

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pogrom against people of Armenian descent in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The three-day massacre in the winter of 1988 resulted in the deaths of scores of Armenians, many of whom were burnt to death after being brutally beaten and tortured. Hundreds of others were wounded. Women and girls were brutally raped. The carnage created thousands of ethnic Armenian refugees, who had to leave everything behind to be looted or destroyed, including their homes, cars and businesses.

These crimes, which were proceeded by a wave of anti-Armenian rallies throughout Azerbaijan, were never adequately prosecuted by Azerbaijan authorities. Many who organized or participated in the bloodshed have gone on to serve in high positions on the Azeri government. For example, in the days leading up to the massacre, a leader of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Hidayat Orujev, warned Armenians in Sumgait: "If you do not stop campaigning for the unification of Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, if you don't sober up, 100,000 Azeris from neighboring districts will break into your houses, torch your apartments, rape your women, and kill your children." In a cruel twist, Orujev went on to serve as Azerbaijan's State Advisor for Ethnic Policy and later as head of State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations.

The Sumgait massacres led to wider reprisals against Azerbaijan's ethnic minority, resulting in the virtual disappearance of Azerbaijan's 450,000-strong Armenian community, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in almost 30,000 dead on both sides and created more than one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In the years since the fighting ended, the people of Artsakh, the region's ancestral name, have struggled to build a functioning democratic state in the midst of unremitting hostility and threats from Azerbaijan, as well as sniper fire and other incursions across the Line of Contact between the two sides. Hatred towards Armenians is both inculcated and celebrated in Azeri youth, as exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who had confessed to the savage 2004 axe murder of Armenian army lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan, while the latter slept. At the time, the two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise in Budapest, Hungary. After the murder, Safarov was sentenced to life in prison by a Hungarian court and imprisoned in Hungary.

Last August Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead of prison, he

was greeted as a hero by the Azeri government and promenaded through the streets of Baku carrying a bouquet of roses. President Ilham Aliyev immediately pardoned Safarov and he was promoted to the rank of major and given a new apartment and eight years of back pay.

In recent weeks, 75-year-old Akram Aylisli, one of Azerbaijan's most celebrated writers, has been subjected to a campaign of hatred. According to a report in the BBC, "[h]is books have been publicly burnt. He has been stripped of his national literary awards. And a high-ranking Azeri politician has offered \$13,000 as a bounty for anyone who will cut off his ear. Aylisli's 'crime?'—in his short novel *Stone Dreams*, he dared to look at the conflict between Azeris and Armenians from the Armenian perspective.

With these disgusting acts, the Azeri state reminded the whole world why the people of Artsakh must be allowed to determine their own future and cannot be allowed to slip into Aliyev's clutches, lest the carnage of Sumgait a quarter century ago serve as a foreshadowing of a greater slaughter.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY, MRS.
BETTY HECHLINSKI

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of my aunt, Mrs. Betty Hechliniski of South Bend, Indiana who turns 80 years old today. A lifelong Hoosier resident, Aunt Betty was the oldest of three children and attended school in her hometown of South Bend, graduating from St. Adalbert Elementary School and Washington High School.

Aunt Betty has always assumed a natural leadership role in the Walorski family, particularly to my father, the late Ray Walorski. The proud mother of three children and five grandchildren, Aunt Betty continues to stay busy in the community, attending church and blessing us all with her wonderful cooking at family gatherings. As the matriarch of the Walorski family, she continues to remind us of the power of generosity and kindness. I am honored to join our family and friends in wishing Aunt Betty a Happy Birthday, with many more years of continued health and joyful memories.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM P.
GALLIGAN'S 43 YEARS OF SERVICE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William (Bill) P. Galligan, for

his exceptional dedication to duty and service to the Department of Defense, spanning over a 43-year career, in honor of his retirement at the end of September 2012.

Mr. Galligan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in February 1969 and served on Active Duty until February 1993. His uniformed service included two combat tours in Vietnam, assignments at bases in Germany and stateside, and 11 years as administrative assistant and Congressional courier on the Comptroller's staff at the Pentagon. With his retirement from the Air Force, he transitioned to a civilian role and continued to serve the Comptroller organization for another 19 years.

In his capacity, including three decades in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) office, serving 15 Congresses from the 98th to the 112th, Mr. Galligan delivered key documents to our Committee from the Department of Defense. We could always count on a story that ended with a chuckle from Bill. Many staff over the years has become fond of Bill and it won't be the same not seeing his face around Capitol Hill anymore.

We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. I'm sure he will be enjoying more time with his grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH COLLINS-RUDOLPH
IN RECOGNITION OF HER SACRIFICES AS A SURVIVOR OF
THE 1963 BOMBING OF SIXTEENTH
STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Sarah Collins-Rudolph, a little known American hero whose life was forever changed on the morning of Sunday, September 15, 1963. On that tragic day, Sarah's sister Addie was one of four little girls killed in the noted bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. While her name isn't engraved in memorials or printed in history books, to many in the Birmingham community, Sarah is known as "the fifth little girl." As we remember the 50th anniversary of this tragic event in our nation's history, we pay tribute to the four lives that were lost. But, we must also remember those that survived this horrible tragedy. Sarah Collins-Rudolph is one of those survivors. Sarah is the last of eight children born to Alice and Oscar Collins of Birmingham, AL. The day of the bombing, she was just 12 years old. Sarah and Addie Mae were one year apart and formed a unique closeness due to their closest in age.

On the morning of the bombing, Sarah was in the bathroom of the church's basement with the four victims including Addie Mae, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley. Sarah was the only girl in the bathroom

• 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.

that day to survive. She lost her right eye and her life was filled with corrective surgeries and extensive medical care for her injuries. There were 21 survivors of the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church but no single family suffered as much as the Collins family, losing Addie Mae and caring for Sarah's multiple injuries.

The physical and emotional scars of this senseless tragedy remain with Sarah as she continues her extraordinary life. Even today, there are moments when she struggles mentally with her fate of being bombed at just 12 years old. Despite the persistent aftermath of the events, she is dedicated to making sure that the nation remembers the bombing and its significance to the civil rights movement. Sarah shares her painful story in hopes that future generations will know their history and remember those that were symbols of the civil rights movement.

Today, I salute Sarah Collins-Rudolph for her sacrifices to our country. We are often reminded of the civil rights giants that fought on the front lines for justice and equality. But it is an imperative that we never forget the sacrifices made by all those who were a part of this transformative time in America. On behalf of a grateful nation, we say thank you to Mrs. Sarah Collins-Rudolph for the personal sacrifice and courageous fight she has endured for civil and equal rights. On that Sunday morning in 1963, Sarah's life changed instantly and she was forever scarred by the actions of those who sought to stifle America's movement. But because of Sarah, we rejoice in a new era of our history that realizes the dreams of those before us.

We salute Mrs. Collins-Rudolph because her story was a catalyst for a new America. Her sacrifices led us to the liberties and freedoms that many of us enjoy today. I am especially grateful for Sarah's story for had it not been for her painful journey, my own journey would not be possible. As Alabama's first Black Congresswoman, I stand before you today with a humble heart knowing that Sarah's journey paved the way for my own place in American history.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mrs. Sarah Collins-Rudolph, an Alabama treasure and an American hero.

TO RECOGNIZE THE FAIRFAX COUNTY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND THE 2013 FAIRFAX COUNTY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Youth Football League and to congratulate the 2013 Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame honorees and scholarship award recipients.

The importance of youth sports cannot be overstated. Participation in organized sports instills in our youth many values that will serve them well throughout life. These values include sportsmanship, teamwork, honesty, a sense of belonging, and maybe most important, the work ethic developed by striving for

success and working to achieve a common goal. Organized youth sports also contribute to our society. Studies have shown a correlation between participation in sporting activities and increased academic performance. Some studies indicate that a reduction in gang activity can be partially attributed to refocusing at-risk children into organized, supervised activities such as youth sports.

