

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY FORD

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Shirley Ford has played a valuable role as a volunteer from the very beginning of my time in Congress. Shirley had a special ability to work with seniors in our District who were having difficulty with Medicare. Shirley's wealth of knowledge about the Medicare system gave our constituents a much-needed assurance that their claims would be handled appropriately. Shirley also shared my desire to help eliminate waste and fraud in the system and tirelessly worked with individuals to identify cases in these areas.

Shirley should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Shirley and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Shirley Ford for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHARLESTON DAY ORGANIZA- TION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Charleston Day Organization and its commitment towards conveying the belief that we all have some social and civic responsibility to our fellow man.

Founded in 1974 by Dr. Ethel Greene and her husband Mack Greene, the National

Charleston Day Organization (NCDO) is a nonprofit organization that has provided assistance to communities around the country. Thus far the organization has ten chapters in the United States in Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Indianapolis, Indiana; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri and Charleston, Mississippi.

The NCDO's mission is "to contribute to the education, cultural development, health and welfare of the citizens of Charleston, Mississippi and the surrounding area." Since 1980 the NCDO has annually awarded two education scholarships to graduates of Charleston High School. Over seventy thousand dollars has been contributed to students, sports teams, and civic groups in Tallahatchie County, through the NCDO.

For the past three years the NCDO has sponsored an event in Charleston called "Humility Day," that gathers all influential segments of the community in a proactive effort designed to inspire character in individuals and overcome the mindsets that leads to violence and erratic behavior.

During the NCDO's thirty-eight year history, leaders within the organization have worked hard inspiring people to provide philanthropic assistance to the residents of the Charleston area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The National Charleston Day Organization, a social and civic conscious group of residents who are committed towards serving their community and the country.

STOP TOBACCO SMUGGLING IN THE TERRITORIES ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5934, the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act. This important bill would prohibit the trafficking of contraband cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

This important and commonsense legislation was introduced by my great friend and colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA. Currently, the federal criminal code prohibits the smuggling of tobacco in the states; however, tobacco products continue to be trafficked through the territories by individuals looking to avoid paying taxes. This practice does not only warp market prices and rob the government of thousands of dollars each year in tax revenue. It also contributes to the public health problems associated with smoking.

I am proud to represent the 37th Congressional District of California, which is home to the largest American Samoan population out-

side American Samoa. The issue of tobacco smuggling matters to the loved ones and family members of my constituents, and it has become a priority of mine, as well. I am proud to stand with Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA, and I thank him for his outstanding leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Stop Tobacco Smuggling in the Territories Act will be an important step towards curbing this practice and restoring lost revenue back to local governments. I strongly support H.R. 5934, and I urge my colleagues to join me in strengthening the capacity of Samoan tobacco enforcement.

HONORING WORK OF DISTRICT V SUPERVISOR, JIM ALLEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of District V Supervisor, Jim Allen. Jim began his long and dedicated career in law enforcement with the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department in May of 1976 as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. He became a fulltime employee as a Jail Officer/Dispatcher in July 1977; and in December 1979, Jim became a Deputy Sheriff/Coroner. In May of 2003, he was appointed Sheriff/Coroner by the Board of Supervisors. Finally, in June 2006, he was elected as Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator, where he retired in 2007.

After Jim's successful career with Mariposa County law enforcement, he was elected as District V Supervisor from 2009–2012. In 2011, he also served as Chair of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. Beyond Jim's work as Supervisor, he served as a member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

Jim's sense of community service and hard work ethic is evident through his work with many county committees including: Fish Camp Community Planning Advisory Council, Wawona Appeals Board, Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, and Law Library Trustees, and the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS). He served the county on the following agencies and Board of Directors: Area 12 Agency on Aging Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, California State Association of Counties, County Medical Services Program Governing Board, Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency as Chair, Regional Advisory Board, and the San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties. In addition, Mr. Allen has also served on the Mariposa County High School Student Loan Association and oversaw the establishment of a separate Human Resources/Risk Management department. Additionally, he helped implement the paperless agenda management system.

Mr. Allen played an integral and significant role on the following county projects: Yosemite

• 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.

West Community Plan, Wawona Specific Plan, Catheys Valley Community Plan, SilverTip Resort project amended site plan application, construction of the new Human Services facility, acquisition of new fire engines and water tenders, funding and construction of three new fire stations, obtaining a Fixed Base Operator to oversee the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, Airport improvement projects, fuel load reduction projects, road maintenance projects, Agriculture and Agri-tourism policy, Williamson Act/historical parcels, Tenaya Lodge wastewater treatment facility approval, and the Mariposa Creek Parkway project.

In 2010 and 2011, Jim helped his community rebuild after heavy winter rains and a motor fire in El Portal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring District V Supervisor Jim Allen for his outstanding commitment to serve the community. Mr. Allen is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHARLIE DAVIS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to honor the career of a man who has given his whole professional life to serving the people of the United States.

Charlie D. Davis, a Shreveport, Louisiana, native was so bright he graduated from high school at the young age of 16. In 1974, he made the decision to join the U.S. Army that would shape the rest of his career. Davis was in the Army until 1977, and he then enlisted in the Navy from 1982 to 1985. He spent the next 11 years with the Department of Defense in New Orleans, and then transferred to the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration in Monroe, La. in 1996. He has been serving in this capacity ever since.

Charlie D. Davis is an exemplary public servant, and on the occasion of his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Louisiana in extending our thanks and recognition for the many years of hard work he gave to keep our State and Nation strong and secure.

TRIBUTE TO SUSANNA EUSTON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the

needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Susanna Euston was an original member of my District staff and worked tirelessly to serve the veteran community. Susanna developed immediate relationships with individual veterans and leaders of veteran organizations and quickly became the go-to person in Western North Carolina when any of our veterans needed assistance. I could always count on Susanna to make sure each one of our veteran constituents was treated fairly and with the utmost respect. Susanna was a devoted member of the team, often arriving first in the morning and staying as one of the last ones out the door at the end of the day.

Susanna should be proud of the service she provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Susanna and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Susanna Euston for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WILL ALLEN AND GROWING POWER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a mentor, former professional basketball player, community leader, educator, author, and one of the most influential leaders in the food security and urban farming movement nationally and internationally. On November 17, 2012, Will Allen will be honored for his many years of service and contributions to the Greater Milwaukee Community by the Community Brainstorming Conference.

Mr. Allen was born in South Carolina to sharecropper parents. He grew up in Rockville, Maryland where his parents relocated and owned and operated a vegetable farm. He relocated to Milwaukee, his wife's hometown, after completing both a professional basketball and business career. In 1993, he began Growing Power, a national nonprofit organization and land trust. Growing Power is the last working farm inside the Milwaukee city limits, with six historic greenhouses, year-round hoop-houses and farm animal pens, all organized within three acres.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors including: the MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" in 2008 for his work on urban farming and sustainable food production; in 2010, Allen was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People and worked with Michelle Obama to launch, "Let's Move!" a program to fight childhood obesity. In 2012, Allen was presented the Security Benefits Corporation Award for Outstanding Service to

Public Education by the National Education Association Foundation; an honorary Doctor of Agriculture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and also opened Growing Power's Deli and Food Market in Milwaukee's inner city. Will Allen is co-author of the book *The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People and Communities*.

Will Allen teaches inner-city youth the entire farming process from planting seeds to selling produce at farmers' markets. Partnerships with Milwaukee Public School (MPS) and Growing Power have supplied 40,000 MPS school children in 75 elementary schools with the food it grows. Over the past 20 years, Allen and his team have been traveling the globe setting up "hoop houses" that produce nutritious food and create inner city jobs. The hoop houses are home to peppers, cabbage, mushrooms and sprouts as well as Tilapia, Yellow Perch, Lake Perch and Coy. The headquarters and main hoop house in Milwaukee feeds 10,000 people and uses renewable energy. Every January through June, people from all around the world attend informational and hands-on training sessions to learn the techniques and skills involved with creating and maintaining a green house. Growing Power currently has growing operations all across the United States and has made its presence felt outside the states as well, establishing farms in Kenya, Ukraine, central London and the Netherlands.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Will Allen and Growing Power, whose contributions have greatly benefited the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the world.

HONORING ALPHA DELTA ZETA OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEDICATION TOWARDS SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Organized and chartered on October 14, 1938, it remains the oldest chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in the State of Mississippi.

The Alpha Delta Zeta chapter, working in conjunction with the sorority's national programs, has contributed much of the cultural, educational, religious, civic and social development of the State of Mississippi through various activities in the Greater Jackson Metropolitan Area. Since its inception in 1938, the Alpha Delta Zeta chapter has chartered seven graduate chapters: Beta Xi Zeta-Biloxi, Mississippi; Nu Zeta-Meridian, Mississippi; Delta Chi Zeta-Lorman, Mississippi; Gamma Gamma Zeta-Columbus, Mississippi; Zeta Upsilon Zeta-Holly Springs, Mississippi; Zeta Psi Zeta-Clarksdale, Mississippi and (7) Gamma Beta Zeta-Brookhaven, Mississippi.

The Alpha Delta Zeta chapter also sponsors two undergraduate chapters: Lambda Beta Chapter on the campus of Jackson State University (1948) and Nu Beta Chapter (1950) on the campus of Tougaloo College. In addition

to undergraduate and graduate chapters, Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter has sponsored four auxiliary groups in the community.

Over the years the chapter has been proactive in providing service to those in the community. The Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter has made contributions through everything from dental health programs to a community center. Thereby, continuing to use their organization as a beacon of service to all who seek help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated for their continued dedication towards serving others in need.

**HONORING WORK OF MARIPOSA
COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
MARGIE WILLIAMS**

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of Mariposa County Clerk of the board Margie Williams. Since 1983, Margie has dedicated her professional life to this position and has whole heartedly served the Mariposa community.

In 1974, Margie began as a Justice Court part-time Clerk in Mariposa County. In that same year, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Clerk of the Court and oversaw all operations. In 1976, Margie worked in the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) Administration in Mariposa. She oversaw employment grants and the adult and youth programs during her time there.

Later in her career, Margie worked for the Monterey County CETA Administration, where she did analysis work on various grant programs and helped to prepare a one million dollar grant Monterey County received. This grant award is just one example of how invaluable Margie's work has been. In addition to her dedicated public service, she has also served in private sector capacities throughout her career. In 1979, she was part of Red Carpet Real Estate's office and property management team.

As Clerk of the Board, Margie has attended thousands of Board meetings—including an 18-hour General Plan hearing. She has been responsible for agendas; minutes; records management; processing documents, ordinances and contracts; and maintaining Board-appointed committee records of over 55 committees with over 550 positions. She was available for emergency declarations as the Assessment Appeals Clerk, and her knowledge of applicable local and state laws and regulations was often used.

Margie has been a vital link in providing services to the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, and the public. Her additional duties expanded over the years to include: LAFCo Secretary, Proposition 218 ballot processing, maintaining the website for the Board, posting the agenda and minutes to the website, and scheduling public hearings.

Margie's accomplishments are varied and rich. They include the implementation of the MinuteTraq agenda management program and the summary ordinance process, all while

working with a limited number of staff and an increased workload. Margie's efforts have resulted in a several thousand dollar savings in publication costs.

Mrs. Williams has been responsible for processing thousands of projects approved by the Board, including but not limited to: formal resolutions; ordinances; General Plan updates; Title 17 updates; the construction of the new Government Center, new County Library, and the new Human Services building; declarations of local emergencies; special meetings; emergency meetings; public hearings; community plans and service districts; Zones of Benefit; land divisions; a multitude of annual agreements and budget adjustments; the annual mid-year and final budgets; the funding and construction of three new fire stations; construction of the new adult detention facility; creation of the Mining and Mineral Museum; the acquisitions of fire trucks and water tenders; the MOU with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the County of Mariposa for the continued use of the historic Mariposa County Courthouse Superior Court; countless other county facility construction and re-modeling projects; the creation of new county departments (Technical Services, Child Support Services, Human Resources/Risk Management, Fire, County Administration); and the re-organization of numerous county departments.

It's remarkable to note that Margie began her career prior to the use of copy machines. Even after their introduction to the workplace, there were still forms in triplicate that were typed on the typewriter. She worked with no voicemail and all notes were handwritten. Margie has been relied upon by all for her decade's worth of institutional knowledge and steel trap memory.

