

Project Selection Committee, and she is currently the Southeast Regional Director of the Community Transportation Association of America.

Ms. August has garnered media acclaim during this distinguished career. In 2007, SWRTA was featured in Mass Transit Magazine, and in 2008, Ms. August contributed to the magazine's "Manager's Forum" on the topic "How a Board Can Help Directors Manage Systems."

An asset to the community in numerous capacities outside of transportation, Ms. August previously served as Vice President of the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands Membership Committee and is the immediate past Chair of the United Way of Sumter. She served 30 years in the Army Reserves, retiring in 2004. Ann is married to Henry August Jr., a transportation professional who retired from SEPTA after serving 35 years in the industry; they have two adult children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. August will be missed in South Carolina, but I have no doubt that our loss will be Alabama's gain. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in wishing Ms. Ann Dawson August all the best and Godspeed in her future endeavors.

---

HONORING OFFICER THOMAS  
DECKER UPON HIS DEATH

---

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Thomas Decker of the Cold Springs Police Department. On November 29, Officer Decker was killed in the line of duty while trying to help a man believed to be suicidal.

Officer Decker was a Minnesota boy through and through, growing up on a dairy farm near Cold Spring. After attending Rocori High School, he went on to serve as a police officer for 10 years, serving in the communities of Isle, Watkins, Kimball, and the Cold Spring/Richmond Police Department. He bravely served the citizens of central Minnesota and those who knew him called him a hero who loved his family. He leaves behind a wife, four young children, parents, siblings and a community who loved him.

Officer Decker's death tears at the heartstrings of a small town who knows all too well the sting of heartbreaking tragedy. This community lost another son to senseless bloodshed. It is hard to grasp why such violence occurs, but it is important that friends and neighbors stick together in these trying times. My thoughts and prayers are with the Decker family as they deal with this painful loss, especially five-year-old Devon, six-year-old Justin, seven-year-old Jade and eight-year-old Kelly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in mourning the loss of this brave and noble police officer who represented not only Minnesota, but a force which protects citizens across this great country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. PHILLIP HAMMONDS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues Congressman SPENCER BACHUS and Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL in asking for the House's attention today to recognize Dr. Phillip Hammonds who is retiring as the Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools after nearly 40 years of service to Alabama's school systems.

Dr. Phillip Hammonds received his Bachelor degree in English Education from Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri. Soon after, he received his Master's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He went on to earn Doctoral degrees from both the University of Montevallo and the University of Alabama.

While earning his numerous degrees, Dr. Hammonds also served Alabama schools in various capacities. From 1973–1983 he worked for Sylacauga High School. In 1983, he began working for the Sylacauga City School System, where he stayed until 1996. He also served as the Superintendent of Sylacauga City Schools from 2001–2003. From 1996–1997, Dr. Hammonds was the Superintendent of Education for Pell City Schools. In 1997, he began his work for the Jefferson County School System, and in 2004 he was appointed Superintendent.

Because of his faithful service to Alabama's school systems, Dr. Hammonds has been the recipient of numerous awards. In 1989, he was honored as the Outstanding Graduate Student in School Administration at the University of Montevallo. In 1991, he received a Faculty Recognition Award from the University of Alabama. He was also named the Outstanding Alumnus in School Administration by the University of Montevallo in 1996. In 2007, he was recognized as the Outstanding Superintendent of the Year by the Alabama Congress of Parents and Teachers. Finally, in 2010, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the The Capstone at the University of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, we join his family, friends and the state of Alabama in this celebration in his honor. We will miss Dr. Hammonds' leadership in Alabama, and wish him the very best.

---

HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY  
VETERANS

---

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor our veterans.