I commend the Fairfax County Youth Football League for providing opportunities for our children to succeed and be a part of a team. I also congratulate the following students, coaches and community leaders who are being recognized at the 23rd Annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame:

\$1,500 Scholarship Award Recipients: Raina Aide (Cheerleading, J.E.B. Stuart HS), Harrison "Sonny" Romine (Football, Chantilly HS), Brian Deely (Football, Westfield HS), and Ben Sanford (Football, Madison HS)

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame 2013 Inductees: Evan Royster (Washington Redskins, Penn State, Westfield HS, FPYC), Bruce Hanson (Head Coach, Yorktown HS), and Steve Wilmer (Coach/Commissioner—McLean Youth Football)

Football Official of the Year—Youth Sports: Steve Caruso (Fairfax County Football Officials Association)

Karl Davey Community Achievement Award: Tom Healy (Southwestern Youth Association, FCYFL)

Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award: Deb Garris (Manager, Synthetic Turf Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority)

Gene Nelson Commissioner of the Year Award: Jason McEachin (Dulles South Youth Sports)

High School Players of the Year: Jonathan Allen (Stone Bridge HS), Tyler Donnelly (Yorktown HS), Oren Burks (South County HS), Sean Huelskamp (Chantilly HS), Scott Carpenter (Gonzaga College HS), Nick Newman (Battlefield HS)

High School Coaches of the Year: Mickey Thompson (Stone Bridge HS), Jason Rowley (Oakton HS)

Youth Sports Players of the Year: Avery Howard (Manassas YFL), Virginia "Ginny" Delacruz (SYC), Justin Burke (RYA), Preston Bacon (CYA), Miles Thompson (Fairfax Police Youth Club), Anthony Eaton, Jr. (Alexandria Youth Football), Hunter Godin (APYFL), Robbie McGoff (SCAA), Nicholas DiVecchia (SYA), Markel Harrison (VYI), Carlo Esposito (BRYC), Michael Bayeux-Gary (HOYF), Phillippe Oliveros (CYA), Joshua Breece (Ft. Belvoir Youth Sports), Noah Adler (VYI), Christian Jessup (Dulles South Youth League)

Youth Sports Coaches of the Year: Anthony Price (Gum Springs Community Center), Buddy Morris (BRYC), Tommy Durand (Arlington Football League), Donny Cooke (VYI)

Youth Cheerleaders of the Year: Haley Clay (Dulles South Youth League), Rachel Strauss (VYI), Angel Bailey (HOYC), Asjah Snead (HOYC), Meghan Adams (GHYFL)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Fairfax County Youth Football League as well as those students, coaches and community leaders who are being honored at this 2013 Hall of Fame celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll No. 53. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING MARINE MASTER SERGEANT ELBERT LESTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I rise to recognize a remarkable veteran, Marine Master Sergeant Elbert Lester. On Friday, November 2, 2012 Marine Master Sergeant Elbert Lester, now eighty-seven years of age, was awarded the Munford Point Marines' Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress for distinguished achievement.

The Munford Point Marines were the first African-Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps in 1941, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Fair Employment Practices Commission, ultimately forcing the Corps to recruit blacks. When asked, "Why did you choose the Marine Corps?" he replied "They decided that for me." He then explained while at the Army recruiting station, the black company was asked for volunteers to go into the Marines. No one did. "So, they put our names in a hat and my name was one of those that were pulled. I was one of the unlucky ones."

Elbert Lester was assigned to the 27th Depot Company as a Corporal and would leave the service as Master Sergeant. Following training, his unit was put aboard a ship in Norfolk, VA to Guadalcanal, a thirty-day voyage that would begin his time of service in the South Pacific. Most of the 19,000 black Marines trained at Munford Point were assigned to ammunition and depot companies, bring ammunition and supplies to the front lines, and returning wounded and dead to transport ships.

After the war, he returned to Quitman County, Mississippi where he married his childhood sweetheart Pearlina Williams. They have thirteen children: Frank, Teresia, Pearlina Mae, Elbert Jr., Patricia, Lacsia, Napoleon, Miranda, Alberta, Timothy, Roderick, Darius, Cornelius and three adopted: Waring, Tiffany and Kikera Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Lester have been married for 65 years and live on their 80-acre farm. They attend Woodland Missionary Baptist Church, where they both sing in the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Monford Point Marine Master Sergeant Elbert Lester for his sacrifices in promoting democracy around the world and the United States of America.

SLAIN SANTA CRUZ POLICE
OFFICERS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I had planned to be on the floor this morning to talk about the 52nd Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corp.

However, something very unpeaceful happen in my district in Santa Cruz, CA recently that I need to speak about instead—Tuesday afternoon, two police officers were shot and killed, and a suspect was later killed by police.

When other officers arrived at the scene, they found the two detectives, Sgt. Loran “Butch” Baker, a 28-year veteran, and detective Elizabeth Butler, a 10-year veteran, shot and killed outside a residence.

Sgt. Baker and Detective Butler are the first officers to be killed in the line of duty in the city’s history.

Sgt. Baker leaves behind a wife, two daughters and a son, who is a community service officer with the Santa Cruz Police Department.

Detective Butler leaves behind her partner and two young sons.

This is a horrible tragedy, and I join with all residents of the Central Coast, to mourn this loss and to pay our respects to these two outstanding officers.

Our prayers and sympathies are with the families and loved ones of the officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

While the words of comfort we offer today are sincere, our actions and deeds will be the true test of our resolve. If we are truly committed to ending gun violence in our communities, we must be willing to find real solutions to prevent this type of senseless shooting from occurring again.

We owe that much to the brave men and women who put on a police uniform every day.

We must be willing to protect those who so bravely protect us.

As a community, we promise that the sacrifices of Sgt. Baker and Detective Butler will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, had I been present, I would have voted “Yea.”

TO RECOGNIZE VFW POST 7327 AND
THE 2013 AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 and the recipients of its 2013 Annual Awards.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) traces its beginnings to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish American War established local organizations to bring awareness to their service and to advocate for veterans retirement benefits and improved medical care. Today, with membership of 2.2 million at approximately 8,100 posts worldwide, the VFW continues its efforts to support the men and women who have served our great country in uniform and their families.

The VFW has a distinguished record of service to the broader community. The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism every year. In this field of champions, the Springfield VFW Post 7327 stands out for the depth of its commitment to our community.

Often called “The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia,” Post 7327 has one of the most aggressive ADOPT-A UNIT programs in the entire VFW organization to support our service members stationed overseas. VFW Post 7327 visits the VA hospital at least quarterly; bringing along goodie bags for our Wounded Warriors. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, VFW Post 7327 adopts military families in need through the USO and provides them with meal baskets for each holiday, Christmas gifts for all the children, commissary cards for the parents, and a Christmas party where the children can meet Santa and receive a gift filled stocking. The Ladies Auxiliary members collect, sort, and distribute more than 2,000 pieces of clothing each month to various charitable organizations. VFW Post 7327 is a strong supporter of local youth organizations including the Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Little League Baseball that contribute greatly to the education and well being of our children.

Each year, VFW Post 7327 bestows awards to outstanding local citizens in recognition of their extraordinary actions and dedication. I congratulate the following individuals on receiving these 2013 Awards:

Teachers of the Year: Erin Poppe and Michael Walser.

Voice of Democracy: 1st Place: Michael D. Marriott, 2nd Place: Kathryn Cummins.

Patriot’s Pen: 1st Place: Shane David King, 2nd Place: Sion Kim, 3rd Place: Rishon A. Elliott.

Police Officer of the Year: George Joca.
Emergency Medical Technician of the Year: Kayla Thompson.

VFW Post 7327 has also recognized JW & Friends Restaurant and the Northern Virginia Surgery Center for their continued support to the Post and its Ladies Auxiliary.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2013 Awardees and in thanking the members, Ladies Auxiliary, and supporters of VFW Post 7327 for their continued service to our country and our community.

HONORING GERALD MCKINSEY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of my constituents, Gerald McKinsey of Greensburg, Indiana.

Gerald was a life-long resident of Greensburg, working in manufacturing at the local

Honda automotive facility and, before that, at Gecom. On a personal note, my brother Rich and I have very fond memories of summer days spent on sports, bikes, and video games with Gerald and his brother, Jeff. Their friendships, and the friendship of their entire family, were a very important part of our childhood. Those memories will never be forgotten.

I ask the entire 6th District to keep Gerald’s mother, Faye, his daughter, Kayla, and son, Keegan, along with the entire extended McKinsey family in your thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 49, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to Academic Competition Resolution of 2013, I was unable to successfully cast my vote by electronic device.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yes.”

THE COST OF INACTION WILL BE
STAGGERING

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I submit this letter, which is an example of an opportunity for a bipartisan climate action.

THE COST OF INACTION . . .

The effects of climate change in the world’s most vulnerable regions present a serious threat to American national security interests. As a matter of risk management, the United States must work with international partners, public and private, to address this impending crisis. Potential consequences are undeniable, and the cost of inaction, paid for in lives and valuable U.S. resources, will be staggering. Washington must lead on this issue now.