Mrs. Williams has been married to her husband Tom for thirty-seven years and finds joy in their daughter, Michelle Williams, son, Tom and his wife, Dr. Jamie Williams, and their grandson, Tommy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mariposa County Clerk of the Board Margie Williams for her outstanding commitment to serve her community. Mrs. Williams is a true public servant, and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSCOE
A. BOLTON**

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long life of Mr. Roscoe A. Bolton, who passed away on Wednesday, September 26, 2012, at the age of 99. He was a deep-rooted Alexandria, La. businessman and one we shall never forget.

Mr. Bolton was born in March of 1913, before the First World War. A home-grown son of Alexandria, he attended West End Grammar School, Bolton High School, Culver Military Academy and Louisiana College. Additionally, he studied at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business during the Great Depression, but returned home to work alongside his father in the insurance business. The only leave he took from this venture was in 1942, when he volunteered for

the U.S. Navy after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Mr. Bolton served in the Pacific Theater as a Lt. Commander and later as a Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Section Base in Burwood, La.

As well as his selfless service to our country, Mr. Bolton loyally served the people of his beloved community. Among the world's 1.2 million Rotarian members, he was recently honored as the longest-serving as he marked his 77th year. Moreover, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana-based Rapides Bank & Trust Company and Oliver Lodge No. 874 F&A.M., past-president of the First Charter Commission of the City of Alexandria, Director of the Industrial Development Board, and a Trustee of the Central Cities Development Corporation. It is plain to see that as we reflect on Mr. Bolton's fulfilling life, we see an overriding theme of true altruism.

A lifelong member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mr. Bolton was also a faithful servant to his church and to his family. A devoted husband and father, he will be dearly missed by his wife, Sue, two children and step-child, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Roscoe A. Bolton. To say that Mr. Bolton left his fingerprint on the world would be an understatement. He was a leader, teacher, parent, husband, friend, and example to all of us. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his efforts, and he will remain in our hearts forever.

HONORING WENDELL WHITE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Wendell White joined my Washington, D.C. office in November 2011. As the Coordinator of Special Projects, Wendell has performed with precision and care and sees every task through with a careful eye for detail. I have also entrusted Wendell with the management of one of my chief initiatives, our business outreach program. Wendell has demonstrated extraordinary resourcefulness and commitment to the outreach effort, which has yielded unparalleled results under his care. Moreover,

Wendell has shown a great deal of dedication to understanding the intricacies of his legislative portfolio and has proven his ability to successfully multi-task high priority projects. Wendell is focused and employs a strong work ethic, often keeping long hours to ensure that his job is done to the very best of his ability.

Wendell should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Wendell and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Wendell White for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE
GLEN WILLIAMS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representatives BOB GOODLATTE and ROBERT HURT, honor U.S. District Judge Glen Williams, a devoted public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who passed away on November 4, 2012.

Born in Jonesville, Virginia, Judge Williams spent his childhood in his father's grocery store listening to stories of coal miners and farmers from across the region. It was these stories which helped instill Judge Williams with an understanding about the lives of everyday people. Undoubtedly, he maintained this foundation throughout his life and career.

Judge Williams courageously put his college education on hold when we were attacked at Pearl Harbor. The day after that horrible event, he joined the U.S. Navy. He served in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean theaters as well as in the Allied invasion of southern France during WWII. After the war, he went back to school and received his bachelor's degree from Milligan College, and in 1948 received his law degree from the University of Virginia's School of Law.

Above all else, Judge Williams was dedicated to his work. He was a Commonwealth's Attorney for Lee County, Virginia, and later served as a Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia from 1963 until 1975. In 1976, he was nominated by President Gerald Ford to serve as a federal judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, where he served until 2010. He also served as a member of the Virginia State Senate from 1953–1955.

Judge Williams had a tremendous impact on our communities—in the Ninth District, the Sixth District, and the Fifth District—as well as upon countless individuals all across the region. Judge Williams was a man we all greatly respected, a courageous public servant, and an honorable defender of the rule of law. May his spirit of strength and resilience continue with us. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and influence will be long remembered across the entire western region of Virginia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Williams' wife, Jane; his four daughters, Susan, Judith, Rebecca, and Melinda; his family, friends, and many loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

IN TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. AND
JAMES L. NEDERLANDER ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR REC-
OGNITION BY THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY AS
LIVING LANDMARKS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to James M. and James L. Nederlander who are being honored by the New York Landmarks Conservancy at its Living Landmarks Celebration 2012. The Nederlander family has been a symbol of Broadway theater for three generations. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of The Nederlander Organization. James M. Nederlander, who celebrates his 90th birthday this year, is Chairman of the Nederlander Producing Company. James L. Nederlander serves as President of The Nederlander Organization.

James M. Nederlander, affectionately known as Jimmy, has had a remarkable 70-year career in theater production and management. The Nederlander Organization, founded by his father, David T. Nederlander in Detroit, Michigan, now owns and operates nine theaters in New York City. Five of them—Brooks Atkinson, Neil Simon, The Palace, Lunt-Fontanne, and Richard Rodgers—have been named New York City landmarks. The Nederlander Organization also owns several venues across the United States and in London. James M. Nederlander is credited with establishing the concept of an outdoor amphitheater. He has succeeded in drawing new audiences and has worked to keep a loyal audience through an Audience Rewards program.

Mr. Nederlander moved The Nederlander Organization to New York in 1964, recognizing that there was greater opportunity for expansion outside of Michigan. He became one of New York's preeminent producers, earning 11 Tony Awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award he received on June 6, 2004. He has also produced ballets, operas, and concerts. Dedicated to the support of young performers, Mr. Nederlander established The National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA). The national competition, known as the "The Jimmy Awards" in his honor, is being documented in a new PBS television series called *Broadway or Bust*.

Under the leadership of Jimmy's son, James L. "Jimmy, Jr." Nederlander, the Nederlander Organization continues to maintain its trademark standards of excellence. The production company is responsible for putting on some of Broadway's most famous shows, including *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Hairspray*, *Wicked*, *Rent*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Chicago*, and *The Lion King* among many others. The company has long-standing relationships with some of the greatest companies and composers in show business, including Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerry Herman, and Disney. The Nederlanders have produced over 100 theat-

rical productions enjoyed by thousands of New York City tourists and residents every year, and have invested in, co-produced and booked countless others.

James L. Nederlander has been a theater owner since 1970 and has produced plays since 1984. Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appointed Mr. Nederlander to the Trust for Cultural Resources of the City's Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Mayor's Theatre Advisory Council, and the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre, and Broadcasting. He is also a member of several charitable and philanthropic organizations. He is on the Executive Committee of the League of American Theatre, the Board of Trustees of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, the Board of the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, and the Board of the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center Comprehensive Cancer.

The Nederlanders continue to present some of the most popular plays on Broadway in the culture capital of the world. Current shows include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Evita*, *Newsies*, and *Annie*. Their contributions to Broadway and the broader theater community across the country are truly legendary. The achievements of the Nederlander family have earned them the distinction of being the Landmarks Conservancy's first father-son Living Landmark honorees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my good friends, James M. and James L. Nederlander on this remarkable honor. They have entertained audiences for 100 years, and made significant contributions to the arts and to New York City that will last for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of International Education Week which is a joint initiative created by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education 12 years ago and, as of today, is celebrated in more than 100 countries. Schools throughout the United States and the world are celebrating this week to promote and celebrate the benefits of international education and global exchange.

I saw firsthand the value of building international relationships during my time with the Peace Corps. Learning a foreign language opens minds to other worlds, builds lasting positive relationships, and has been scientifically proven to generate more flexibility in thinking—something we are in great need of today. During all of my years representing the Central Coast of California, I have been an ardent supporter of culturally-based foreign language education within our schools, universities, and within our government institutions. Our future leaders must have strong global skills which are best attained by learning a foreign language and by studying or volunteering abroad. I am proud to say that Monterey, California, in particular is a great talent bank rich in foreign language and cultural expertise thanks in much part to our secondary school

teachers, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Defense Language Institute, the Joint Foreign Area Officers program at the Naval Post Graduate School, and the National Virtual Translation Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan would agree with me that to compete in today's global economy, students need an international education paired with studying foreign languages. The State Department and the Department of Education should be commended for developing and supporting International Education Week.

HONORING STEVE STANFIELD-SWITZER

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect from our District team. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown to me during my years of service in Congress.

Steve Stanfield-Switzer played a valuable role as a volunteer in my District office. I could always count on Steve to make sure visitors to our District office knew they were respected and recognized. Constituents were often comforted by Steve's calm confidence when they visited or called in need of critical assistance. Steve showed a particular interest in assisting our veterans and became a valuable resource to our staff in diagnosing their problems and helping to point them in the right direction.

Steve should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Steve Stanfield-Switzer for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING WORK OF CHARLES "CHUCK" MOSHER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of Charles "Chuck"

Mosher, M.D., M.P.H. as the County Health Officer for Mariposa County. Serving in this position since 1988, Dr. Mosher has worked vigorously to make positive changes in the community.

Dr. Mosher is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He received his Medical Degree from the New York Medical College and continued his education at the University of Washington. While there, he earned his Master's in Public Health.

Chuck has dedicated his career to improving the health of those around him. While he was a physician, he volunteered for the Peace Corps in both Paraguay and Washington, D.C. He served as the Director of Emergency Medicine for the State of Georgia; and here in the Central Valley, he continued his career as the Emergency Medical Services Medical Director and Health Officer for Merced County. In addition, Chuck has passionately met the needs of his community through his general private practice in Mariposa County. He also served as Chief of Staff for the John C. Fremont Hospital.

On November 7, 1988, Dr. Mosher was appointed Mariposa County Health Officer. In this position, he dedicated his time to managing the day-to-day operations and budget of the Health Department, serving the public health needs of the residents and tourists in Mariposa County. This dedication to fulfill the public health needs of so many people makes Dr. Mosher an invaluable asset to the community.

As Public Health Officer, Dr. Mosher's duties not only covered infectious and communicable diseases, including measles and whooping cough outbreaks, Hantavirus, and H1N1 influenza; but everything from hazardous materials, air quality, aging septic systems, toxic chemicals, underground storage tanks, endemic rabies, several wildfires, sewage spills into the Merced River, floods, and anthrax exposure. He even increased public awareness by writing a regular column in the local newspaper and speaking to local service clubs and schools.

During Chuck's long, distinguished career, he has accomplished ambitious changes in the emergency medical services, which include contracting with professional ambulance companies, and coordinating and conducting emergency drills along with other public agencies. He is a member of the Mariposa Emergency Medical Care Committee and the Quality Improvement Subcommittee. Chuck has overseen and maintained involvement and communications with numerous regional health and safety related committees and agencies.

Working within a community facing many unique challenges, Dr. Mosher directed the enforcement of state and county health and sanitation laws and regulations and oversaw environmental health. He worked to educate and protect rural areas with the state's implementation of septic tank regulations and effectively transitioned the environmental and nursing staff from the state to the county with the reorganization of the department.

Dr. Mosher's sense of citizenship and volunteerism was recognized for his role in maintaining public safety during the post 9/11 events of 2001. He organized clinic services, dental health programs, community health resources, emergency medical services, and public health education—including the Child

Health and Disability Prevention Program. He wrote grants and contributed to the Smart Start Visiting Nurse program and Tobacco Cessation program. His dedicated work to these programs, as well as others, has improved the lives of countless individuals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Mosher for his outstanding commitment to serve the health needs of those in his community. In his retirement, he plans to continue with his passion of writing and possibly travel to serve in other less developed countries. Dr. Mosher is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING WALTER HILGART

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Hilgart both for his service to our nation and for his continued service to the community.

Growing up during the Great Depression in Wisconsin, Mr. Hilgart began his service career in the U.S. Army. By the end of World War II, he had flown 22 combat missions with the Army Air Forces. He then left the service but quickly enlisted again—this time with the U.S. Air Force. By the end of his service with the Air Force, he had risen to the top enlisted grade of chief master sergeant.

Mr. Hilgart's service did not end there. As a retiree, he began substitute teaching in Pasco County, Florida. He is now a familiar face on Gulf High School's campus, even celebrating his 90th birthday in conjunction with the school's 90th birthday. During his time in the classroom, he encourages students to make the most of their education. Many students are so captivated by his life experiences that they work to quickly complete their assignments so there is time to hear his stories.

Mr. Hilgart's dedication to country and community are truly inspiring. Throughout his life, he has selflessly demonstrated qualities of putting others before himself. His legacy will certainly live on through the many students he has inspired for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 604. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 604.