There are no words that can express the gratitude that the American people owe all of the men and women who choose to serve the United States of America in the armed services. We are all humbled by the sacrifice they make—knowingly putting themselves in harm's way while also leaving loved ones behind. This commitment is the mark of America's finest

citizens and those who answer to a higher calling. I would like to honor, from the Navy:

Michelle Luz Trinidad, Stephanie Tillman, Andrew Kissoon, Gary Austin, Emmanuel Hernandez, Carlo D. Casanova, Kristie Hamm, Relles Campos, Raymond Farmer, Peter Calhoun, Ruben Gallardo, Percy Fernando Monroe, Jeffrey W. Butler, Jr., Marquis Rashann Bellamy, Marcus M. White, John C. Carter, Jr., Michael C. Thompson, Frederick Alan Edwards, Kenyatta Bennett, Jamie Shire, Cameron Zbikowski, Sam Owens, Neville Bain, Alvine Burke, Freddie Berrios, Janette Ramos Chandler, Rafael Trinchet, Henry Elam, Willie B. Taylor, Mae Christian, Randolph Mobley, John M. Locklier, Charles W. Wright, Brian F. Kipp, David Nunez, Ben Rape, Stephanie Tillman, James F. Wilson Jr., Jackie Bernard Singleton, Richard Victor Powell, Mary Lesic, Angus Laney, Rock Daze, Franklin Johnson;

Finally, it is not our tanks, weapons or machinery that make the United States Armed Forces the best military in the world. It is our young men and women who serve professionally with honor and distinction. If not for these exemplary citizens, freedom and the American way of life would not be safe and secure. For these sacrifices, we respect and should commend their service everyday of the year. Congress has designated, November 11th 2012 as the official day showing our gratitude.

Please join me in honoring these American heroes for their bravery and sacrifice in defense of this great nation.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

---

**HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a family medical situation and was not present for the rollcall vote numbered 611 on Thursday, November 29, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner:

Rollcall Vote No. 611—Resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act: "no."

---

LT ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. (LTE)

---

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud LT Environmental, Inc. for providing decades of expertise through innovative technologies in helping our citizens identify and eliminate environmental liabilities.

Since 1992, LT Environmental or LTE, has performed environmental consulting services for a diverse range of industries including oil and gas, transportation, manufacturing, real estate, government, and public and private property owners. The high level of devotion LTE has shown to our communities serves as a prime example of their quality service.

LTE's primary goal of rapid site closure allows for businesses, many of whom would

otherwise had to close their doors, to ensure the safety of their employees and the environment alike. Sustainable and environmentally-conscious practices have been a top priority for LTE since its foundation. Certainly, without companies like LTE, the citizens of Colorado would not be able to enjoy the beautiful lands we have all come to know and love.

The list of awards and recognitions received by LTE serves as a testament to the ongoing successes of LTE. Most notably, the company is the recent recipient of the both the 2012 Top Company award and the 2012 Colorado Company to Watch. It has also been recognized by Colorado Biz Magazine as one of the top ten fastest growing private midsize companies in Denver.

I am very proud to have the LTE headquarters located in Arvada, Colorado. LTE continues to expand its outreach into all areas of Colorado, as well as New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Florida. I can confidently say that my colleagues here today will soon observe the benefits of having LTE serve in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment of LT Environmental to the people, businesses and lands of Colorado serves as an example to those in the environment, and throughout all areas of commerce. It is with great pride and admiration that I am able to briefly speak on the triumphs of LT Environmental. I am certain the effects of their service will continue to benefit our communities for decades to come.

CONGRATULATING BENJAMIN  
STRALEY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Benjamin Straley on being named Assistant Organist at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. His dedication to sacred music and continued education is truly remarkable. Today, Mr. Straley holds his position on the incredible music staff at the National Cathedral and shares playing responsibilities with two other organists.

Mr. Straley is an Ohio native from the 15th Congressional District, and he has proven to be one of the top organists in the nation. A recent graduate of Yale University, Mr. Straley studied sacred music and theological education and earned many awards and recognitions. Included among his many accomplishments is the Baker Prize, a prize awarded to incoming organ students at Yale deemed to be in the top one or two percent of young organists in the country. Mr. Straley was also one of the few Americans in the entire history of the Haarlem Organ Festival invited to compete in its prestigious improvisation contest.

I would again like to congratulate Benjamin Straley on being named Assistant Organist at the National Cathedral. The people of Ohio's 15th District are dedicated, hardworking people, and Mr. Straley's accomplishments make me proud to represent the 15th District in Congress.