Countries least able to adapt to or mitigate the impacts of climate change will suffer the most, but the resulting crises will quickly become a burden on U.S. priorities as well. Both the Department of Defense and the State Department have identified climate change as a serious risk to American security and an agent of instability. Without precautionary measures, climate change impacts abroad could spur mass migrations, influence civil conflict and ultimately lead to a more unpredictable world. In fact, we may already be seeing signs of this as vulnerable communities in some of the most fragile and conflict-ridden states are increasingly displaced by floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Protecting U.S. interests under these conditions would progressively exhaust American military, diplomatic and development resources as we struggle to meet growing demands for emergency international engagement.

It is in our national interest to confront the risk that climate change in vulnerable regions presents to American security. We must offer adaptive solutions to communities currently facing climate-driven displacement, support disaster risk reduction measures and help mitigate potential future

impacts through sustainable food, water and energy systems. Advancing stability in the face of climate change threats will promote resilient communities, reliable governance and dependable access to critical resources.

We, the undersigned Republicans, Democrats and Independents, implore U.S. policymakers to support American security and global stability by addressing the risks of climate change in vulnerable nations. Their plight is our fight; their problems are our problems. Even as we face budgetary austerity and a fragile economic recovery, public and private sectors must work together to meet the funding demands of this strategic investment in internationally-backed solutions. Effective adaptation and mitigation efforts in these counties will protect our long-standing security interests abroad.

Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State 1997-2001; Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State 2001-05; Samuel Berger, National Security Advisor 1997-2001; Sherwood Boehlert, US Congressman (R-NY) 1983-2007; Carol Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency 1993-2001; Michael Castle, US Congressman (R-DE) 1993-2011, Governor (R-DE) 1985-92; GEN Wesley Clark, USA (Ret), Fmr. Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO; William Cohen, Secretary of Defense 1997-2001, US Senator (R-ME) 1979-97; Lt Gen Lawrence P. Farrell, Jr., USAF (Ret.), Fmr. Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, HQ USAF; BG Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., P.E., Ph.D., USA (Ret.), Fmr. Dean of the Academic Board, US Military Academy; Wayne Gilchrest, US Congressman (R-MD) 1991-2009; James Greenwood, US Congressman (R-PA) 1993-2005; VADM Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.), Fmr. Inspector General of the Department of the Navy; Lee Hamilton, US Congressman (D-IN) 1965-99, Co-Chair, PSA Advisory Board; Gary Hart, US Senator (D-CO) 1975-87; Rita E. Hauser, Chair, International Peace Institute; Carla Hills, US Trade Representative 1989-93; Thomas Kean, Governor (R-N) 1982-90, 9/11 Commission Chair; GEN Paul J. Kern, USA (Ret), Fmr. Commanding General, US Army Materiel Command; Richard Leone, President, The Century Foundation 1989-2011; Joseph I. Lieberman, US Senator (I-CT) 1989-2013; Richard G. Lugar, US Senator (R-IN) 1977-2013; VADM Dennis V. McGinn, USN, (Ret.), Fmr. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Requirements and Programs; Donald McHenry, US Ambassador to the UN 1979-81; Constance Morella, US Congresswoman (R-MD) 1987-2003, US Ambassador to OECD 2003-07; Sam Nunn, US Senator (D-GA) 1972-96; John Porter, US Congressman (R-IL) 1980-2001; Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security 2003-05, Governor (R-PA) 1995-2001; ADM Gary Roughead, USN (Ret.), Fmr. Chief of Naval Operations; Warren Rudman, US Senator (R-NH) 1980-92, Fmr. Co-Chair, PSA Advisory Board; Christopher Shays, US Congressman (R-CT) 1987-2009; George Shultz, Secretary of State 1982-89; Olympia J. Snowe, US Senator (R-ME) 1995-2013; GEN Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.), Fmr. Chief of Staff, US Army, Chairman, CNA Military Advisory Board; Timothy E. Wirth, US Senator (D-CO) 1987-93; Frank Wisner, Undersecretary of State 1992-93; R. James Woolsey, Director of Central Intelligence 1993-95, Co-founder, US Energy Security Council; GEN Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.), Fmr. Commander in Chief, US Central Command.

HONORING PAMELA W. WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Mrs. Pamela W. Walker.

Mrs. Walker was born and raised in Leland, Mississippi. She is one of seven children born on September 27, 1962 to Mr. Vernell and Mrs. Claudine Wilson. She is married to Mr. Lester Walker and has three sons: Jarvis, Reginald, and Derrick.

Mrs. Walker graduated from Leland High School in 1980. She went on to further her education at Alcorn State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985; her Bachelor of Science degree in 1994 from Mississippi Valley State University; and her Masters of Science in 2002, also from Mississippi Valley State University.

Mrs. Walker joined the Army ROTC at Alcorn State University, on May 15, 1984. She has served a total of 26 years in the military. Over that time period, she has attended several military schools, received numerous awards, and she has served overseas in FEPA-Okinawa, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Iraq, and Korea.

Furthermore, her determination and drive to serve this country has pushed her up the ladder in leadership. She was appointed Second Lieutenant (1984), First Lieutenant (1987), Captain (1991), Major (1998), and she retired as a Lieutenant Colonel (2006).

Mrs. Walker is currently an elementary teacher in Greenville Public School District (Mississippi), where she has been for 23 years. She has learned a lot about life during her time in the service, and it has helped her in her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Pamela W. Walker for her time and dedication to serving our country.

TO RECOGNIZE THE RECIPIENTS
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY 2012 LAND
CONSERVATION AND TREE PRES-
ERVATION AND PLANTING
AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of Fairfax County 2012 Land Conservation and Tree Preservation and Planting Awards.

Fairfax County is considered one of the best counties in the nation in which to live, work and raise a family. One reason for this designation is the innovative environmental protection policies that have been implemented by the County and embraced by its business partners. I was pleased to have led that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. These awards recognize the following developers, designers and site superintendents who have excelled in their stewardship of the environment:

Large Commercial: Belvoir Corporate Campus: Owner: Loisdale 24, LLC. Super-

intendent: Bruce Reed. Contractor: Goldin & Stafford, Inc. Engineer: Urban, LTD. Site Inspector: Jim Getts.

Small Commercial: INOVA Lorton Healthplex Phase I: Owner: INOVA Health Care Services. Superintendent: Giancarlo Bulfon. Contractor: Metro Earthworks. Engineer: Vika Virginia LLC. Site Inspector: Martin Klema.

Infill Log: Bull Run Woods Lot 12, Section 8: Owner: Trust Communities, Inc. Superintendent: Peter Judge. Contractor: Basheer & Edgemore Bull Run, LLC. Engineer: Smith Engineering. Site Inspector: David Nichols.

Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Bull Run Woods Lot 12, Section 8: Owner: Trust Communities, Inc. Superintendent: Peter Judge. Contractor: Basheer & Edgemore Bull Run, LLC. Engineer: Smith Engineering. Site Inspector: David Nichols.

Outstanding Engineering Firm: Smith Engineering for Bull Run Woods Lot 12, Section 8 and Urban Ltd. for Mallory Square and Belvoir Corporate Campus.

Outstanding Contractor: Basheer & Edgemore for Bull Run Woods Lot 12, Section 8. Outstanding Superintendent: Giancarlo Bulfon for Belvoir Corporate Campus. Outstanding E/S Inspectors of the Year: David Nichols, Tom French and Martin Klema. Outstanding E/S Plan Reviewers of the Year: Aileen Santiago, Durga Kharel, and Thakur Dhakal.

Tree Preservation Award Recipients: Walker Nature Education Center. Developer: Reston Association. Design Professional: Paciulli Simmons & Assoc. Tree Preservation Contractor: HITT Contracting. Tree Preservation Consultant: Thrive, Incorporated—Plant Health Care Solutions.

Dolley Madison Library: Developer: Fairfax County, DPWES. Design Professional: Engineers: Atkins Global. Design Professional-Contractor: Harvey Cleary Builders. Tree Preservation Contractor/Project Arborist: Zimar and Associates, Incorporates.

Valleybrook Montessori: Developer: Montessori School of Northern Virginia, Incorporated. Design Professional: Patton, Harris, Rust and Associates (A Pennoni Company). Tree Preservation Contractor: Zimar and Associates, Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees. Fairfax County and its residents have benefitted greatly from the collaborative spirit that is represented by these awards today, and I thank each of the awardees for their efforts.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR DOROTHY HUNT FINLEY

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy Hunt Finley—a daughter of Southern Arizona ranchers who spent a lifetime giving back to her community before passing away on February 20th at the age of 92.

Dorothy grew up in rural Cochise County, not far from the U.S.-Mexico border and never envisioned a future as an educator, a beer distributor and a community leader and benefactor.

For three decades, Dorothy was a teacher and a principal at schools in the Tucson Unified School District. She was chairwoman of the TUSD Elementary School Principals and president of the Arizona Elementary School Administrators. Because of her background in education, Dorothy became a member of the Pima Community College Foundation Board and co-founded the Women's Studies Advisory Council at the University of Arizona.