HONORING THE JACKSON ADVOCATE NEWSPAPER FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable newspaper, the Jackson Advocate. Established in

1938 by Mr. Percy Greene, the Jackson Advocate is a weekly newspaper covering issues affecting the African-American community.

Founder, Mr. Greene was a veteran of World War I and a Civil Rights leader in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Greene was determined to make a contribution to the struggle of African-American people in the South during a time when they were severely oppressed by legal segregation and Jim Crow.

In 1940 Mr. Greene and thirty other publishers formed a consortium of African American newspapers to bring relevant information to black readers in the United States of America. That consortium led to the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, which promoted coverage of injustices against African Americans as well as their accomplishments. In 1978, Mr. Charles Tisdale became the owner and publisher of the Jackson Advocate and remained the owner and publisher until he passed in 2007.

The paper has received numerous awards and citations in its 68 years of service in reporting news and events relevant to the African-American community, including the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Award for Excellence, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award, and the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year. In 1988 the magazine Newsday referred to the Advocate as a "national treasure."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Advocate for their dedication to serving and educating those in Mississippi and around the country.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST A. SAMPSON III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ernest A. Sampson III, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community. Ernest Sampson is the youngest of three children born to Ernest Jr. and Fay Sampson. As a young child, Mr. Sampson would often spend time with his maternal grandparents, James and Winona Willie of Brooklyn, NY. While there he learned to emulate the caring nature of his grandmother and the respect his grandfather earned from the surrounding community as the head of James H. Willie Funeral Home, Inc. As a result, an honest interest in service for young Mr. Sampson was born.

Receiving his early education in the New York Public School system, Mr. Sampson graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in 1982 and went on to obtain his Bachelor's of Science degree in Funeral Service Administration from St. John's University in 1986. In 1986, after taking several exams and serving in a one year apprenticeship with the James H. Willie Funeral Home, Mr. Sampson achieved his lifelong goal of becoming a licensed funeral director. Many of life's challenges would come the young man's way, yet he pursued his dreams and aspirations and established Sampson Funeral Service in 1993. Since that time, Mr. Sampson has expanded his ministry of comfort throughout the Brook-

lyn, Bronx, and Queens communities. Mr. Sampson has conducted numerous educational seminars on the topics of funerals, consolation, and city, state, and federal burial assistance programs. These seminars have been piloted on Career Days at schools, community events, and at youth organizations.

Mr. Sampson currently serves on the ministerial and teaching staffs of the First Baptist Full Gospel Church of Brownsville, NY. He has received awards from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz as well as the New York Men of Distinction award, and also served as a sponsor for Operation Get Ahead in 2003, Annual Youth Explosion in 2003, and the Coney Island Youth Alive sponsor in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sampson for his extraordinary accomplishments as a funeral director in New York City. Appreciation, comfort, and professionalism are paramount in his life and serve as guiding posts for the families and communities he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Sampson.

TRIBUTE TO TOM JONES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Tom Jones served on my District staff during my first term in Congress. Tom was instrumental in helping to establish our office's outreach program with the local business community. Tom also performed extensive research into grant opportunities for the District and was a valuable resource to local governments and non-profits in realizing assistance available to them from the Federal government. Tom established our office as a vital resource to the region in helping to grow the local and state economies.

Tom should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Tom and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Tom Jones for his

hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING GILDA GONZALES UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Ms. Gilda Gonzales and the tremendous accomplishments of the Spanish Speaking Unity Council under her leadership. For nearly five decades, the Unity Council has continued to enrich families' quality of life by helping them build wealth and assets through comprehensive programs of sustainable economic, social and neighborhood development. We honor the Unity Council along with its fearless leader, Mrs. Gilda Gonzales, who is stepping down from her duties as Chief Executive Officer.

This evening, supporters and friends gather in the Fruitvale District of Oakland to bid farewell to Ms. Gonzales and to congratulate the Unity Council for all of its many accomplishments. In 1964, what started as a political action group soon evolved into a social services assistance program to aid Latinos in the Fruitvale district. By 1967, the organization had become incorporated as a nonprofit organization and service agency. And, in the years that followed, the Unity Council became a powerful catalyst for pervasive social change.

In addition to securing resources for the Fruitvale district, the Unity Council gained respectability and credibility within the Latino community, as well as among local, state and federal officials and private funding sources. As a result of the Unity Council's trailblazing role in the Fruitvale area, public and private social services agencies began to locate offices there for the first time. Furthermore, Unity Council representatives moved onto a variety of advisory groups in the East Bay, influencing policy, funding and resource allocation decisions while providing an empowering voice for Oakland's Latino community.

Ms. Gonzales' prolific career includes three decades of inspired leadership and advocacy. Raised in a small town in California's Central Valley, Gilda Gonzales is the youngest of five children. From an early age, Ms. Gonzales knew she wanted to go to college and enter public service. Her first government job was an internship in the office of Congressman Ron Dellums. Then, when 500 people applied for one-year fellowships at the California State Assembly, she was one of 12 selected. After working for several state assembly members, she left Sacramento in 1991 to assume the position of policy analyst with former Oakland Mayor Harris' office.

During her 14-year tenure in City Hall, Ms. Gonzales served in several capacities, including budget analyst, Assistant to the Finance Agency Director, and dual Chief of Staff for then-City Manager Robert Bobb and Mayor Jerry Brown. In 2001, she was named the City of Oakland's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this capacity, she was the City of Oakland's state legislative lobbyist and managed the City's contracted federal lobbyists. Throughout Ms. Gonzales' successful government career, where she was one of the highest-level Latinos working in City Hall, she

maintained strong personal connections with community-based organizations in Fruitvale.

In December of 2004, when Ms. Gonzales became the Chief Executive Officer of the Unity Council, she brought to the position invaluable experience, an incredible vision, a penchant for creativity and an expertise in managing finances. As a result of her leadership, the Unity Council was able to overcome and stabilize a dire financial situation. Ms. Gonzales' quick thinking and strategic planning helped to create the solid foundation that the Unity Council enjoys today.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, Ms. Gilda Gonzales, I salute you. I am proud to call you a colleague, a constituent, and, most importantly, my friend. Thank you for your countless contributions and your never-ending commitment to our communities. I congratulate you on your many achievements, and I wish you and your loved ones all the best in this next chapter of life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARMY SPECIALIST ERIC HUNTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero in the truest sense of the word. This weekend, 24-year-old U.S. Army Specialist Eric Hunter returns home to Monroeville, Alabama for the first time since he sustained serious injuries from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

The day before his one-year wedding anniversary, Specialist Hunter was on patrol when he stepped on an IED. The May 31, 2012 blast took his right foot and eventually his right leg. He also suffered a shattered right wrist and left leg, as well as a broken forearm. The service and the sacrifice of this country's military personnel is both moving and inspiring. Specialist Hunter's dedication to his country is equally matched by his remarkable determination to recover from his wounds.

For Specialist Hunter, the road to recovery has been a long one. He was transported to three different hospitals in five days before being flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During his recovery at Walter Reed, he was visited by President Obama and other notables, including singer Neil Diamond.

It was also at Walter Reed that Specialist Hunter joined a special program that pairs famous musicians with wounded soldiers to assist their recovery. As a part of Musicorps, Specialist Hunter played his guitar with former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters and G.E. Smith, former lead guitarist of Hall & Oates and Bob Dylan's touring band.

On November 8, 2012, Specialist Hunter took a seat on stage in the Beacon Theatre in New York City at the 6th Annual Stand Up for Heroes benefit playing alongside fellow wounded warriors and music legends Waters, Smith and Bruce Springsteen. The Annual Stand Up for Heroes event, sponsored by the Bob Woodruff Foundation, has so far raised over \$12 million for wounded soldiers.

In September 2012, I was honored to join Specialist Hunter, his wife, Kenna, and their

children Kensley and Jayce for breakfast in the U.S. Capitol, where I personally thanked him for his service to our country. Specialist Hunter also served a 2010–2011 tour in Iraq before his recent posting in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and the United States, I offer deep gratitude to Specialist Hunter for both his sacrifices for the security of America and his example to fellow wounded warriors as they return to their families and communities to re-enter civilian life. We are proud to welcome him home to Alabama.

HONORING ROB ELLSWORTH

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

MR. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Rob Ellsworth served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for my entire first term. Although still a college student when he started, Rob's intelligence and deep understanding of complex issues was rivaled by few. Rob helped draft the SAVE Act, the most comprehensive piece of legislation I introduced in my first term. His ability to help me garner bipartisan support for a bill that excited deep and passionate public debate is a testament to his skill and value as a policy expert. Since his departure from my office, I have continued to lean on Rob for advice and support.

Rob should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Rob and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Rob Ellsworth for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, November 11 through November 17, 2012, as American Education Week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the millions of Americans who work every day to give our youth a world class public education.

American Education Week was first observed in 1921 by the National Education Association and the American Legion. Representatives of these organizations were concerned that a quarter of World War I draftees were illiterate, and they began a movement to raise awareness of the needs of public schools. Now in its 91st year, American Education Week is an annual reminder of the importance of community involvement in education.

As a former preschool teacher, I know firsthand of the challenges that face educators today. As classes grow and budgets shrink, teachers are often asked to do more with less. Nevertheless, millions of devoted Americans continue to serve our Nation's youth as teachers, administrators, and school personnel. I am continually impressed by their hard work and the tremendous impact they have on shaping future generations.

Ultimately, it is all of our responsibility to give our children a bright and well-rounded education. We all play a role in educating our Nation's children, from the parents who volunteer at school to community members who mentor and lead by example. During this month, let us also thank these dedicated individuals and encourage others to become similar community leaders as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in giving a heartfelt thank you to the hard-working teachers, school employees, mentors and parents of the 37th Congressional District as well as those across the nation. I encourage students, parents, and school officials to participate in the local events of American Education Week.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Albert Terry, for his track record in public service and his commitment to charity.

Albert Terry came to Brooklyn by way of North Carolina in January 1936 with his parents Martha and Caswell Terry and three sisters, Lucy, Dorothy, and Ethel. Shortly after settling in Brooklyn, he joined Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church and became active in the usher board, male chorus, senior choir, and briefly served as trustee.

Albert graduated from Boys High School in 1948. In September 1950 he met and married Zenith Tatum and had three children, Laura Denise, Albert Jr. and Douglas Clayton. He

and the family settled on Decatur Street where he joined the Decatur-Howard-Saratoga Block Association in October 1953. He was elected president, serving 1958–1959, then served again from 1983–1985.

From 1959 to 1967, Albert worked for the New York Transit Authority as a bus driver. In 1983 Albert was selected to join the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge. In July 1985, he joined the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Knights of the Mystic Shrine, Abu Bekr Temple No. 61 and served until 2005. He later worked briefly for Assemblyman William Boyland, Sr., going around to the various schools and day care centers to find out what they needed in the way of assistance or participating in events such as graduations and other affairs. Albert and Zenith celebrated 62 years of marriage on September 17, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Albert Terry for his successful career and continued work in service to the community.

HONORING MARILYN R. FELTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Librarian, Marilyn Rankin Felton, who was born on July 30, 1962 in Natchez, Mississippi to Mr. Judge Rankin and Mrs. Annie James Rankin of Fayette, Mississippi. Her father worked as a farmer planting and growing the food that would feed the family, while her mother was an active part of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, faithfully fighting to secure the civil rights so that her children and others would have the right to a prosperous life. As a child being reared by a father who spent most of his life as a sharecropper and a mother who believed in fighting for the rights of others, she knew that hard work and dedication would play a significant role in her life.

She graduated from Jefferson County High School in 1980, after which she attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, Mississippi for a short time. She set aside obtaining a college degree to work at a Wire Harness Plant in Fayette, Mississippi. She married Lee Felton in March 1984 and at the age of twenty-one, she realized the importance of the family. In doing so, she was blessed with three children to instill those same values in.

For the next six years, she would work at the Wire Harness, where she endured long hours of standing on concrete floors while working in a humid building that was sizzling hot during summer months and frigid cold during winter months. The Wire Harness Plant closed its door in 1990 and she used the fact that she was unemployed as an opportunity to continue her education.

Nevertheless, continuing her education was gradual because she worked at local stores as a cashier for the next few years; however, that did not fulfill her dream. In 1996 she returned to Copiah-Lincoln Community College to obtain a degree in Business Technology. In September 1997 her professional life provided her with an avenue to fulfill her dream of helping others when she was hired as a substitute Librarian with the Copiah-Jefferson Regional Li-

brary System (Fayette Branch). In September 1998, she was hired as the Branch Manager/Librarian.