HONORING SOLANO COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR BARBARA KONDYLIS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the many accomplishments of Solano County Supervisor Barbara Kondylis as she retires after twenty years of distinguished service on the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

Barbara as born in Seymour, Indiana, and raised in Port Jefferson on Long Island, NY. In 1969, Barbara moved to Vallejo with her husband Gabriel. Barbara completed her education in the Bay Area, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Hayward.

Barbara won a Vallejo City Council seat in 1979 and served for nine years. She then turned her attention to the Solano County Board of Supervisors, winning the seat in 1992. Barbara was motivated to run because she was concerned about government process and land use decisions that threatened Solano County's environment, as well as the plight of women and children, particularly issues of family violence, poverty, and family planning.

Barbara has accomplished much on behalf of Solano County's children and families. She established the Office and Family Violence Prevention, the Family Justice Center, and Baby Coach, an innovative program to ensure good outcomes for high risk mothers and their babies. Barbara also successfully promoted AB 2010, which passed the California Legislature, allowing Solano County to charge Vital Records Fees, increasing revenue \$80,000 a year directed to reduce family violence. She helped implement Court Appointed Special Advocates who have helped hundreds of children going through dependency court. Barbara also proposed and initiated "Smile in Style" which provided dental screenings and other services to thousands of elementary school children, allowing many to get emergency dental care.

During her long career, Barbara has served on many local and regional boards including the Solano County Water Authority, City-County Coordinating Committee, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Mare Island Re-Use Committee, Health and Social Services Sub-Committee, Tri City-County JPA for Agriculture Lands and Open Space Preservation, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District Board, Vallejo Justice Committee, California State Association of Counties Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Solano County Children and Families First Commission, Baby First Solano, Association of Bay Area Government Board, Delta Protection Commission, and California State Association of Counties Condition of Children Taskforce.

Mr. Speaker, we invite this chamber to join us in honoring Supervisor Barbara Kondylis for her tireless and dedicated service to the people of Solano County. We also join her family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating her on a successful and fulfilling career as an elected official and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING DENNIS ROTH ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RE-  
SEARCH SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the outstanding career of a dedicated public servant from the Congressional Research Service, Dennis Roth. Mr. Roth is retiring in January after 42 years of public service.

Mr. Roth came to the Congressional Research Service in 1976 as a labor economist, working in what was the CRS Economics Division. Mr. Roth rose steadily through the ranks, becoming one of that division's first section heads. During this time, Mr. Roth worked closely with Members of both houses of Congress and their staff, providing valuable research and analysis for one of the era's landmark pieces of legislation, the Humphries-Hawkins Full Employment Act. Among its provisions, the Act set national goals for full employment and mandated that the Federal Reserve establish policies that not only controlled inflation, but also encouraged long-term economic growth and price stability; a mandate that guides the Federal Reserve to this day as it navigates the troubled economic environment in which we currently find ourselves.

In the 1980's, while maintaining his workload as a labor economist at CRS, Mr. Roth became active in the Congressional Research Employees Association (CREA). In 1986, Mr. Roth ran for President of the Association, but lost on his first try. He ran again in 1987, and this time he won. The employees at CRS demonstrated their confidence in his stewardship by returning him to office each year since. For 25 years, Mr. Roth has been a tireless advocate for the rights, goals, and aspirations of all employees at the Congressional Research Service. In his spare time, he has also been active in the Federal Caucus of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (the IFPTE), with which CREA is affiliated, and which represents a broad segment of the federal workforce. In 1990, Mr. Roth was elected IFPTE Eastern Federal Area Vice President, a position in which he served until July of 1997. He was also elected as Executive Vice President of IFPTE in 1994 and served until July 1997.

Mr. Roth grew up outside Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Antioch College in 1968. He immediately joined the Peace Corps, serving in Catanduanes in the Philippine Republic where he taught math and worked in the areas of economic and agricultural development. In fact, Mr. Roth met his wife-to-be Daisy while he was a Peace Corps volunteer. The two wed and, at the end of his Peace Corps tour, they returned to the States, where Mr. Roth attended the University of California, Berkeley and completed the academic requirements for a Ph.D. in Economics. Before coming to CRS, Mr. Roth also served in the Department of Labor, working as an economist for the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Evaluation, and Research. Mr. and Mrs. Roth have two grown children, Jessica and Benjamin.

As Ranking Member of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, I take great pride in all of the outstanding people