Her life took a turn 30 years ago when her husband, Harold, died. Dorothy became CEO of Finley Distributing Company, a beer wholesaler. She also became a dedicated community activist.

Dorothy was a member of nearly 100 community organizations that benefitted from her time, commitment and financial generosity. That list includes the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Tucson Economic Council, Pima County Juvenile Court, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson Urban League, the Arizona Theatre Company, the UA Wildcat Club, La Frontera Child Family Center, the American Diabetes Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Goodwill Industries, the March of Dimes and the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

Dorothy received numerous well-deserved awards for her work, including a gubernatorial Celebrating Exceptional Women award, the Entrepreneur of the Year award from the YWCA and the Woman of the Year honor from the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. She was named among the top 100 private business owners in Arizona and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the YWCA.

In 2004, Dorothy was presented with the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award, which she traveled to the Pentagon to accept. She also is the only civilian to have a building named after her on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base: the Dorothy Finley Child Development Center.

I am proud to recognize Dorothy Hunt Finley—an exceptional friend to the people of Southern Arizona. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING LARRY DANCE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of my constituents, Larry Dance of Greensburg, Indiana.

Larry was a life-long resident of Greensburg and active member of the community. He served his country in Operation Desert Storm as a member of the Air Force, earning the Act of Bravery Medal. At home, he served as a decorated Lieutenant in the Greensburg Police Department, including being named Officer of the Year and President of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Larry continued his love of sport as an assistant wrestling coach at Greensburg High School and as a team wrestler in the World Police and Fire Games. On a personal note, I have fond memories playing alongside Larry on the Greensburg High School football team.

I ask the entire 6th District to keep his wife Shannon, three daughters Mallory, Megan,

and Baili, and the entire extended Dance family in your thoughts and prayers.

CONGRATULATING GO SOLAR BROWARD ROOFTOP SOLAR Challenge

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Go SOLAR Broward Rooftop Solar Challenge, a U.S. Department of Energy grand-funded program that encourages residents and businesses of Broward County to convert to solar energy. I would like to applaud the program and its sponsors for establishing a simplified and streamlined process for Broward County residents and businesses to obtain photovoltaic rooftop solar systems.

I have been a long time supporter of solar power as a way to create new jobs in South Florida and move our country towards a more secure energy future. With some of our nation's most beautiful environmental treasures, including our beaches and the Everglades, I believe these natural resources must be protected by further investments in renewable energy options. Improving our access to innovative clean energy technologies will help curb our dependence on fossil fuels, thereby benefiting our environment, economy, and national security.

The Go SOLAR Broward Rooftop Challenge provides an important service to the county by making solar power more accessible to local residents and businesses. I am thankful to this conference for bringing together government officials, local businesses, and private citizens committed to solar energy to share information and resources. I want to particularly thank Kristin Jacobs, Broward County Mayor, for her leadership in spreading green energy to the region. Congratulations to the Go SOLAR Broward Rooftop Challenge team and all of the conference participants for taking action to spread solar power resources to South Florida.

HONORING MR. JOHN MCELENEY, DEALERSHIP OWNER OF MCELENEY CHEVY BUICK GMC TOYOTA OF CLINTON, IOWA

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. John McEleney, an automobile dealer in Clinton, Iowa. John, owner of McEleney Chevy Buick GMC Toyota, was recently nominated for the 2013 TIME Dealer of the Year award sponsored by TIME Magazine and Ally. John was nominated by Bruce Anderson, President of the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, and was honored at the National Automobile Dealers Association Convention & Exposition in Orlando. The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the auto industry's most prestigious awards, recognizing both success in the industry and exemplary community service.

John is a third-generation family dealer who operates a dealership first opened in 1914. He began washing cars and doing janitorial work at the dealership as a 13-year-old, and after graduating cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in business administration, he returned to Clinton in 1973 to join the dealership full-time. In 1976 John became dealer operator as a 24-year-old, carrying on the tradition of family ownership. John was chairman of the National Automobile Dealers Association in 2009, a historic year in the auto industry, and he took part in many high-level policy discussions with the US Department of Treasury and the White House in an effort to fight for dealers across the country.

In addition to his dedicated service at the family dealership and his work on behalf of the American auto industry, John has been a generous supporter of charitable efforts, including supporting the Iowa Automobile Dealers Foundation for Education and the National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation. He also founded the "Fill the Stocking Fund" in Clinton that helps provide gifts and financial support for needy families within the community. John has chaired a successful fundraising campaign to support economic development in the Clinton area, as well as serving as president of the Clinton Rotary Club, on the Paul B. Sharar Foundation Board of Directors, and as vice president of the Mount St. Clare College board.

On behalf of my constituents, I would like to thank John McEleney for his years of service to the Clinton community, the State of Iowa, and our nation. I know I join his colleagues, friends, and family in congratulating him for his nomination for TIME Dealer of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 47.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 DULLES REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR"

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce (the DRCC) for its ongoing dedication to local businesses and our community. The DRCC sponsors a fundraising event, Casino Royale, the proceeds of which will support programs for homeless children in Fairfax County. In addition, during this event, the DRCC will present its 2013 "Educator of the Year" Awards to educators who demonstrate exceptional effort and achievement.

The DRCC dates back to 1959, when it began as the Herndon Chamber of Commerce. Since its founding, the Chamber has

witnessed explosive regional growth and now serves the Town of Herndon; western Fairfax County, including the communities of Chantilly, Centreville and Fairfax; and eastern Loudoun County, including the communities of Sterling/Dulles, South Riding, and parts of Ashburn. The DRCC defines itself as a workforce chamber and is known for its leadership in the areas of diversity, education, and transportation advocacy.

As the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and now as a Member of Congress representing much of this community, I have been proud to partner with the DRCC on promoting the region's pro-business climate and expanding Metro's Silver Line into the Dulles Corridor.

Northern Virginia is considered one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. One factor in this designation is our outstanding school systems. The DRCC recognizes the importance of a globally competitive K–12 education system to our workforce development and believes the most important investment Virginia can make is in human capital.

The jobs of the future and the ability of our businesses to compete rest in having a well-trained workforce. As an elected representative and a parent, I believe that investing in education and college access programs, with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, is an investment in America and will spur innovation and set our young people on a path for lifelong success. This year's awardees have demonstrated how outstanding educators are crucial leaders on that journey. Therefore, I am pleased to join the chamber in congratulating the following recipients of the 2013 Educator of the Year Award:

Ms. Whitney Branisteanu, Dranesville Elementary School; Ms. Hallie Case, Herndon Middle School; Ms. Barbara Clougherty, Chantilly High School; Ms. Jen Howe, Chantilly Academy; Mr. Jeff Jones, Mountain View High School; Ms. Cheryl McGovern, Herndon Elementary School; Ms. Kelly Mosgrove, Ormond Stone Middle School; Ms. Amy Valint, Herndon High School; Ms. Kay Ward, Liberty Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals and thanking them for their many contributions to our children's success and our nation's future.

HONORING ANDREW L. HAWKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a war veteran, Mr. Andrew L. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins is a native of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. He is the youngest son born to the late Dave and Evelyn Hawkins of Webb. He received his early education in the West Tallahatchie School District and is a 1966 graduate of West District High School of Sumner. Mr. Hawkins migrated to Chicago, IL after graduation, and shortly thereafter was inducted into the United States Army.

Mr. Hawkins attended Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training (AIT) in Fort Polk, Louisiana. He qualified with the 45 caliber, M–

14 and M–16 as a marksman and sharp shooter. His next duty station following AIT landed him in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) from 1969 to 1970, where he served one year of duty initially while stationed in La Kai for several months with the First Infantry Division. The remainder of his tour was with the 101st Airborne Division, where he was wounded in action and was awarded a Purple Heart Metal and returned home.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, he began pursuing higher education at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois on the GI Bill. He completed his bachelor's degree and much of his master's at DePaul. He later moved back to his home state of Mississippi because he felt that his military experience had equipped him with life skills and discipline to cope with life challenges back home. Mr. Hawkins attributes his will to survive and success to his parents, community, elementary and high school teachers, and his strong spiritual upbringing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing wounded Vietnam War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Andrew L. Hawkins, for his dedication and service to his country while in the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF STEM EDUCATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to this country's future and posterity. Educating a STEM workforce has become increasingly central to U.S. economic competitiveness and growth and requires the collaborative efforts of government, private industry and non-profits to succeed.

STEM fields are more important than ever to the development and maintenance of a high standard of life than ever. However, over the past several decades the performance of American students in STEM subjects has lagged behind their international peers. And at the same time that students are spending less time studying science in the classroom than they did a decade ago, only one out of every five households has access to STEM extracurricular activities.