In 1998, her mother, Mrs. Annie V. Rankin suddenly passed away and Marilyn knew she had to find a way to keep her mother's beliefs known, which she did by helping others. She successfully founded the Jefferson County Library Christmas Toy Drive in 2001 for underprivileged children of Jefferson Co. and surrounding areas. For ten years, the annual toy drive has been instrumental in providing an average of 200 children per year with toys for Christmas.

Her career as a Librarian has provided her an opportunity to visit libraries in the state of Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana, Lacrosse, Wisconsin and Rome, Italy. As a librarian, she has worked effortlessly to provide programs for children and adults at the Jefferson County Library as well as expose the patrons to various authors from Mississippi, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.

Marilyn cherishes the belief that learning is an ongoing process because she is presently a sophomore at Walden University, majoring in Child Development as she has maintained a 4.0 GPA since enrollment.

Nevertheless, the success of her life and career is to freely give of your wisdom and knowledge to those who need it and desire it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a librarian, Marilyn Rankin Felton, for her dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE FISHMAN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Julie Fishman served as a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for almost four years, beginning in 2008. Managing my schedule and daily functions in both D.C. and in the District requires a great deal of organization and attention to detail, and Julie performed the role with precision and skill. Often the first point of contact for folks in the District, Julie endeared herself to the countless constituents with whom she interacted. During her tenure, Julie served in various roles, always willing and eager to learn new skills and further her pro-

fessional development. Above all, Julie was a trusted, loyal and dedicated member of the team.

Julie should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Julie and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Julie Fishman for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND DR.
J.H. FLAKES, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Johnny H. Flakes, Jr., an inspiring spiritual and community leader and the beloved Pastor of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia for fifty-one years and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama for fifty-three years.

Sadly, Dr. Flakes passed away on Monday, November 12, 2012. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of his family, friends, and the Columbus and Phenix City communities. On Friday, November 16, 2012, a funeral service will be held in his honor at Fourth Street Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Dr. Flakes was born on January 12, 1934 in Phenix City, Alabama. His story is a truly inspiring one. As a young man, he dropped out of high school, married young, and was unable to adequately provide for his family due to alcohol and gambling addictions. However, he heard the sound of God's voice and answered the call, surrendering his life to Jesus Christ. He was called to the monumental task of pastoring two rapidly-growing churches in two different states. Even so, he still found the strength, discipline, and dedication to drive back and forth from Columbus to Nashville, Tennessee each week over four years to earn his GED and Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College, for which he would later go on to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and have the administration building on the school's campus named in his honor.

Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Dr. Flakes became a leader in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, served as President of the Congress of Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia for many years and ultimately served on the Executive Committee Board of the National Baptist Convention. Dr. Flakes also received honorary doctorate degrees from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida and his alma mater, American Baptist College.

A fierce believer in equality and justice for all, Dr. Flakes was not only a profound theologian but also a strong civic leader. He served

as President of the Columbus branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for several years; was the President and Founder of "A Call To Talk" (ACTT); Chairman of One Columbus; and Chartering Pastor of the General Missionary Baptist Church Convention of West Germany.

He is also the recipient of the Outstanding Personality of the South Award; Ten Outstanding Ministers in the State of Georgia Award; Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King Jr. Award; Operation PUSH Martin Luther King, Jr. Award; Jack T. Brinkley, Sr. Service Award, and the Knighthood Award from the Congress of Christian Education. In addition, Dr. Flakes was recently awarded the Whitney M. Young Service Award by the Boy Scouts of America Chattahoochee Council for his support of Scouting in the community.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Dr. Flakes' spiritual counsel and guidance over the twenty-four years I was a member of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church. His courage, perseverance, and dedication to his church and his Savior will always be a source of inspiration for me. Dr. Flakes was an outstanding man of God who, through his deep and abiding faith, made a tremendous impact on his community. He will truly be missed but his unwavering spirit will live on through the many whose lives were touched and inspired by this remarkable man.

Dr. George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are so blessed that Dr. Johnny Flakes, Jr. passed this way and shared with us his legacy of service that will stand the test of time.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the almost 700,000 people in the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Flakes' wife of more than fifty-seven years, Robena Gaines Flakes, their three children Sincera, Johnny and Merle, their grandchildren, and the members of Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO PERCEL JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Percel Jones. It is an honor to represent Mr. Jones in the House of Representatives and I call on my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such an outstanding citizen.

Bro. Percel Jones was born in Camden, NC to the late Ida Mae Jones Gregory. He was raised by his great grandmother, Ida Mae Dough Jones who also raised his mother. He is the oldest of eight, with six sisters and one brother. He is the father of three sons and has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. After attending public school in North Carolina, he served four years in the United States Air Force where he went to cooking

school. With on the job training, he learned to cook for as many as 2,500 people.

In 1961, he moved to Brooklyn, NY where he applied his skills in restaurants, school lunchrooms and New York hospitals. In 1967, he began employment with the New York City Transit Authority as a conductor, was elevated to motorman and retired as a motor instructor after 24 years, 3 months, and 7 days on the job. He is a member of Berean Baptist church where he serves faithfully as an usher. In 1973, he entered, passed and was raised to a master mason in African 459 Lodge #63, PHA.

In 1974, he became a member of Long Island Consistory #61. In 1975, he joined Mt. Moriah Chapter #3 R.A.M. He was created in ABU BEKR Temple #91 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. of North and South American Jurisdiction. In August of 2009, he received his Honorary Past Potentate degree. In May of 2011, he was elevated to the 33rd and last degree of masonry, the United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry P.H.A. of the Northern Jurisdiction in Denver, CO. At the 119th Imperial Council Session A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Inc. held in New Orleans, LA in August of 2012, he received his Legion of Honor Certificate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Percel Jones.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY SHEEHAN MARTIN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Kelly Sheehan Martin began serving on my District staff when I first took office. Kelly helped to establish our office early on as being a source of relief to those having trouble with the Social Security Administration. Kelly then moved into coordinating Grants and Special Projects. She did a tremendous job in leading such efforts as a Regional Jobs Fair that publicized well over 600 available jobs during the height of the recession, providing access and hope to constituents and many more throughout Western North Carolina.

Kelly should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the fu-

ture. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Kelly and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Kelly Sheehan Martin for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING EURO-AMERICAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND ARTIST KENYA R. TAYLOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I honor Kenya R. Taylor, a hardworking and talented artist who also serves as the Euro-American Women's Council's Creative Director. The Euro-American Women's Council was founded sixteen years ago on the principles of endorsing high ranking professional women from around the world while promoting their strong family values. As a professional accomplished artist who took these values to heart, Kenya joined the Euro-American Women's Council in 2008, bringing his artistic, gifted, and innovative talent to the organization.

Kenya's talents were first recognized at the age of five, when he was enrolled in his first art program at the Edith K. Bergtraum Elementary School in Flushing, New York. It was at this school where Kenya first learned how to paint portraits and still-lives. Kenya quickly became known as an artist and was often asked to do special works for the school, some of which are still hanging today. However, this was just the beginning of Kenya's talent, continuing to middle school and influencing his later decision to enroll at the renowned High School of Art and Design in New York City where he studied Advanced Placement Environmental Science in addition to Architectural Design. During these high school years, Kenya also immersed himself in classes at the distinguished Parsons School of Design where he then continued his studies as an undergraduate. It was at the Parsons School of Design where he began to branch out into other forms of design such as graphic design, web design, and industrial design.

Upon graduation, Kenya became a graphic designer, and further proved his artistic talent through a vast portfolio of work ranging from television to fashion. He has also designed pieces for a variety of American political families including the Clintons and the Bushes. But after the birth of his two children, Kenya chose to move out of the spotlight to start a career that allowed him to be closer with his family.

For the past four years, Kenya's role as the Euro-American Women's Council Creative Director has allowed him full oversight and vision of the organization's design components including invitations, programs, and the website. One of his most significant accomplishments since joining the Euro-American Women's Council was working on EAWC's Silk Books commemorating 16 years of the organization's accomplishments. These banners were on display at this year's Goddess Artemis Awards and Global Business Forum,

allowing leaders from all over the world to see his amazing artwork. Kenya continues to work tirelessly as he continues to create beautiful designs as the Creative Director, often with his children by his side. In appreciation for all of the incredible work by Kenya R. Taylor, I am proud to honor him today in Congress and look forward to his future artistic and creative achievements.

**HONORING DOUBLE DY EXPRESS
FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT
OF ITS COMMUNITY**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a minority-owned business, Double Dy Express of Tutwiler, Mississippi. Owned and operated by Ms. Diana Pimpton, this establishment has provided great services to the Tutwiler community for years.

As a lifelong resident of Tutwiler, Ms. Pimpton wanted to introduce something new to her community; therefore she combined the likes of a convenience store and soul food restaurant. Bringing Double Dy Express to Tutwiler not only provided the community with its first soul food eatery, but also helped bring new jobs to the area. Pimpton's restaurant provided jobs to residents as cooks, cashiers, and maintenance workers. In addition, she gave students within the community their first job experience.

Pimpton's will to give back and help her community is credited with inspiring other minorities in the area to open up their own businesses. Ms. Pimpton, credits her own family and friends to her survival as a business owner. She has said, "This has not been an easy task but I am grateful and thank God for what I have already accomplished and continue to strive towards in future."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Double Dy Express for its contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY MISSELWITZ

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constitu-

ency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Kelly Misselwitz joined my Washington, D.C. staff in January of 2011. I often receive thousands of pieces of constituent correspondence each week, and with Kelly's care and correspondence management, we were always able to ensure that constituents received responses to their ideas and concerns in a timely, thoughtful and thorough manner. I cannot count the number of times constituents approached me on the sidewalk, in church or at local events to express their gratitude for the personal and comprehensive responses they received. I was always quick to brag on Kelly's critical role in making our constituent correspondence program a success. Kelly also served as a Legislative Assistant, proving herself to have excellent research and analytical skills, key to advising any Member of Congress. What Kelly may be known for most, however, is her sharp sense of humor that we all have truly missed since her departure in August of this year.

Kelly should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Kelly and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Kelly Misselwitz for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

**HONORING WORK OF DISTRICT II
SUPERVISOR, LYLE TURPIN**

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work of District II Supervisor, Lyle Turpin. Lyle served as Mariposa County District II Planning Commissioner from 2001–2007. He was elected and served as District II Supervisor from 2005–2012 and was acting Chair in 2008. Lyle's list of service accomplishments attests to his commitment as a distinguished member of our community.

Mr. Turpin was a member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and served the county as a member of the following committees: Coulterville Service Area Number One Advisory Board, Coulterville Town Planning Advisory Council, Greeley Hill Planning Advisory Committee, Lake Don Pedro Service Area 1–M Advisory Board, Local Transportation Commission Technical Advisory Committee, and Pedestrian and Equestrian Trails Advisory Board.

In addition to his tireless work on various county committees, Lyle served on the following agencies and Board of Directors: Calaveras-Mariposa Community Action Agency, Mountain Counties Air Basin, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Area, Tuolumne-Mariposa County Resource Advisory Committee, and Agriculture and the Natural Resources—CSAC.

Mr. Turpin has spent his time as Supervisor dedicated to the following county projects: The General Plan; Coulterville and Mariposa Town Drainage Study; Yosemite West Community Plan; SilverTip Resort project amended site plan, Catheys Valley Community Plan; construction of the new Human Services facility; zoning amendments; the acquisition of new fire trucks and water tenders; construction and funding for three new fire stations; obtaining a Fixed Base Operator to oversee the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport operations; construction of the Red Cloud Library; improvements to the Midpines Park; Airport improvement projects; the Seventh Day Adventist Camp project; Lake Don Pedro Wastewater Treatment Facility; the MOU with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the County of Mariposa for the continued use of the historic Mariposa County Courthouse Superior Court; completion of the Solid Waste Compost facility; fuel load reduction projects; road maintenance projects; Agriculture and Agri-tourism policy; Foresta Community Wildfire Protection Plan; Williamson Act/historical parcels; and the AB 885 statewide issue relative to well and septic inspections.

Lyle remains active in the community, attending many local community organization events and fundraisers. He has helped the community contend with the impacts of the Ferguson rock slide disaster of 2006, the horrific Oliver and Telegraph Fires of 2008, the Big Meadow Fire of 2009, the 2011 Motor Fire in El Portal, and damages associated with the rains in late December 2010—including Ben Hur Road. He also helped to establish the separate Human Services/Risk Management department and implement the paperless agenda management system for the Mariposa Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring District II Supervisor Lyle Turpin for his outstanding commitment to serve his community. Mr. Turpin is a true public servant, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GARY A. WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Gary A. Wright. It is an honor to represent Mr. Wright in the House of Representatives and I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such an outstanding citizen.

