life is not as simple as some on the other side would have us believe—every person who is homeless cannot be fixed with magic dust and self-help policy prescrip-tions. Life is complicated and fraught with dan-ger and uncertainty.

Lucky are many of us who go home to warm shelter, food, and family. There, but for the grace of God go I.

SNAP benefits are available to most people who meet the financial requirements, and the program serves a broad spectrum of low-income people. In Fiscal Year 2010, SNAP pro-vided about $5.4 billion in food benefits to a monthly average of over 3.6 million people in Texas.