Employers are increasingly frustrated when searching for qualified applicants for high-paying STEM jobs. Job growth in STEM fields offers great potential, estimated to grow at the rate of 17 percent by 2018—nearly double the rate of non-STEM related careers. Given these figures, it is difficult to understate the importance of STEM education, both in and outside of school, for our nation's collective economic future and the future our nation's students. Federal, state, and local governments must partner with the private sector to provide American students with the resources necessary to compete in an increasingly competitive global market.

One private sector campaign aimed at addressing this issue is Time Warner Cable's Connect a Million Minds (Camm) program. Camm is designed to inspire the next generation of problem solvers by connecting young

people to the wonders of STEM outside of the classroom. Introduced in November 2009 in conjunction with President Obama's "Educate to Innovate" effort, Camm has answered the President's call-to action for cross-sector partnerships to address the STEM crisis. In downstate New York, Camm connects parents and students with dozens of local STEM resources that would otherwise remain untapped, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the National Park Service at Hamilton Grange, and the New York Transit Museum.

I want to congratulate Time Warner Cable for this important initiative and urge my colleague to recognize how essential such programs are to all of our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR
PAY ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 4th anniversary of The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, I would like to take a moment to recognize the importance of equal pay for equal work. Equal opportunity for women—of which equal pay is a fundamental facet—is an essential premise for our nation to be a Democracy.

In 2009, the Democratic Congress took strides to further close the gender discrimination gap in the professional work environment by passing The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first bill President Obama signed law. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is of enormous importance for women's rights in the workplace. For decades, companies large and small have paid women less for the same work compared to their male counterparts. This law reaffirmed that each occurrence of pay and compensation discrimination against women violates title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The law addressed a Supreme Court ruling in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company that undermined statutory protections against discrimination by unduly restricting the time period in which victims of discrimination could challenge and recover for discriminatory compensation decisions or other practices, contrary to the intent of Congress. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restored women's right to challenge employers once they discovered they were wrongfully discriminated against in terms of pay and benefits. Further, the law clarified that employees are entitled to up to two years of backpay for such discrimination, as provided under title VII.

Since enactment, courts around the country have applied the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as Congress intended, for straightforward pay discrimination cases based on sex, race, disability, and age. In clarifying the period during which a worker may file a discrimination claim by each unfair paycheck, the law has provided a proper time frame extension to file lawsuits against employers for wage discrepancies. The anniversary of the signing of this bill reflects the commitment of our nation to ensure equal pay for all Americans and serves as a reminder that we must monitor and protect civil rights laws.

Unfortunately, equal opportunity is not yet a reality for women. This is why I join my Democratic colleagues in supporting the The Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthens the equality provisions within the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and eliminates the loopholes not seen in the past. For example, it increases penalties on employers who violate federal law and allows women to pursue legal matters if they are treated unjustly. The legislation also ensures equality in the tax code so that everyone—male and female, high-income earners and those living in poverty—pays their respective tax rate. Fairness should be applicable to all, in wages and in taxes. The Paycheck Fairness Act provides effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for equal work, and Congress should pass the bill as soon as possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HORACE
NARVEL BROOKS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Horace “Chief” Narvel Brooks. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the good and long life of Mr. Brooks, who passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2013.

Horace joined the United States Navy at the age of 17 and served in both World War II and the Korean War. Horace, having faithfully served, retired from the military as a Chief Gunner’s Mate. Horace far exceeded his duty in serving both his country, family and the 24th District of Texas. Each year around Veterans Day, Horace would share stories of his military duties with high school students, imparting wisdom and firsthand experiences.

Mr. Speaker, Horace “Chief” Brooks was a great father and family man, and a true American patriot. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life, and honoring the many people whose lives are better for having crossed his path.

RECOGNIZING THE TURNING POINT
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, as the nation’s capital hosts a weekend celebration of women’s suffrage on March 2 and 3, I want to share with my colleagues a little-known, national landmark in my—the Turning Point Memorial at the former Occoquan Workhouse, in Lorton.

From 1917 to 1919, more than 200 women from 26 states were arrested for “obstructing traffic” and “holding a meeting on public grounds.” Around 70 of those women, suffragists who were called “Silent Sentinels,” were imprisoned for picketing with signs and banners on the White House sidewalk demanding their right to vote. Police hauled them to the then Occoquan Workhouse, later called the Lorton Prison, in Fairfax County, where they were jailed.

Their incarceration was one of the most significant but least known events of the women’s suffrage movement and a true turning point in the ultimately successful struggle. The gutsy women—labeled by some as “unpatriotic”—held firm to their goals. Choosing jail over paying a \$25 fine, one protested, “Not a dollar of your fine shall we pay. To pay a fine would be an admission of guilt. We are innocent!”

Winning the right to vote took 72 years when Tennessee ratified the 19th Amendment in 1920, the largest extension of democratic rights in the nation’s history. The suffragists’ nonviolent actions pioneered civil rights tactics later used in other civic movements and their refusal to back down became a model for activists.

To recognize their struggle, the all-volunteer Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association is building the memorial in the shadow of the nation’s capital in Fairfax County. It will feature a waterfall and 19 stations (for the 19th Amendment) along a winding garden path to relate the history of the movement and the story of empowerment and perseverance. More information can be found online at www.suffragistmemorial.org.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the members and supporters of the Association and wishing them continued success with the memorial.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF S. 47, VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT
OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 11, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Over the last 18 years, VAWA has provided life-saving assistance to hundreds of thousands of women, men, and children. Originally passed by Congress in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, this landmark, bipartisan legislation was enacted in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence and the significant impact that such violence has on the lives of women.

Just last month a co-ed at the venerable University of Virginia, my alma mater was convicted of murdering his girlfriend. This hits close to home. As well as Yvette Cade, who had acid poured over her face by an irate ex-husband. As well as the murder of Annie Le at Harvard University. And unfortunately, I could go on and on. These women were white, black, and Asian, living in different cities under different circumstances. They had one common denominator: victims of abject and perverse violence. Lives destroyed because of men-at-rage.

With each reauthorization, VAWA has been improved in meaningful ways to reflect a growing understanding of how best to meet the varied and changing needs of survivors.

VAWA is working, while rates of domestic violence have dropped by over 50 percent in the past 18 years, there remains a lot of work to be done still have a lot of work ahead of us.

In December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the first National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), which found:

1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime and 1 in 4 women have been the victim of severe physical violence by a partner;

Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant short-term and long-term impacts related to the violence and were more likely to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and long-term chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

Every nine seconds a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten by stalkers or her partner.

Every year in the United States, 1,000 to 1,600 women die at the hands of their male partners, often after a long, escalating pattern of battering.

In 2009, 111 women were killed by their former or current husband, intimate partner or boyfriend in the State of Texas.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF INJURY
FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA

According to a study, there are more victims of domestic violence than victims of rape, mugging and automobile accidents combined. VAWA was designed to address these gruesome statistics.

VAWA established the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which receives over 22,000 calls each month. VAWA funds train over 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel each year.

This landmark legislation sent the message that violence against women is a crime and will not be tolerated.

States are taking violence against women more seriously and all states now have stalking laws, criminal sanctions for violation of civil protection orders, and reforms that make date or spousal rape as serious of a crime as stranger rape.

H.R. 11

The bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. 78 out of 22 U.S. Senators supported this important bipartisan legislation.

The VAWA Reauthorization bill significantly strengthens the ability of the Federal Government, the States, law enforcement, and service providers to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As with the previous reauthorizations of VAWA in 2000 and 2005, this bill responds to the realities and needs reported by those who work with victims every day to make VAWA work better for all victims.

The Republican leadership announced they will bring their version of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization to the House Floor. As opposed to the bipartisan Senate bill, the House Republican version of VAWA omits protections for the LGBT, Native women, and immigrant communities. It also excludes provisions that combat sex trafficking, and that would have helped law enforcement address the backlog in DNA evidence kits. The GOP version is being brought to the House Floor in the complete absence of committee action and without the consultation of House Democrats.

As my colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS stated “The House Republican version of VAWA is evidence that the Majority continues to pick and choose which victims of domestic

violence are deserving of protection. The Senate has passed a strong bipartisan bill that contains critical protections for all victims of domestic violence, but House Republicans are reverting back to partisan politics by pushing through a bill that will not pass the Senate. We should be seeking ways to expand and improve upon the Historic Violence Against Women Act, not limit its ability to protect innocent victims."