Mr. Wright was born in Brooklyn, NY. He was the 3rd of six children of the late George Wright and Jerline Wright. He attended and graduated from Boy's High School. Following graduation, he took an interest in photography which gave him the opportunity to work in such communities as Brownsville, East New York and Bedford Stuyvesant. He also joined the New York City Auxiliary Police Force. In 1968, he joined the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and worked at Kennedy Airport.

He received certificates of appreciation for providing technical instruction during the General Maintainer and Driver Training (CDL) programs, a world trade center award for exceptional service and the world trade center 9/11

responder award. He currently resides with his wife Edith and family in New Jersey.

Mr. Wright was elevated and raised in African Lodge 459 #63 in 1979. Became a member of the Long Island Consistory No. 61 A.A.S.R. and is also a member of the Medina Temple No. 19 A.E.A.O.M.S.

May our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of committed and laudable citizens such as Mr. Wright.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Bro. Gary A. Wright for his tremendous contributions to the community.

HONORING KEVIN O'HANLON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Kevin O'Hanlon served in various positions both in my Washington, D.C. office and on my campaign, and has excelled in each capacity during his nearly four-year tenure. Kevin has earned a reputation for being dependable, meticulous and for always being willing to chip in however needed. While outside of his job description, Kevin was also appreciated for his technical expertise, which became invaluable to the office as he solved technical issue after technical issue, keeping our team up and running time and again. Above all, I could always count on Kevin to assist with a helping hand, regardless of the issue or the time of day or night that he was needed. I extend my thanks to his wife, Liz, for her patience for the many times Kevin worked long or irregular hours to keep our congressional office humming along smoothly.

Kevin should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Kevin and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Kevin O'Hanlon for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 604 regarding the "Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act" (H.R. 6371). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING TONY'S GROCERY FOR REMAINING A STAPLE IN THE MAYERSVILLE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a thriving business in the Mayersville, Mississippi for more than fifty years, Tony's Grocery.

Founded by husband and wife duo, Saul "Tony" and Edie B. Williams, Tony's Grocery has served as the oldest and only store in the town of Mayersville. With more than five decades in business, Tony's Grocery has employed many citizens of the Mayersville community.

Presently, owned and operated by Mayor Linda Short, daughter of Saul and Edie B, and her husband Larry Short, Tony's Grocery is the classic example of a small business weathering the test of time and still managing to provide so much for the residents of its community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony's Grocery for its longevity and dedication to serving Mayersville, Mississippi.

HONORING BOYCE DEITZ

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Boyce Deitz has served as a member my District staff since I first took office. Boyce's

presence in my life has been a blessing for years, beginning first as my high school football coach and mentor and now, more importantly, as a friend and confidant. As the roles reversed and Coach Deitz spent the past six years as a Field Representative in my Congressional District office, I was reminded daily of Coach's dedication and drive to do everything possible to always meet the need and fix the problem of everyone who walked into his office. We have spent many days traveling the rural areas of Western North Carolina knocking on doors, visiting farms, watching football practices, and just enjoying talking with the fine people who call Western North Carolina home. Without the support of people like Boyce the past six years would have never been possible.

Boyce should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Boyce and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Boyce Deitz for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING TOM PLIMPTON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent and friend, Tom Plimpton. I have known Tom for a number of years as a friend and former colleague, and I want to congratulate him on his induction into the St. Lawrence University Hall of Fame.

A distinguished lawyer in Upstate New York, I want to take this opportunity to not just acknowledge his academic, legal, and personal successes, but recognize his athletic achievements as a part of the 1987 Men's Track and Field Team at St. Lawrence University.

As a member of the St. Lawrence University 1987 Men's Track and Field team he contributed to their win in the second-ever New York State Collegiate Indoor Championship and the first New York State Outdoor title. He then went on to help his team finish second in the NCAA Division III Indoor Championship. For his efforts in the 400 meter team relay, Tom earned All American honors.

Again, I congratulate Tom on this prestigious distinction and wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO ENRIQUE "TITO" OSBORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Enrique Osborne.

Enrique, known affectionately as "Tito," migrated to Brooklyn, New York from Panama at the age of 13 in 1950. After Enrique graduated

from High School he joined the United States Air Force and after his service he worked as a supervisor for the Advertising Distributors of America. He later worked for the New York City Transit Authority until his retirement.

In 1975, Tito was made a master mason in the Jessie Milton Lodge #70, King Solomon affiliation. Twelve years later, he joined African Lodge 459 #63, where he has served continuously and is currently a trustee.

A father of six, Gloria Louisa, Carlos, Antonio, Joseph, April and Gloria, and grandfather of ten, Tito still finds the time to be the President of the Bug Pack, a Philadelphia Volkswagen Club, and a member of the Ebony Rod and Gun Club.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Enrique "Tito" Osborne for his contribution to our community of Brooklyn.

HONORING ANDREW TULLY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Tully. Andrew 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 414, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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, Andrew has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the God and Country Award. Andrew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Andrew completed many renovations at the First Baptist Church of Bogard, Missouri, including a utility room, handrails, enclosed an exterior staircase, and other small projects to help congregants enter and use the church facility.

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

HONORING DR. FRANK NICKELL

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Frank Nickell, professor of history at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. For four decades, he has served as an educator, a passionate chronicler of regional history, and an ambassador for the university in the surrounding community.

First hired by the university in 1969, Professor Nickell has won praise for his work in the classroom. After decades of inspiring students, he received statewide recognition in 1992, as one of 47 educators from Missouri

higher education institutions awarded a Governor's Award for Excellence in teaching. In 2009, Southeast Missouri State honored him with the Provost's Research Instruction and Development for Excellence (PRIDE) Award. The latter award recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

In these last two categories, scholarship and service, Nickell has gone above and beyond his responsibilities in the classroom. An avid promoter of regional history, he helped initiate the university's Historic Preservation program, through which undergraduate and graduate students work to preserve the area's historic sites, artifacts, and cultures. In 2007, he helped launch and became host of Southeast Public Radio's "Almost Yesterday" series, which takes listeners back in time to specific moments in regional history. After just one year on air, the program won the station its first-ever Missouri Broadcaster Association Award.

For his many achievements and his unwavering commitment to the people and history of Southeast Missouri, I thank Frank and wish him well as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING HONDA ON THIRTY YEARS OF AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I congratulate Honda on its thirtieth anniversary as an automobile manufacturer in the United States.

Honda became the first Japanese automaker to manufacture cars in the U.S. on November 1, 1982, when the first U.S.-made Honda Accord rolled off the assembly line in Marysville, Ohio. In the three decades since, the company has become one of our Nation's most important job creators, investing more than \$12.5 billion in the U.S.—\$1.2 billion in just the last two years. This investment has supported not only Honda's 26,000 U.S. employees—more than 13,500 in Ohio alone—but also hundreds of thousands of jobs at suppliers and servicers nationwide.

Honda marked its anniversary by announcing more than \$200 million in new investments at its transmission manufacturing facility in Russells Point, Ohio, and its engine plant in Anna, Ohio. Two hundred new manufacturing jobs will be created at those plants as a result.

Mr. Speaker, Honda's commitment to Ohio dates back to 1979, when small-scale dirt bike production began in Marysville. The company has been a dedicated partner to communities throughout our State and Nation ever since, creating highly skilled jobs and revolutionizing domestic auto manufacturing.

I offer my congratulations to everyone at Honda as they celebrate this milestone. They have my very best wishes for continued excellence in automobile manufacturing and job creation.

HONORING THE SERENE LODGE #567 IMPROVED BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serene Lodge #567 Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (I.B.P.O.E. of the W.). The Serene Lodge #567, Greenville, Mississippi was organized on March 10, 1924 by Carlos C. Valle Grand Organizer.

The Elks is the oldest African American, fraternal organization, which reaches from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. The first Elks Home was at the Miller Home, corner of Nelson and Broadway Street. In later years the group moved to a number of places including 329 North Broadway, 346 Catley Street, 613 Nelson Street, 328 Theobald Street, 420 Muscadine Street, 727 Nelson Street, 349 Catley Street and thence to home at 1822 East Alexander Street. The mortgage was burned in 1974. During the years of hard work, some of the accomplishments were: Membership of 300, the largest in history; and annual donations of \$100 for Christmas baskets for the aged and indigent; and yearly donations of \$1,000 to sick and distress Brothers; and donations to the Community Fund Drive; and donations to park and playground projects; and sponsored a Little League Baseball Team; and presented a flag pole and plaques to Coleman High School; and donated towards the purchase of curtains and piano for Lucy Webb School.

Levy Chapple, at the age of 23 was the youngest Exalted Ruler in the United States. He was the first to place strong emphasis upon attracting young people into the Elksdom and soared the membership far over 150 during his administration. It was during this period that the Daughter Elks Temple came into being with Daughter (Dtr.) Julia Thornton as the first Daughter Ruler whose emphasis upon young people was as equally strong.

Today, the Lodge continues to do work in the community and surrounding areas. Along with the Daughters, they have adopted a park and started a back to school supply give-away to over 300 children, this project was initiated approximately four years ago. Several of the Brothers have received their Past Grand Degree, which is the highest honor in Elksdom. The Lodge continues to initiate young men into the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Serene Lodge #567 I.B.P.O. of the W. for their leadership and dedication to serving their community and surrounding areas.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF CITYHOOD FOR BEAUMONT, CA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the city of Beaumont,

California, which will celebrate its centennial on Nov. 18, 2012.

In 1927, ten years after its incorporation, Beaumont boasted a population of 857. Today, it's a community of nearly 40,000 people, all of whom I've been proud to represent in Congress for the last ten years.

Much of this growth has happened in the last ten years. Residents flocked to Beaumont for its low housing costs, causing a 20% jump in the city's population, an increase that made it the fastest growing city in the State. What began as a railway outpost at the summit of San Geronio Pass has become a vibrant, progressive city that retains its small-town feel.

I proudly salute Beaumont's founders who laid the foundation for what has become a city that upholds the core values of public service. They're a shining example of local government at its best, and I hope my colleagues will join me in extending our best wishes to Beaumont on this most memorable occasion.

TRIBUTE TO CHAD EATON

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

I recruited Chad Eaton to join my District staff in January of 2009. Having first met Chad through his service to both our families' church as the Associate Pastor at Biltmore Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, I was already well familiar with his commitment to personal and professional excellence. In the several years that have passed since we first met in 2005, I continue to be impressed by Chad's devotion to family, faith and public service. Chad's character and moral compass inspire his daily actions both inside and outside of our duties as a Congressional office, earning him my deepest respect and also the respect and appreciation of colleagues and constituents alike.

Not a day goes by without my leaning on Chad in some capacity. Chad is a loyal, honorable and trusted companion and I consider his counsel and friendship a blessing in my life. No matter where the Good Lord's plans take us in the future, I look forward to many more years of our continued friendship.

Chad should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has

been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Chad and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Chad Eaton for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING KOLBY DEAN GOFF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kolby Dean Goff. Kolby 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 418, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kolby has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kolby 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, Kolby has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kolby designed and constructed an outdoor classroom at his sister's elementary school, building a nature learning center and an life-size outdoor checkerboard.

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

HONORING ED PAVIA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Ed Pavia joined my Washington, D.C. office in January 2012, as he was completing his Masters in Appropriate Technology (renewable

energy engineering) from Appalachian State University. It became apparent immediately that because of his understanding of energy and agriculture issues he would be a valuable addition to our team. New to Capitol Hill, Ed quickly learned the ropes and has been entrusted to serve in a variety of capacities, including work as a Research Fellow, Legislative Assistant and Executive Assistant. Ed's attention to detail, knowledge of policy issues and disciplined work ethic have proven to be invaluable assets.

Ed should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Ed and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Ed Pavia for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HOPE, MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a school in my district for being selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of only 269 Blue Ribbon Schools nationwide this year.

With 176 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, Hope Elementary in Knox County, Maine, is a small school doing big things. Foremost, the school has consistently met high standards of academic excellence. In itself, this achievement is worthy of honors.

But Hope Elementary has also excelled in teaching lessons in leadership. The school has an active student council, a leadership group that focuses on community service, and a culture where older students are expected to be leaders for their younger peers. Moreover, staff and administration set a strong example of collaboration. Immersed in this kind of environment, Hope students learn from an early age the importance of working together to move the whole community forward. This is an essential lesson for our next generation of leaders, and I truly appreciate the school's commitment to fostering it.

