

who choose to work for this august body and help us do our jobs better. On behalf of my colleagues, I congratulate Mr. Roth on his many years of exceptional service to this Congress, to the people of the United States, and the employees of the Congressional Research Service; and as a fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, I thank him for his service to the people of Catanduanes Island. He epitomizes the highest ideals of public service. We wish him all the best.

THE PASSING OF MR. LOWELL O. SCHUSTER

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House with a heavy heart to express my condolences and pay tribute to Mr. Lowell O. Schuster a beloved Virgin Islander, loving husband, devoted father, veteran, teacher, businessman, community leader and very dear friend.

Lowell Schuster was born in Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, on November 12, 1928 to Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Enid Schuster of Christiansted, St. Croix. Mr. Schuster attended St. Mary's Catholic School and The Christiansted High School. After graduation from high school, he enrolled at Howard University in Washington, DC, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. While attending Howard University he entered the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Following his graduation from Howard University, he entered the United States Army as an officer with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

Mr. Schuster had a distinguished military career. He was stationed in Germany where he bravely served during the Cold War. On May 9, 1955, he was promoted to First Lieutenant of the United States Army and was granted Top Security clearance. He became Infantry Unit Commander and led the troops on daily patrols along the West Germany-East Germany border. On November 26, 1958, Mr. Schuster was granted an Honorable Discharge. In recognition of his military service, he received the National Defense Service Medal. Mr. Schuster continued his service to our Nation by entering the Army Reserves where he was promoted to Captain. He also became active with the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army Reserves on February 10, 1969.

During his tenure in the Reserves, Mr. Schuster began his second career as a teacher at the Christiansted High School. He again distinguished himself as an educator and within a short period of time was promoted to Assistant Principal and later became Acting Principal. After his father became ill, he resigned from his position to enter the world of business, taking over the operations of Schuster's Services, the largest fully integrated water company in the Virgin Islands. He further expanded the business to include the bottling of water and named it Blue Mountain Water, now Blue Mountain Purified Water, LLC.

These water companies were Mr. Schuster's pride and joy. He looked forward to going to the office every morning, working tirelessly, and returning home to his family. Blue Mountain Purified Water, LLC remains the first bottled water company in the Virgin Islands and the largest of its kind on St. Croix. Schuster's Services is one of the oldest businesses in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Of all of his accomplishments, his greatest was being a devoted husband and father. Mr. Schuster married the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Rita M. de Chabert, after entering the armed services. They started their family while he was stationed in Germany. Mr. Schuster and his wife were married for 58 years and raised 4 children—Gregory, Janine, Kenneth and Troy. They are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren.

On behalf of my family, staff and the Congress of the United States, I extend our sincere condolences and want the family to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them as we mourn the passing of a great man. We cannot replace Lowell but we will attempt to improve our lives and live our lives as demonstrated by his great example.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House last Friday (November 30th) due to a family funeral and missed rollcall votes 612–613. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 612 (motion to recommit H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act) and "no" on rollcall vote 613 (final passage of H.R. 6429).

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY 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 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 recognize, from the Army:

Mona Figueroa, Julie Chery, Amaury Acosta, Delawrence Blue, Pedro David Lanza, Jimmy Moises Palma, Edwin Garcia Llauger, Dejongh Oscar, Evette Linda Phillips, Virgil A. Lacey, Norman Cooper, William Berrios, James Hosley, Charles Henry Green, Daniel Shannon, Franklin D. Mack, Alfred E. Glass, Cleotha Brown, Thomas George Darden,

Ishmnel Cash Rolle, Jr., John Steele, Bobby White, Andrew D. Reid, Neville Solomon Shorter, Richard A. Love, Jr., Rufus Lester, Hector Ramirez, Paul Murray, Alexander Flowers, Eulas C. Mitchell, Jr., Jeffrey Smith, Reinnier Ray Santos, Sunil Mittoo, Trenton A. Brewton, Travis D. Small, Bernard Carr, Michael D. Beebe, George Hill, Robert Foster, Wilfred Bedeau, Derrill Clayton White, Hector E. Valle Acosta, Alex Esteban White, Tan S. Eward, Jeffrey Allen Cooper, Robert Brown, Mose McClain, Alejandro Suarez, James Henry Sconiers, Murray Lanard, Milto N. Smith, Tomas M. Rodriguez, Rutheven Williams, Roscoe Shannon, James L. Struchins, Tommy Fortner, Jr., Elizabeth Fequiere, Andrew Nesbitt, Paul M. Wellons, Samuel C. Rhoden, Cedric Halyard, Alvin Chambers, Shirlene Ann Lassiter, Jerome Williams, Hugh H. Hood, Jared M. Dawson, Charles F. Johnson, Jr., John A. Cooper, Israel Santiago, Deoraj Ramsaran, Willie L. Thompson, Michelle R. Forbes-Brown, Benjamin B. Cowins, Sr., Rufus Curry, Jr., Michel Pellerin, Craig Coney, Abe Stein, Phillip A. Johnson, Claude Evans Adside, Jr., Debra Reed, George A. Stewart, John Garrison, Ronald Maycok, Charles Markx, Walter Hardemon, Corey Cornell Butler, Willie Brinson, Willie Thomas, Edwin Bain, Herman Williams, Albert Sturrip, Dan Brand, Jerry Williams, Esme Bain, James C. Smith, Raymond Burke, John Donald Pace, Jr., Derrick Andrea Porter, Patricia Ann Barber, James E. Johnson, Diana M. Gilliam, Carla Horne, Beatrice E. McIver, Winifred D. Browne, Evette Linda Phillips, Charlie Reid, John Williams, Simuel Williams Jr, Maurice Ratliff, Michael Johnson, Santwan Williams, Hector Rivera, Nathan Johnson, Jose Morales, Alphonso Giles, Beverly Bethel, John Riley, Karen Boyd, Edgar Childs, Virgil Lacey, Frank Rawlerson, Mariano Cruz, John Zeigler, Melissa Billingsley, Evette Phillips, George Stanley, Namon J. Gilbert Jr. Glen R. George, Allyn McKinney, Charles Green, Roger Hibard, Seitu Muhammad Kokavi, Shirl Cornwall, Richard Mason, Peter James Kendrick, Charles Mack, Ronald Maycok, John Garrison, Norman Kight, Henry Picket, Willie Thang, April Barnes, Thaddeus Pinkney, John Wallace, Walter Hodge, Luther Benjamin Smith, Charmaine Rolle, Allison Bullard, Timothy Forbes Sr., Sam Lattimore, Edilberto Martinez, Phillip Moncur, Vernetta Berry Richardson, Wilfred Bedeau, Wesly Frazier, Darrell Morgan, Roland James, Henry Elam, Alfred Gordon, Peter James Kendrick, Louis Tyler, Karen A. Boyd, Frederick Edwards, Johnnie Nesmith;

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.