Unfortunately, the House Republican bill refuses to acknowledge the needs of all victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and stalking. There are too many women waiting on vital domestic violence services. It is time for House Republicans to end this charade and allow a vote on the comprehensive VAWA that passed the Senate earlier this month.

WHY REPUBLICANS OPPOSE THE BILL ("CONTROVERSIAL"
NEW PROVISIONS)

PROTECTIONS FOR LGBT SURVIVORS

The Senate bipartisan reauthorization of VAWA ensures that ALL victims of domestic violence receive aid, including LGBT survivors. LGBT people are often victims of Domestic Violence:

A 2010 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered victims report intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking at levels equal to or higher than the general population.

The report also found that bisexual women report higher incidences of rape, physical violence, and stalking than their lesbian and heterosexual counterparts.

Recent studies show that LGBT victims face discrimination when accessing services. For example, 45% of LGBT victims were turned away when they sought help from a domestic violence shelter, according to a 2010 survey, and nearly 55% were denied protection orders.

Service providers have gathered numerous stories of LGBT victims denied assistance or services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Senate Bill ensures non-discrimination, and allows for a wider variety of groups to apply for VAWA funding:

The legislation clarifies that organizations seeking to provide specific services to gay and lesbian victims may receive funds under the largest VAWA grant—the STOP formula grant program.

No organization will be required to develop services specifically targeting this population, but those organizations that would like to offer such services will be able to access funding. Currently, STOP grant funds are only available to organizations predominantly serving women.

Additionally, the legislation clarifies that gay and lesbian victims are included in the definition of underserved populations. Although the LGBT community experiences domestic violence at the same rate as heterosexual couples, a 2010 study found that many victim services providers lack services specific to LGBT victims and have not received training in how to work with LGBT victims. Specialized services are important for this population because reporting rates and prosecution rates are very low.

This bill does not Mandate that Service Providers Offer Specific LGBT Services.

The legislation does not require service providers to offer specific programs for LGBT vic-

tims. It simply seeks to increase the availability of specialized services and to ensure that no victim is turned away based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

VAWA AND IMMIGRANT WOMEN

H.R. 11 adds the crime of stalking to the offenses for which a U Visa is available. The U Visa was created to encourage immigrant victims of crime to report and help prosecute criminal activity. It is only available to victims of certain crimes, which currently include domestic violence and sexual assault.

H.R. 11 protects the children of applicants for U Visas from "aging out" of the process if they become adults while their parent's application is pending.

H.R. 11 clarifies that VAWA self-petitioners, U Visa petitioners and holders, and T Visa holders (victims of human trafficking) are exempted from the public charge inadmissibility ground that typically precludes a non-citizen from remaining in the country.

H.R. 11 extends the so-called "widow's and widower's fix," approved by Congress in 2009, to add the surviving minor children of a VAWA self-petitioner when the abusive spouse of the petitioner died after the filing of the petition. Other relatives of the petitioner would remain ineligible.

H.R. 11 requires annual reports to Congress regarding outcomes and processing times for VAWA self-petitions, U Visas, and T Visas.

H.R. 11 strengthens the existing International Marriage Broker Regulation Act to provide vital disclosures to foreign fiancés and fiancées of U.S. citizens regarding the criminal history of the sponsoring citizen and other information foreign fiancé's and fiancée's need to protect themselves from entering abusive marriages. Requires international marriage brokers to collect proof that the foreign fiancé or fiancée is of the age of consent.

H.R. 11 extends the application of the Prison Rape Elimination Act to all immigration detention facilities under the authority of the DHS and HHS.

VAWA EXPANDS PROTECTIONS FOR TRIBAL WOMEN

VAWA Reauthorization provides law enforcement with additional tools to combat domestic and sexual assault in tribal communities.

The bill adds new federal crimes—including a ten-year offense for assaulting a spouse or intimate partner by strangling or suffocating and a five-year offense for assaults resulting in substantial bodily injury—that will enable federal prosecutors to more effectively combat types of assault frequently committed against women in Indian country.

These new crimes allow law enforcement to appropriately address the gradual escalation of seriousness often associated with domestic violence offenses. The bill also clarifies that tribal courts have the authority to issue and enforce tribal protection orders, ensuring that these protection orders can be used effectively to keep women safe.

VAWA Reauthorization closes jurisdictional loopholes to ensure that those who commit domestic violence in Indian country do not escape justice.

The bill addresses a gaping jurisdictional hole by giving tribal courts concurrent jurisdiction over Indian and non-Indian defendants who commit domestic violence offenses against an Indian in Indian country.

Currently, tribal courts do not have jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants who abuse

and attack their Indian spouses on Indian lands, even though more than 50% of Native women are married to non-Indians. Prosecution of domestic violence offenses in Indian country often falls through the cracks, since federal and state law enforcement and prosecutors have limited resources and may be located hours away from tribal communities.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, I urge the members of this House to vote in favor of H.R.11. The Violence Against Women Act provides crucial protections for victims of domestic violence. We cannot wait any longer to reauthorize this crucial legislation that saves the lives of women every day.

HONORING THE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF BOCA RATON AND YAKOV & RUCHIE LYONS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 25th Silver Anniversary of the Young Israel of Boca Raton, Florida synagogue. I would like to recognize them for their service to the Jewish community of South Florida and the local community as a whole.

Founded in 1988, the Young Israel of Boca Raton has served as a center of Jewish identity and education for the South Palm Beach County community. I want to particularly acknowledge Yakov (Jason) and Ruchie Lyons, the special honorees during the Silver Anniversary celebration, for their dedication to the synagogue and its emphasis on prayer, study, and community service.

I would like to congratulate the Young Israel of Boca Raton synagogue, an extraordinary Jewish community of South Florida, on their 25th Silver Anniversary. Hopefully, through their example, the Young Israel's philosophy and spiritual guidance can extend far beyond South Florida.

HONORING ELIZABETH MICHELLE WOODS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Elizabeth Michelle Woods. She is a lifelong resident of the Mississippi Delta.

Ms. Woods joined the United States Army Reserves while a senior in high school at East Side High School and served eight years with the 479th Ordnance Company. She completed a tour of duty in Operation Desert Storm as an assistant squad leader. She earned the U.S. Army Achievement Medal, the U.S. Army Certificate of Achievement and other awards. After returning from Saudi Arabia she obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Social Work.

Ms. Woods earned the rank of Sergeant Promotional after serving our country for 12 years and received an Honorable Discharge. During and after completion of her military

service, she continued her educational pursuits and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, a Masters Degree in Social Work, and an Executive Masters of Science Degree in Health Administration.

Ms. Woods stated that her service to America taught her that she can succeed in her life pursuits. She has utilized her social work skills during her tenure in law enforcement and developed a Crime Victims Assistance Program with the Department of Veterans Affairs where she provided mental health services. Ms. Woods has also served as Director of Social Work at Delta Health Center and Aaron Henry Health Center. Ms. Woods is the daughter of the late Percy and Annie Woods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Elizabeth Woods for her dedication to serving our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 25, 2013, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 46 (on approving the journal) and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 47 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 667).

RECOGNIZING MR. LEE WRIGHT AND HIS 48 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Lee Wright of Woodbridge, Va., for his 30 years of honorable service with the United States Air Force and for his subsequent 18 years of civilian service with the Defense Intelligence Agency. We are fortunate to have among us veterans with Mr. Wright’s sense of duty and continued commitment to public service.

Mr. Wright began his career stationed at Cam Rahn Bay, RVN in 1964. After the war, Mr. Wright served at multiple air stations, eventually serving on staff at the USAF Military Air Command, Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. Mr. Wright soon moved on to DIA assignments spanning Western Europe, Turkey, Eurasia and Russia where he served multiple roles in intelligence operations. His devotion, hard work, and expertise on Russia led to successive roles within DIA’s Russia/EURASIA Division, where Mr. Wright would eventually become Division Chief.

Since August of 2011, Mr. Wright has lent his considerable experience to DIA’s Office of Congressional and Public Affairs where his leadership, work ethic and knowledge base have proven invaluable to his colleagues. There is little doubt that after 48 years of serving his country, Mr. Wright has earned some well-deserved R&R.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in recognizing and thanking Lee Wright for his committed and selfless service to his colleagues and our country. We wish Mr. Wright, his wife, Dottie, and his family well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING RARE DISEASE DAY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, today, February 28, 2013, marks the sixth annual International Rare Disease Day, a day to raise awareness of the nearly 7,000 rare diseases affecting 30 million Americans, or about one in ten people. Here in the United States, any disease affecting 200,000 people or fewer is considered rare.

Rare Disease Day is also an opportunity to celebrate the life-saving advances in science and research that continue to transform the diagnosis, treatment, and standard of care for many orphan diseases, thanks in no small part to the advocacy efforts of the medical community, patients and their families, and rare disease organizations.