Being named a Blue Ribbon School is a prestigious honor, and the entire Hope Elementary community should be proud. This achievement belongs to the administration, teachers, students, families, and town as a whole. I am proud to have this excellent school in my district and they have my warmest congratulations.

HONORING UNITED MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable small family owned business, United Management & Development Associates, Inc. It is a real estate development and property management firm. The company's portfolio consists of properties that are financed by the United States Department of Agriculture—Rural Development, Housing and Urban Development, and properties that receive low income housing tax credits. They provide their residential clients with a multitude of services like budget counseling, GED preparation through a partnership with Coahoma Community College, life skills, health and wellness activities, and home ownership preparation.

Jeffrey Gooden is the president. He was educated in the Clarksdale Public School System. He received a Bachelors of Business Administration Degree majoring in Banking and Finance and Managerial Finance from the University of Mississippi in 1992. He is a licensed real estate broker in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas. He holds several real estate designations including the following: Certified Manager, Certified Property Manager, Certified Commercial Investment Member, National Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors Green Resource Council, and Graduate of Realtor's Institute.

Jeffrey is a second generation real estate professional. His father, the late Bennie Stone Gooden, was a developer and manager of affordable housing properties, who started United Management & Development in the 1980's. His father's vision was to improve the quality of life in the Mississippi Delta. After his father's death, Jeffrey and his family continues the Gooden family's legacy.

Jeffrey works with his sister, Marian Gooden Miller, and his brother, James Norvell Gooden. The three of them have expanded the company's services and vision. Norvell is both a licensed real estate and insurance agent in Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas. Marian is a licensed real estate agent. United Management & Development Associates, Inc. provide full real estate brokerage services and insurance products.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing United Management & Development Associates, Inc. for providing decent and affordable housings for the Mississippi Delta.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WELTON I. TAYLOR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Welton I. Taylor, Ph.D. A distinguished scientist, WWII liaison pilot, and civil rights advocate, Dr. Taylor died in Chicago on November 1, 2012, just 11 days shy of his 93rd birthday. Born November 12, 1919, in

Birmingham, Alabama, to Frederick Enslen Taylor and Cora Lee Brewer, Taylor was still an infant when his family fled to Chicago as a result of an ultimatum his mother received from the Ku Klux Klan. Throughout Dr. Taylor's life, the story of his family's trauma fueled his desire to succeed in every endeavor and to fight racism wherever he found it.

Graduating from DuSable High School as class Valedictorian in 1937, Dr. Taylor attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign thanks to scholarships from the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. In his senior year he became the first black cadet in the University of Illinois' Advanced ROTC Field Artillery Unit. He graduated in 1941 with an A.B. in Bacteriology and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. Only 28 days after following orders to report for active duty at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Taylor became the first black field artillery officer in the history of the post.

Taylor had always dreamt of becoming a pilot, however, and when a flight instructor at the Lawton, Oklahoma airfield offered to teach him, he jumped at the chance. Taylor took lessons during his off-duty hours and was rewarded when the Army subsequently sent him to the Second Army Air Force's Pittsburg, Kansas flight school to become a Field Artillery liaison pilot. Taylor was eventually deployed to the South Pacific with the all-black 596th Field Artillery Battalion, 93rd Infantry Division and flew liaison and reconnaissance missions in the South Pacific until the end of World War II.

During his 5½ years of service, Taylor boldly challenged institutional racism in the Army at every turn—most notably protesting the Army's discriminatory practices regarding the admission of black officers to the officers' clubs. Taylor suffered numerous racial affronts during active duty, but still joined the Illinois National Guard Reserves at the end of the war, rising to the rank of Major before resigning his commission in 1952.

Upon his return stateside, Taylor married his longtime girlfriend, Jayne Kemp Taylor, a graduate of Howard University. The couple entered the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shortly thereafter to pursue their graduate degrees where Taylor earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Bacteriology on the G.I. Bill. While on campus, the couple teamed with white veterans and their wives to force the integration of local restaurants, movie theaters, and swimming pools. Champaign-Urbana was changed forever by their efforts, and when the Taylors returned to Chicago after graduation, they continued their civil rights activism. They became one of the first black families to integrate the Chatham neighborhood on Chicago's South Side and Dr. Taylor played an active role in civic life. He served as President of the Chatham Avalon Park Community Council, founded the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, and received the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

As a scientist, Dr. Taylor had a remarkable career spanning close to fifty years. He taught microbiology at the medical schools of both the University of Illinois and Northwestern University, did ground-breaking research on bacteriological contamination in the nation's food supply, helped France and Britain eradicate Salmonella in their imported foods, became microbiologist-in-chief at Chicago's Children's

Memorial Hospital, and served as consulting microbiologist to Resurrection Hospital and eleven other hospitals in the Chicago area. He earned four patents, published forty articles in scientific journals (becoming the first black editor of several of them), and developed a product adopted by the Food & Drug Administration, which is still used today by microbiology laboratories the world over to certify foods Salmonella-free. In 1985, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta named a bacterium *Enterobacter taylorae* in honor of Dr. Taylor and a British colleague.

Following the death of his wife, Jayne, in 2005, Dr. Taylor joined the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. to once again pursue his lifelong passion: flying. Always one of the organization's most vocal and articulate supporters, Taylor helped fellow pilots introduce inner-city children to the joys and challenges of flight. He lectured extensively to corporate, civic, and academic groups across the Midwest and spoke passionately about the triumphs and frustrations faced by the Tuskegee Airmen and other black servicemen during World War II. Taylor received the Congressional Gold Medal with the Tuskegee Airmen in Washington, DC in 2006.

Fully committed to educating succeeding generations, Dr. Taylor published his long-awaited memoir and history, *Two Steps from Glory*, in July of 2012. He proudly unveiled it at the huge air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin (EAA Airventure), just days before being diagnosed with the cancer that took his life.

Dr. Taylor is survived by his daughters, Karyn and Shelley, by his nephew, Herbert Wallace, and his niece, Frances Austin.

On behalf of my wife Carolyn and the constituents of Illinois' First Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Dr. Taylor's family and I want for them to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING DENNIS BERMAN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my district office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide excellent constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the exceptional assistance so many have come to expect in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Dennis Berman played a valuable role as a volunteer during my first two terms in office. Dennis offered a calm and reassuring voice to constituents as they would call our District office with concerns and needs. His ability to

quickly diagnose the problem the individual had encountered allowed him to connect constituents with the proper staff member to begin the task of resolving the issue.

Dennis should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Dennis and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Dennis Berman for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,244,014,083,153.54. We've added \$5,617,137,034,240.46 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO DODIE COLLINS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Dodie Collins has served as a member of my District staff since July of 2011. Dodie came out of retirement from a career with the State of North Carolina to bring added expertise to my District office in an array of areas. Dodie's addition enabled our office to provide increased and expedited assistance by working directly with our State of North Carolina contacts when casework called for a state-directed resolution. Through Dodie's strong grasp of casework management she was able to direct constituents in the appropriate direction, ensuring a more timely and successful outcome for many.

Dodie should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Dodie and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Dodie and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Dodie Collins for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY COMPLIES WITH THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to require the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to adopt the Federal Acquisition Regulations, the set of rules that govern all aspects of the acquisition process for virtually every federal executive branch agency. Significant failures in MWAA's contracting policies and practices point to a need for substantial reform in MWAA's acquisition process. However, despite being created by Congress, leasing federally owned land, and benefiting from significant federal taxpayer funds, MWAA is not subject to federal procurement laws or regulation. This oversight has left MWAA without ample guidance for its board members and employees. Many of the problems that have drawn criticism of MWAA could be eliminated if the Federal Acquisition Regulations were made applicable.

MWAA is an independent public body created by Congress under the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986 (Airports Act), which authorized a compact between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia. MWAA, with 1,400 employees, leases and manages Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport. In addition to managing airports, MWAA is responsible for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, with an estimated cost of \$5.8 billion, including \$977 million in federal funds.

A recent Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General report, "MWAA's Weak Policies and Procedures Have Led to Questionable Procurement Practices, Mismanagement, and a Lack of Overall Accountability" (Report Number: AV-2013-006) (IG Report), found that "MWAA's contracting policies and practices are insufficient to ensure compliance with the Airports Act and the lease agreement between DOT and MWAA." For example, the Airports Act and lease agreement require MWAA to award contracts over \$200,000 competitively to the maximum extent practicable. However, the IG Report found that MWAA recently awarded two-thirds of its contracts exceeding \$200,000 with limited competition. The IG Report also noted that MWAA awarded many contracts with no formal solicitation, and that MWAA's Contracting Manual does not require public notification of sole-source contracts over \$200,000.

The lack of transparency and competition on MWAA contracts is inconsistent with continuing ownership of the airports by the federal government, MWAA's creation by Congress, and the significant federal taxpayer dollars for which MWAA is responsible. The IG Report's conclusion that current procurement procedures are inadequate requires a response that definitively settles the procurement issues surrounding MWAA. It makes no sense for MWAA to attempt to reinvent a new set of procurement procedures and ignore the very thorough and tested Federal Acquisition Regulations, which provides legal guidelines for every aspect of procurement and that maximizes fairness and transparency.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I will seek passage before the end of the lame duck.

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez, a visionary leader in our community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Ms. González-Sánchez brings more than 30 years experience in the field of behavioral health administration, policy development, medical research, and expertise integrating accessible systems of care for New Yorkers. She is a Cabinet-level, Chief Executive Officer overseeing a premier addiction services system with more than 1,500 programs and 35,000 paid and volunteer professionals which serve 110,000 New Yorkers daily.

Ms. González-Sánchez possesses a Masters of Social Work degree in Administration/Community Organization from Hunter College School of Social Work, as well as a Masters of Science degree in Cell Biology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Fordham University. She is a licensed Masters Social Worker.

As Commissioner of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, OASAS, her overall vision is to transform the fragmented system of care to a comprehensive, integrated, patient-centered, family-focused system that is accessible and responsive to the multiple and complex needs of the behavioral health population of today. Under her executive leadership, she has established the Enhanced Oversight and Monitoring Initiative to improve programmatic and fiscal accountability and quality service delivery throughout the OASAS system.

Before coming to OASAS, Ms. González-Sánchez was Commissioner of the newly merged Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities with the Nassau County Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction Services in Long Island. Ms. González-Sánchez also held a faculty appointment at Cornell University Medical College as an Associate Research Scientist where she spent eight years

in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy working on cardiac and molecular biology research. She has numerous publications in medical journals and textbooks and has received recognition for her early work on DNA sequencing and cloning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Commissioner González-Sánchez for her work ensuring high-quality care and services for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
VERNELLA WELLS FOR HER
DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT
TO THIS COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable young woman, Lieutenant Vernella N. Wells of Clarksdale, Mississippi. Born to the proud parents of Troy and Arcola Holmes, Wells has dedicated her life to being a beacon of service to her community and country.

First Lieutenant Wells began her military career in August 2003 as a Private First Class in the Mississippi Army National Guard, assigned to the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team in Tupelo, Mississippi. Immediately after graduating high school, she was sent to Basic Training followed by Advanced Individual Training in Fort Lee, Virginia, before serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom from September 2004–January 2006.

Upon returning from Iraq, she enrolled at the University of Mississippi and joined their Army ROTC program, where she received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Exercise Science.

In 2010, Wells was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Mississippi Army National Guard and is currently assigned to the Adjutant General's Branch, where she is the Strength Manager and Company Executive Officer for the 155th Brigade Combat Team of Tupelo, Mississippi.

She is responsible for the overall readiness of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program in North Mississippi. Wells is also spearheading the development of a program that is designed to bring local community resources and volunteers in to help enrich the lives of the Citizen Soldiers on and off duty.

In addition to commitment towards her country, Wells is also very active in her community. Her humanitarian work has included; volunteering at the Veterans Administration Nursing Home, Baptist Memorial HealthPlex, Baptist Memorial Out-Patient Physical Therapy Clinic, United Way of Oxford-Lafayette County Food Pantry, the Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity fundraising, and just recently as team leader for the "Big Event" community wide volunteer project. In addition, Wells is currently pursuing a MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Administration.