In my congressional district, I have met with a number of constituents and their families whose lives have been impacted by rare diseases, cystic fibrosis among them.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States and is characterized by a reduction in the flow of salt and water across cell membranes, which leads to the buildup of thick, sticky mucus in the lungs. In 1955, with limited therapies available, children with cystic fibrosis were not expected to live long enough to attend elementary school. Today, due to significant improvements in medical treatment and care, people with the disease are living longer, healthier lives. The median predicted age of survival now stands at 38 years.

Today, I have never been more hopeful of the promise science holds for all patients affected by rare diseases; however, there remains much work to be done. On this sixth annual International Rare Disease Day, I join with patients and their families in urging my colleagues to think about what more Congress can do to help bring hope to those suffering from rare diseases.

CLUSTER MUNITIONS CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to join my esteemed colleagues, Representative CHARLES BOUSTANY (R-LA) and Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA) and PATRICK LEAHY (D-VT) in introducing the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2013. This bill will restrict the use and deployment of dangerous cluster munitions.

Cluster bombs are canisters designed to open in the air before making contact, dispersing between 200 and 400 small munitions that can saturate a radius of 250 yards. The bombs are intended for military use when attacking enemy troop formations, but are often used in or near populated areas. This is a problem because up to 40 percent of these bomblets fail to explode and become de facto landmines, posing a significant risk to civilians—particularly children—lasting years after a conflict ends.

The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act prevents any U.S. military funds from being used on cluster munitions with a failure rate of more than 1 percent, unless the rules of engagement specify that cluster munitions (1) will only be used against clearly defined military targets, and (2) will not be used where civilians are known to be present or in areas normally inhabited by civilians.

The bill requires the president to report to Congress on the plan to clean up unexploded cluster munitions, and it includes a national security waiver allowing the president to waive the prohibition if he determines such a waiver is vital to national security.

Mr. Speaker, current law prohibits U.S. sales, exports and transfers of cluster munitions that have a failure rate exceeding 1 percent. The law also requires any sale, export or transfer agreement to include a requirement that the cluster munitions will be used only against military targets. Regrettably, the Pentagon insists that the U.S. should continue to have the ability to use millions of stockpiled cluster munitions that have estimated failure rates of 5 to 20 percent until 2018. This is simply not acceptable; we can do better.

I believe strongly that the United States should be an international leader in ending the terrible toll on civilian populations caused by the high failure rate of these weapons. Passage of this bill would establish in law the Pentagon’s standard of a 99 percent functioning rate for all U.S. cluster munitions, and ensure that our deployment and use of these munitions adhere uniformly to this standard. We must do everything possible to spare innocent civilians intended for military targets. The current risk posed by cluster munitions is simply unacceptable.

In 2011, Handicap International studied the effects of cluster bombs in 24 countries and regions, including Afghanistan, Chechnya, Laos and Lebanon. Its report found civilians make up 98 percent of those killed or injured by cluster bombs, and 27 percent of the casualties were children.

The Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions—which has been signed by 111 countries and ratified by 77—prohibits the production, use and export of cluster munitions and requires signatories to eliminate their arsenals within eight years. While nearly all of our major military allies have joined this treaty, to date, the United States has not.

There will always be those who will argue against such a change in military policy and practice, who will say this can’t be done. History argues otherwise. I am hopeful that we can make significant progress on this issue and pass this legislation during the 113th Congress.

THE LAST DOUGHBOY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there was once a man who wouldn't take no for an answer when told he was too young to join the United States Army.

He looked for ways to join, even if it meant telling a recruiter a whopper about his age.

In the recruiter's eyes he was 21 when he was just 16.

And the only way he could land foot in the action of World War I was to drive an ambulance.

It was the quickest way he could get to the battlefield.

He desperately wanted to help other Americans that were already fighting the war to end all wars.

During the war, not only did he rescue Americans, but he rescued the other wounded allies and took them back behind enemy lines.

This brave man was Frank Buckles.

Even after being told "no," he became the last surviving doughboy from America.

This week marks 2 years since his death.

He was 110 years old, and a true fighter, Mr. Speaker.

Today, I remember my friend and patriot, Mr. Buckles.

We celebrate the remarkable life that he lived.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING NED GATHWRIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable veteran of the Korean Conflict from July 30, 1954 until July 25, 1957.

Ned Gathwright served in the United States Army in the Infantry 11 Bravo Company. He received his Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His duty stations were Airborne School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Co E 505th Infantry 2nd Airborne Battalion Group in Augsburg, Germany. For his service, he has received the National Defense Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Gathwright's early education was in the Coahoma County Schools, graduating in 1954 from Coahoma County Agricultural High School. In 1957, he enrolled at Coahoma Junior College on the Montgomery GI Bill. Upon graduating, he entered Jackson State University and received his Bachelor Degree in 1960. The Quitman County School District employed him in the district's Science and Math Departments the same year. He continued his formal education at UCLA, Texas A & M, Michigan State University, and received his Master in Education at the University of Mississippi.

He is married to the former Fannie Hurst and they have two daughters: Sabrina and Katrina. He's a member of the Greenhill Missionary Baptist Church and Coahoma Community College Board of Trustee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ned Gathwright, who has dedicated his life to serving his country and community.

RECOGNIZING LORI SALTZMAN FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of my constituent, Lori Saltzman. After 34 years of service in the United States federal government, Lori is retiring as the Director of the Health Sciences Division at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Lori began her career in the federal government in 1978 as a research scientist in the Pulmonary Branch of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, while attending graduate school at George Washington University. In 1984, she joined the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Directorate for Health Sciences as a toxicologist, where she spent the remainder of her career.

In 1991, Lori was selected to be a candidate in CPSC's Women's Executive Leadership Program, where she learned valuable management skills that helped further CPSC's regulatory and policy development. In 1994, Lori was named acting director of the Health Effects division of Health Sciences and eventually Director of the Division of Health Sciences.

Under her leadership, the Health Sciences staff made significant contributions in helping the CPSC address a number of important consumer product issues, including assessing the toxicity and risk associated with the use of lead and cadmium in children's jewelry, fire retardant chemicals in upholstered furniture and mattresses, phthalates in children's products, and arsenic from pressure treated wood preservatives used on decks and playgrounds.

Lori also represented CPSC on numerous federal interagency groups and task forces. She served as one of the early co-chairs of the federally mandated Committee on Indoor Air Quality (CIAQ), as a federal liaison to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP), and as a representative to the recent Interagency Task Force on Problem Drywall.

Because of Lori's understanding of CPSC's scientific issues, as well as its compliance and enforcement activities, her opinions and technical expertise were often relied upon by Compliance officials to support their actions against regulated industries. Throughout her career she has been dedicated to developing and mentoring her staff to assure that the Commission's compliance activities continue to be supported with the best scientific analyses possible. Her talents in both the scientific and policy arenas led to detail assignments as a special assistant with former CPSC Chairman Ann Brown and Commissioner Nancy Nord, as well as Associate Director in the CPSC's Office of Compliance. Among her many honors and accomplishments, Lori is also a licensed medical technologist registered with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lori Saltzman and in extending our Nation's gratitude to her for her honorable and dedicated service to the United States government. I wish her the best of luck in her retirement and all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this February marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act afforded millions of employees leave of their jobs for personal and family emergencies while keeping their job security intact. This bill expanded access to extended medical leaves to millions of workers and military caregivers enabling these citizens to take a leave intermittently whenever medically necessary to care for a loved one with a serious injury or illness.

The Family and Medical Leave Act has afforded millions of Americans with up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave in one year for family and health events without jeopardizing their employment or their health insurance. Since enactment, American families have used the law more than 100 million times. The law has given mothers and fathers the ability to care for a new baby or a seriously-ill child. The law has helped adults caring for a sick spouse, child, or parent with serious health conditions—a protection that will grow exponentially in importance as the generation of baby boomers age.

Despite the strides we have taken in protecting our workers, many Americans are not able to take advantage of the time off and protections offered under the Family and Medical Leave Act. For example, businesses with fewer than 50 employees are exempt from the law, leaving tens of millions of workers ineligible. The need for continued improvement to federal law is clear from the story of Toya, as told by the Family Values at Work organization. Working as a substitute teacher at the grade school level, Toya needed to take time off to care for her sick children. After several days her boss posed a question to her that should never be asked: "What's more important, your children or your job?" Upon choosing her children, she was told her services were no longer needed. Federal law should not condone, support, or facilitate these situations.