Lieutenant Wells has also garnered multiple awards and decorations from her tireless efforts in the National Guard. Some of these honors include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with Campaign

Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Mississippi Medal of Efficiency, Mississippi War Medal, and the Mississippi Longevity Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 1st Lieutenant Vernella N. Wells for her dedication and commitment to this nation and her community.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA EDWARD

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Erica Edwards has served as a member of my District staff since October of 2008. Erica provided valuable guidance to individuals seeking assistance from the Social Security Administration. Erica's background working with the Department of Social Services at the county level provided our constituents with an additional level of expertise and hands-on experience to effectively serve a broader spectrum of constituents in their greatest time of need.

Erica should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with Erica and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Erica and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Erica Edwards for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING MRS. NANCY PENN
PENSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Mrs. Nancy Penn Penson, a longtime lover

of the arts and an acclaimed tennis player. Mrs. Penson, a Dallas native, passed away on Sunday, October 21, 2012 at the age of 88. Mrs. Penson is survived by her husband Lieutenant John G. Penson, three daughters, Annie Vreeland, Suki Jarzemy, and Read Gendler, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Penson was highly respected and well known throughout the Dallas community. She graduated with a Degree in Classics from Wellesley College in 1945. Her love for the arts was ignited at an early age when her mother would take her to the symphony. Mrs. Penson held numerous leadership positions such as co-founder of the Dallas Tennis Association, President of the Junior League, and board member of the Dallas Bach Society, the New Dallas Conservatory, and the Southern Methodist University Meadows School of Arts.

In addition to her passion for the arts and her many philanthropic efforts, Mrs. Penson was an accomplished tennis player. She was nationally ranked #1 in Senior Women's Tennis and was inducted into the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to lose such an integral member of the Dallas community. Her selfless contributions to arts and charity groups have touched the lives of many. While the Dallas community will certainly miss Mrs. Penson, her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of those whose lives she has touched over the years.

HONORING BLAKELY WHILDEN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Blakely Whilden was the Field Director for my first campaign in 2006. Following the campaign she served as a member of my D.C. staff for much of my first term. Blakely helped manage and organize the office, and always with efficiency and friendliness. Having grown up in the 11th Congressional District, Blakely was proud to help represent her hometown District in our nation's Capitol. She was especially passionate about issues surrounding higher education and focused on policies that would help to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality, affordable education.

Blakely should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Blakely and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Blakely Whilden for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

J.C. BURNHAM—TEXAN TO THE BONE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, JC Burnham of Liberty, Texas. A fine businessman, rancher, husband, father, friend and devoted family man, who spent his entire life serving his community while striving to make others happy. The City of Liberty and, indeed, the entire state of Texas lost a dedicated community leader, as well as friend, on October 30, 2012.

JC was born December 15, 1937, in Houston, Texas. He was truly a remarkable Texan who achieved extraordinary things in his career and for his community. Hard work and love of his community earned him enduring respect amongst the many touched by his deeds. It is an honor to recognize the great contributions that JC made to the city of Liberty, Liberty County, and the great State of Texas.

As a child, JC began his working life at Stubbs Grocery Store. In high school he was both a good student and athlete. He went on to attend College at my alma mater, the University of Houston. After graduation, JC got his foot in the door in the auto industry by working in the mailroom at General Motors. Through JC's hard work and dedication he held eleven different positions within General Motors, eventually owning his own dealership.

In 1973, he purchased Mearns Chevrolet in Liberty, Texas, a close-knit city near Houston. For over 30 years, his family owned business, thrived. He even added an Oldsmobile-Cadillac and a Buick-Pontiac-GMC store. JC was a man of true character and a Liberty resident for over 39 years, his Texas spirit and love of the community made him a natural promoter of Liberty, Texas.

Not only was JC a dedicated businessman, he also had a long career in public service. Throughout the years, he assisted and was recognized by numerous boards and organizations. He was a past board member of the Magnolia Ridge Country Club, Texas 4H Youth Development Foundation, Liberty Dayton Hospital, Liberty County Central Appraisal District and the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency.

Always understanding the importance of education and our nation's youth, JC was a life time supporter of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Trinity Valley Exposition and 4H Alumni Association. He served and supported the Liberty-Dayton Chamber of Commerce, Liberty Rotary Club, 100 Club,

Liberty Elks Club, Liberty County Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Thoroughbred Association and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association. He started the Burnham Classic Golf Tournament which donated over \$450,000 for South Liberty State Center/Tri-County Services. The list of this model citizen's accomplishments will have lasting effects on the city of Liberty and surrounding areas. It is my hope that he will be remembered as a true visionary and strong community supporter, and that others will follow his lead.

My thoughts are with the love of JC's life, Kathleen—his wife of 21 years. They shared the same passion for their community, their farm and their love of slow race horses. Last spring, I visited JC at St. Luke's in Houston and I observed Kathleen in the caretaker role as she poured out her love, spirit and fight for JC. The passing of JC has left a son and daughter in mourning of their father—Bruce Burnham and Cyrese Jezek. His memory will live on, in the many lives he touched along the way.

On the evening of November 4, 2012, hundreds of Liberty, Texas residents waited in line at the First United Methodist Church of Liberty to pay their respects to the family of this honorable man. JC was a loyal friend to me, and although I am saddened by his loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship we shared. He will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a genuine friend and a great Texan.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF LIZ IRWIN OF MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Liz Irwin, one of the Mendocino Coast's most outstanding community leaders, who passed away October 23, 2012, leaving an enduring legacy in the fields of rural health care and the needs of senior citizens.

Born on September 5, 1919 in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, Liz grew up in South Dakota, went to Minnesota State College and then to Colorado State College of Education, where she met her husband of 70 years, Horace "Ace" Irwin. The couple moved to southern California where Ms. Irwin received a master's degree in speech at California State University Northridge.

Liz was a teacher in Northridge and Long Beach before she and Ace retired to the Mendocino Coast in 1971. She immediately became an inspirational and dynamic force for change and social justice in this rural coastal community, always with a twinkle in her eyes. Over the years she tackled tough issues, serving as the director of the Bea Erikson Senior Center for seven years to ensure seniors received the services they needed. She was also on the Mendocino Coast District Hospital Board of Directors. One of her crowning achievements was the initiation of Health Watch, a group that persuaded the County Board of Supervisors to maintain health care on the coast by creating the Mendocino Coast Clinics, where she was the first Chair of the Board of Directors, continuing until 2004.

Liz motivated others with her sense of humor and radical, feminist spirit as she participated in the Gray Panthers, the "Do-Gooders" annual holiday luncheon benefitting the local food banks and Old Broads for Peace. Many on the coast remember Liz for the many years she authored her inspirational "Coasting" column in the Mendocino Beacon and her childhood reminiscences in her book, "Home of the Heart." Liz loved her small town upbringing in South Dakota and told her family she never felt entirely at home again until she moved to the Mendocino Coast.

The Mendocino community showed its love and respect for Liz by honoring her as Grand Marshal in both the Mendocino Fourth of July and the Fort Bragg Paul Bunyan Days Parades.

She is survived by Ace, whom she referred to as the "joint tenant" in her newspaper columns, by her children, Bill Irwin, an actor based in New York, his wife Martha Roth, Patrick Irwin in Montreal and Nan Irwin, also living in New York, as well as two grandsons.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing and paying tribute to a friend, outstanding community member and role model, Liz Irwin.

HONORING EPSILON KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED FOR CONTINUED SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Chartered in 1994, the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has been committed to providing public service to Madison County, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has executed a number of ongoing service projects, including community picnics, providing school supplies to area schools, and working with Habitat for Humanity to build homes for families in need. In addition, the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has orchestrated an annual scholarship boat ride to benefit surrounding residents. Finally, this chapter has been a ray of hope for many low income families during the holiday season by providing aid to the residents.

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter has been named the "Chapter of the Year" for two consecutive years by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, State of Mississippi Organization, for superior service to the fraternity and their communities.

In 2011, Omega Psi Phi fraternity celebrated 100 years of service at the local, national, and international levels. Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter are men of character and great faith. They envisioned a brotherhood founded upon Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Up-lift.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated for their continued dedication towards serving their community.

HONORING CHRISTY HAYEK

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Christy Hayek, a senior at American University, joined the D.C. office as an intern in April of this year. Christy proved to be a quick learner and has done an exemplary job in assisting my Washington office fulfill its daily responsibilities. Articulate, intelligent and friendly, Christy is often the first point of contact constituents have with my office when they visit or call in need of assistance, and she handles each request with poise. I am confident that when Christy graduates she will succeed in whatever path she decides to pursue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Christy Hayek for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

HONORING VETERANS AND THE ARMED FORCES

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day, I rise to honor all Veterans and the men and women of The Armed Forces and their families with a poetic tribute "Thank You" penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

THANK YOU

Thank . . .
Thank you . . .
Thank you,
for all of your hearts so deep!
So deep!
Thank you,
for all of your promises you did so keep!
So keep!
And all of you,
who so bled for you and me!
You and me!
And to all those Mothers who now so weep!
So weep!
And all of those Fathers,
whose pain now runs so very deep!

So deep!
And all of those families,
who can now not together ever be!
Ever be!
And all those children,
whose mommies and daddies will never again
so see!

So see!
Thank you!
And for all of you heroes,
for whom the battle does now so rage!
Does rage!
Who have so seen your Brothers and Sisters
In Arms so die,
with tears in eyes as all in your arms they
now so lay!

So lay!
And watch them so lose,
their fine strong arms and legs!
Arms and legs!
Teaching us all how heroes are made!
Are made!
Thank you!
Thank you for all you gave!
You gave!
And all of you who must now so rebuild,
where none lies left as all of the angels you
so instill!

Instill!
And all the ones who now must so awake,
all in sweats in the middle of the night as do
they!

Do they!
Who far across the shores,
must live without loved ones in arms on each
new day!

New day!
Thank You one and all in every way,
words can not all you repay!
Repay!
And all of those,
who must now so live with the scars of war!
Of war!

Who come home with PTSD,
and so much more!
So much more!
Carrying those dreaded dark scars of war!

Of war!
Who for all of us have so fought for!
Fought for!
But For The Greater Good,
our most blessed freedoms do so insure!

So insure!
Thank you,
one and all the more!
For there are not greater Americans,
than you and your loved ones all the more!
The more!

Is that not what heaven is for?
Is for!

So on this Veteran's day,
fall to your knees and pray!

And pray!
And thank all of those members and families,
of The Armed Forces who such magnificence
do so display!

Display!
And remember why you are free this day!
This day!
And why your children in such a great country
can so awake!

Awake!
For all they ask,
is for you to stand behind them each day!
In your hearts,
make each day . . . Veterans Day!
And remember the cost of freedom,
with each step you take!
You take!
Because the cost of Freedom,
is not Free!
Not Free!
Thank You!

SHIPLEY DONUTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every morning, at the crack of dawn, there's a nostalgic aroma of warm donuts, fresh out of the oven, coming from a local Shipley Donuts. The smell takes me back through memories from when I was a boy, walking around the corner to a Shipley's in Houston, Texas, reaching into my pockets for some spare change to buy a donut. It was such a treat. I can still remember when there were only a few Shipley's in town. Only a few on each side of the city. And today, the evolution of this once small donut shop continues to amaze me.

The donut chain, now with more than 200 stores across the southern region of the United States, originated in Houston. In 1936, near the end of the Great Depression, Lawrence Shipley, Sr. stirred up some special ingredients and came up with his very own recipe for donuts. He cut them by hand and served them warm every day. There was no other way for him to serve the donuts but hot and fresh. It was his secret to loyal customers that would later grow his business.

Mr. Shipley became Houston's go-to man for donuts. People couldn't get enough; his donuts were such a hot commodity around the city that they began to sell in the retail markets in the 1940s. Through Mr. Shipley's strong vision of becoming a place for families to gather and enjoy a warm donut over a good conversation, that is what Shipley Donuts became.

When customers walked into the store, their eyes instantly traveled to the trays of fresh glazed, chocolate, strawberry, and golden glazed twist donuts behind the glass counters. The sweet smell of the round pieces of bread filled the air in the mornings and brought people in the shop. It was a well-known smell that people couldn't resist. When Mr. Shipley, Sr. passed away, his special recipe lived on through his son, Lawrence Shipley, Jr. He grew his family's business from just one store to several in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas, with 86 in the Houston area alone.

Together with his son, Lawrence W. Shipley, III, Shipley Jr. perfected the donut and branched out to making kolaches, now one of their signature products. Shipley, III, is currently president of the Shipley Donuts company and strives to maintain the same gourmet donut products his grandfather worked hard to perfect for many years. And it wasn't something that happened overnight.

Shipley Donut means more than just a warm, glazed donut that slowly and sweetly dissolves in my mouth after every bite. This fine company represents community, a strong business, and quality service. Of course, the irresistible, sweet smell of the donuts baking inside is what brings people inside, but customers are also always greeted with a warm smile behind the counter of donuts upon entering. And although it is a true Texas tradition, it is a model for businesses in the Houston area and states across the southern line of the country.

Shipley products are not only a Texas tradition but are also a personal tradition for me.

When I drive down North Park Drive and pass a local store, the smell tempts me every time. I reflect on my childhood and can't help the urge to pull into what is now a Shipley Donuts drive thru. A trip to the donut shop is a personal tradition that I've passed onto my family, too. When my grandchildren tug away at my sleeve, begging me for a sweet treat, I tell them I know exactly the place to go.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING BILLY WOODY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor several of the volunteers who have served in my District office over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and these volunteers have assisted my staff in providing the excellent assistance so many have come to expect from our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

These volunteers have always treated our constituents with the utmost respect and always made sure their needs were met in a timely fashion. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have shown to me during my years of service in Congress.

Billy Woody has served in numerous roles as a volunteer in our District office. As retired military himself, Billy took special interest in making sure our veterans received exceptional representation as they sought needed benefits through the Veterans Administration. I could always count on a warm smile and kind words of affirmation each time I interacted with Billy. I know our local veterans share my sense of gratitude and recognize Billy's dedication for always putting them first and for making their mission his own.

Billy should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Billy and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Billy Woody for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my East Bay colleagues, Representatives GEORGE MILLER, JOHN GARAMENDI, JERRY MCNERNEY, and PETE

STARK on the occasion of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition's 40th anniversary celebration. In its 40 years of bicycle advocacy, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has garnered an impressive list of victories and a vast network of supporters working toward the shared goal of promoting cycling as a sustainable, healthy, and safe form of transport in the San Francisco Bay Area.

On March 20, 1972, a group of cyclists created the East Bay Bicycle Coalition as a non-profit bicycle advocacy group with the simple mission of promoting bicycling for people of all ages and abilities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties of California. One of the organization's first battles was for bicycle access on the then-new San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system. By 1975, the coalition had succeeded in that goal and paved the way for BART's continued reputation as one of the most bike-friendly transit agencies in the country.

During the past 40 years, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has also worked to expand and establish bikeways on Bay Area bridges, stripe hundreds of miles of bike lanes in East Bay cities, and complete 244 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The organization's members have worked tirelessly for access to urban bicycle parking, inclusion of bicycle pathways in local and regional transit plans, and to establish an annual "Bike-to-Work Day" throughout the East Bay.

With growing awareness that an ever-increasing number of individual automobile commuters is neither sustainable nor responsible, there has been a national movement towards alternative forms of transportation. Thanks in great part to the work of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, our East Bay Congressional districts are leading the way in this trend, with four cities certified "bike-friendly" by the League of American Bicyclists—Oakland, Emeryville, Brentwood and Alameda. Berkeley, in my district, ranks fourth in the nation amongst cities with the highest number of people bicycling.

We are pleased to see the role that federal investment has played in promoting and sustaining this transportation shift, beginning in 1991 with the walking and biking provisions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act. My colleagues and I look forward to continuing to work with the East Bay Bicycle Coalition and their allies around the country as we prepare in the coming years to develop a long-term Federal Transportation Bill that works for everyone, including those who find the bicycle to be a clean, healthy, and enjoyable form of transportation.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of California's 9th, 7th, 10th, 11th, and 13th districts, we pay tribute to the East Bay Bicycle Coalition in recognition of their 40th anniversary. We ask our colleagues to join with us in congratulating the East Bay Bicycle Coalition for its continued leadership and commitment to making the East Bay a wonderful place to ride, and we wish them success in the coming years.

HONORING JULIE B. FAGAN (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CONNECTICUT) ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie Fagan, a dedicated public servant, who will be retiring at the end of this month.

After 23 years of service with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Julie B. Fagan is set to retire effective November 30th. Julie is currently the Field Office Director of the Hartford Field Office for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She was previously the Director of the HUD Salt Lake City Field Office and the national director overseeing the Public and Assisted Housing Drug Elimination Program in Washington, DC. She also served on the senior management team for Governor Roy Romer (D) of Colorado.

Julie started her career at HUD following her passion to fight drug use in public and assisted housing. During her career she has played a critical role in preserving and redeveloping critical Federal public housing properties all over Connecticut, particularly in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. Julie has also made it a top priority in her time as director of the Connecticut HUD office to collaborate with her peer Federal, State and local agencies. She has greatly improved the housing landscape for the people of Connecticut by initiating many vital working relationships with government, non-profit and private organizations that play a role in housing the people of Connecticut. In addition, Julie has been a leader in Connecticut by helping residents navigate the challenges presented by the foreclosure crisis. Her leadership and ability to train her staff to accommodate the many changes in the housing market allowed for constituents to have their needs addressed in as timely and professional a manner as possible. Julie is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Jack, her five wonderful children and nine grandchildren.

I applaud her hard work, time and dedication in serving the State of Connecticut and the country and thank her for her years of public service that has helped so many families. I know that our office will miss working with Julie and we wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING BETH TIELKE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Beth Tielke and the many volunteers working with her to improve the lives of Nebraskans and our servicemen and women. Beth is a well known small businesswoman from O'Neill, Nebraska. She has owned a store, several restaurants, and a sandwich business. Her children now run these businesses, but Beth continues to work

and devotes a significant amount of her time running Nebraska Troop Support and Share Our Dream.

Through Nebraska Troop Support, Beth assembles care packages for our soldiers, veterans and their families. She solicits small donations and gifts which are sent in about 40 care packages each month to let all of our servicemembers know how much their sacrifice is appreciated.

Share Our Dream, also run by Beth, has benefitted more than 1600 Nebraskans with small gifts such as cookies, flowers, and short notes to lift the spirit of someone in need. While most of the costs have been paid by Beth, the organization has made it possible for local businesses and citizens to donate small items to help their neighbors. These small gestures not only bring smiles, but also renew the spirit of giving in our State.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in honoring Beth Tielke and her selfless work to bring joy to our troops, veterans, military families and all Nebraskans.

TRIBUTE TO DON ARTHUR MCGRUFF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of a beloved and respected Alabaman who passed away on October 2, 2012, at the age of 70. Don McGriff was a devoted public servant and a tireless advocate for safer communities at the state and local level.

Don McGriff was born in Mobile on April 22, 1942. He was a graduate of Murphy High School, the University of South Alabama, and the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. Don also served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps.

Active in state and local politics, Don was the Republican Nominee for Alabama Lieutenant Governor against Democrat Jim Folsom, Jr. in 1986. He served as Chairman of the Baldwin County Republican Party and on the Baldwin County School Board.

Don's reputation for fairness also earned him bipartisan respect in Montgomery. In 2004, Governor Bob Riley appointed him to serve on the newly expanded Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

His long political career also included runs for State Senate and State Representative in Baldwin County and service as an assistant district attorney.

Don's public service was marked by his unwavering dedication to fighting crime as well as the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes. Don was a founding board member of We Care Prison Ministries and the Lovelady Center. He was a charter member of the Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer condolence to his wife of 46 years, Jeanne Kelly; their son, Kelly; their daughter, Heather; their eight grandchildren and their entire family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO LT. BOBBY PRICE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor a great friend, an honorable man and a tireless champion for all veterans, Lt. Bobby Price. Bobby passed away on November 2, 2012 after many years battling cancer.

Throughout his 24 years of active duty service in the U.S. Navy, Bobby demonstrated tremendous zeal for getting the job done. As an advocate for veterans he brought the same zeal towards fighting on behalf of veterans and he never let up. He never gave up. His heart was in it all the way.

Mr. Speaker, I often credit Bobby with informing me of everything I needed to know to fight on behalf of veterans. He spent many, many hours going over everything that needed to be done legislatively, educating me on what veterans have to confront as individuals and how much we owe to them. His ambitious goals really personify what it means to be a champion for veterans. I hope through my work I was able to justify his confidence in me.

Bobby has received scores of awards recognizing his tremendous service throughout his life—including 2007 San Diego County Veteran of the Year. He was President of the nonprofit Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation at the time of his death, having served on the charity's board for six years.

He was active in the VFW and other veteran's organizations locally, statewide, and nationally. Many of my successes on behalf of veterans came about because of Bobby Price's suggestions. He would say: "We got to do this. We got to do that. We can't have this offset. We have to do this!" I listened to every word, most of which we tried to enact. Bobby, I will miss you and I appreciate everything you did every single day.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Julia; his sons, Paul Hoch, Russ Price, Marcus Bush and Adam Price; and daughter Adriana Bush. Another daughter, Jennifer Crane, preceded him in death. He has five grandchildren, with another due soon.

Bobby will be truly missed by all who were touched by his love for life and his passion for his fellow veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. I was so pleased to join members, friends and the community on October 7, 2012, to celebrate 100 years of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral as a congregation.

It was also a time to give thanks for the spiritual leadership, generosity, dedication, and the sacrifices made by generations of your faithful members. Your congregation has contributed much to the religious, social, cultural and civic life of this city.

Your hard work and decades of effort culminated in this beautiful Cathedral, St. Sava. It demonstrates to your community and to people of faith throughout our area the dedication by people of faith, to honor their beliefs and holy traditions. I am particularly moved by the timeline of over 40 years to establish the first place of worship until the Cathedral's final completion—from 1912 to 1958. I wondered about this significant period of time and then realized that your grandfathers, fathers, sons, brothers and husbands, all who could serve, indeed did serve our country in two World Wars. It is a sacrifice that must always be honored and remembered; a sacrifice that many American immigrants have made in our history. We are so very proud and grateful to acknowledge this commitment.

You have accomplished much my friends. You have worked in our factories, our breweries, legislatures, schools and medical facilities to advance our city, state and country. We have all found a home at St. Sava Hall that was established by the St. Sava community as a welcoming place for all; it has served as a meeting place for Presidents, Senators, Congressmen, Congresswomen and elected leaders from all levels of government. You have shared in and contributed to the economic and political life of our community.

October 7, 2012, was a day for St. Sava members to celebrate a work well done and to consider the challenges ahead. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to St. Sava Orthodox Cathedral's 100th Anniversary. I extend my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for all they have done to enhance the quality of life throughout the Fourth Congressional District. I look forward to the Serbian community's continued involvement and leadership for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL JOHNSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 604 I was unavoidably detained and therefore was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN THOMAS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Karen Thomas, a member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, and to congratulate her on her retirement at the end of this year. Karen has made invaluable contributions to the function of the Subcommittee, and she will be greatly missed by the Members and her colleagues.

During her nearly 40-year tenure in federal government, Karen has served in all three branches: In the Executive Branch for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Commerce, in the Judiciary for

the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and in the Legislative Branch as a detailee for the Appropriations Committee. Throughout her federal service, Karen has developed budgets, planned expenditures, facilitated transparency and fostered a team approach to solving some of the most difficult problems faced by agencies.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee's professional staff, Karen is a source of reliable information and trustworthy counsel. She approaches her job seriously, and she takes to heart the consequences of the decisions made in Congress for the public servants at dozens of federal agencies as well as the Americans who depend upon their good work.

Most of all, Karen's can-do attitude, her bright smile and warm welcomes, and her willingness to go the extra mile to get the answers not just right—but exactly right—have been instrumental to the proper functioning of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations during my two years as Chair. She will be greatly missed, and her presence and many noteworthy contributions to the work product of the Subcommittee will not soon be forgotten.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her excellent work and in wishing her well in a satisfying, hard-earned retirement, one in which there are no budget cycles, appropriations deadlines, constantly-

ringing phones or all-night weekend workdays. Thank you, Karen, and God bless.

HONORING ANDREW WHALEN

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, D.C. office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship they have

shown me during my six years of service in the Congress.

Andrew Whalen helped run my very first campaign and played an instrumental role in my election to Congress. Following the campaign, Andrew served as a member of my D.C. staff as Communications Director. With Andrew's talent for grasping the breadth and complexities of the day's leading issues, together we were able to sift through some of the most intricate legislation of the decade. Then, after successfully running my first reelection campaign, Andrew returned to the office to serve as my Senior Advisor for Policy and Communications. Andrew was an exceptional member of my staff in every position that he held, and his political acumen and masterful communication skills continued to be invaluable assets.

Andrew should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Andrew and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Andrew Whalen for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.