The anniversary of this legislation provides an opportunity to re-affirm that our nation is committed to fair benefits for all workers and to serve as a launching point to strengthen federal laws protecting workers. I celebrate this law and the relief it provides daily to millions of Americans, allowing them the ability to securely take leave from work in order to accommodate emergencies. Such protections constitute a worker's right, not a privilege. On this anniversary, we should examine the law's success as well as areas for improvement. I celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the piece of mind

it gives families so that they can care for loved ones knowing that their jobs will be waiting for them.

THANKING GORDON BEAUDOIN
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on February 28, 2013, we would like to thank Mr. Gordon Beaudoin for his twenty-three years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Gordon has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Gordon began on the Hill in 1990 as an on-site Voice Service Manager with an outside contractor. He was responsible for all telephone services for the House, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. He retired from the company in 2000, and became a full-time employee for the House on April 16, 2001.

Gordon's first responsibility as Manager of the Voice and Video Branch was to sustain existing systems and ensure the best level of voice service was provided to the House community. After September 11, 2001, Gordon's team was tasked with identifying and resolving vulnerabilities in the voice systems necessary for Congress to perform its duties.

Gordon directed the development of a voice network recognized by industry experts as one of the most reliable and sustainable in the country. His team completely revamped the voice system hardware and software to provide multiple backups and redundancy. Additionally, he directed his team to completely redesign the network used to transport phone calls. It was an amazing improvement to reliability of service and one in which Gordon is extremely proud to have been a part.

Then, Gordon's responsibilities focused on the tracking and implementation of new technology in the House community. Gordon had the foresight to initiate projects which will continue to provide House customers with the world class service they expect from the CAO. Based on his vision, the voice network is being converted to an IP based system in order to provide many benefits now as well as in the future. Additionally, the voicemail system is being upgraded to provide new features and functions allowing customers to communicate in more collaborative ways.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Gordon Beaudoin for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many great years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WELFARE
INTEGRITY ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of Washington ending the cycle of drug abuse by allowing states to perform random drug tests to receive the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

The time is now to stop the cruel cycle of drug abuse. Currently, Washington enables people who are addicted to drugs by allowing them to participate in the TANF program while still abusing drugs. This program was designed to provide a safety net for families and children in their time of need. Instead Washington is enabling the drug abuse cycle to continue because Washington does not demand folks who use the program to be drug free.

If Washington wants to help families move toward economic stability it must end the cycle of drug abuse and encourage individuals to become healthy. By allowing for random drug checks, it can ensure that families receiving TANF benefits use the funds for the intended purpose of feeding, clothing, and providing shelter for children while cutting the ties that enables the cycle of drug abuse.

The Welfare Integrity Act of 2013 requires each state participating in the TANF program to certify that applicants and current recipients are being randomly tested for illegal drug use. In order to pass constitutional muster, the Welfare Integrity Act of 2013 requires states to provide a consent and waiver form where applicants are given the choice to waive their Fourth Amendment Rights and submit to a random drug test. The Supreme Court has ruled several times individuals have the right to waive their Fourth Amendment rights. Bottom line, the choice is yours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support me in passing the Welfare Integrity Act of 2013 to eliminate abuse and ensure the benefits are used for the purpose intended, to protect children.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN KRISTIAN
P. BIGGS FOR THIRTY YEARS OF
SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES
NAVY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Kristian P. Biggs for thirty years of dedicated service in the United States Navy. Captain Biggs will retire as the Director of Missile Defense and Integration in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ships.

Captain Kris Biggs was born on July 23, 1961 in Jacksonville, Florida. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics (Departmental Honors) and Mathematics at Jacksonville University, where he received a commission in April 1983 as an Ensign, via the NROTC program, into the Restricted Line (En-

gineering Duty Officer). He holds a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Acoustics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and is a graduate of the Advanced Program Manager's Course from the Defense Systems Management College in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

After completing the Surface Warfare Officer School Basic Course in Coronado, California, he reported to the USS *Lang* (FF-1060) where he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer while serving as Antisubmarine Warfare Officer, Assistant Navigator, and Personnel Officer. In September 1986, Captain Biggs entered the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and graduated in December 1988 with a Masters Degree in Engineering Acoustics. After attending the Engineering Duty Officer Basic Course in Mare Island, California, Captain Biggs reported to Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as the Operational Test Director for the AN/SQQ-89(V) ASW Combat System from 1989 to 1993. During this time he completed the Engineering Duty Officer Qualification Program and participated in the planning and execution of the USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51) Operational Evaluation. Captain Biggs' next assignment was Combat Systems Officer on USS *NASAU* (LHA-4) in Norfolk, Virginia, where he reported in 1993 following the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Course in Newport, Rhode Island.

Captain Biggs reported to Program Executive Officer for Undersea Warfare in Crystal City, Virginia in the fall of 1995. His initial assignment was as an Assistant Program Manager in the Naval Signal Processors Program Office (PMS 428). Following the Advanced Program Manager's Course at DSMC in 1997, Captain Biggs was assigned to the Undersea Weapons Program Office (PMS 404) where he worked on advanced technology. He was selected to become a member of the Acquisition Professional Community and completed his Level III Program Management qualification. In 1998, Captain Biggs was assigned to the Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants where he served as the Navy Area Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD) Test and Evaluation Branch Head in the Navy Area TBMD Program Office (PMS 451). From August 2000 to July 2002, he served as the Navy Area TBMD Systems Engineering Branch Head.

In August 2002, Captain Biggs reported to Program Executive Officer for Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS) Detachment Huntsville, Alabama where he served as the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) Deputy Project Manager (Navy) in the Army Program Executive Officer for Air, Space and Missile Defense. He went to Afghanistan in 2003 and Iraq in 2004 in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He was promoted to Captain in July 2004.

In October 2004, Captain Biggs became the 11th Commanding Officer of Aegis Technical Representative in Moorestown, NJ. Under his leadership, the command earned ten field activity excellence awards (five from PEO IWS and five from Aegis BMD) and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for its critical role in the historic "Satellite Shootdown." He reported to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ships in August 2010.

Captain Biggs' personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, Navy Commendation Medal with three gold stars, Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and various service related awards and campaign ribbons.

Captain Biggs is married to the former Marina Reese. The Biggs' have four children; Justin, Eric, Juliana, and Joshua.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Kristian P. Biggs for his thirty years of service to our country. Captain Biggs has demonstrated a deep commitment to the security of our nation. His exemplary career is a testament to the level of dedication exhibited among our men and women in the armed forces. I would like to personally wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

NATIONAL MARFAN AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Americans affected by Marfan syndrome and related heritable connective tissue disorders across the country.

As February marks National Marfan Awareness Month, it is important to raise awareness to this rare genetic condition. About 1 in 10,000 Americans carries a genetic mutation that impacts connective tissue throughout the entire body. Patients often have disproportionately long limbs, a protruding or indented chest bone, curved spine, and loose joints. However, these are not what most concern Marfan syndrome patients. Internal organs have connective tissue and in Marfan patients the aorta, the large artery that carries blood away from the heart, is weakened and prone to enlargement and potentially fatal rupture.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act. While we have made great strides in addressing rare conditions since the Orphan Drug Act first became law, we must not lose sight of the work that still needs to be done. Patients with Marfan syndrome and related disorders rely on us to provide investment in critical research activities so that treatment options can be improved and, most importantly, so that cures can be found.

I am proud to represent the nation's foremost organization working to support the Marfan community, the National Marfan Foundation, based in Port Washington, New York. The Foundation was founded in 1981 by Priscilla Ciccarriello, and since then the Foundation has worked to improve the lives of those affected by Marfan syndrome and related disorders by promoting research, raising awareness, and providing support to those afflicted with Marfan.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Marfan Awareness Month. I look forward to working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to make critical investments in medical research and treatment to save the lives of people across the United States.

RECOGNIZING COOK COUNTY
SPELLING BEE CHAMPION ALIA
ABIAD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alia Abiad, winner of the Cook County Spelling Bee.

Alia Abiad is a 7th Grader at McClure Junior High School, and a resident of my hometown of Western Springs, IL. In addition to being a skilled tennis player and violinist for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, her recent performances in local Spelling Bees have demonstrated that she is an extremely dedicated and talented young woman.

Alia diligently practices her spelling independently and with her parents every day. She also gains her edge by reading books intended for an audience well beyond her age.

Alia initially won the title of best speller at McClure Junior High, and then went on to win the Cook County Regional Spelling Bee. In these competitions she maintained a perfect record, spelling every word correctly. Alia will be representing her school and her peers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC this upcoming May.

This victory is a reminder of how preparation, practice, and perseverance produce solid results, even when facing difficult challenges. I call on all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alia Abiad for her tremendous accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN RIGBY AS
THE 2014 ESCAMBIA COUNTY,
FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Rigby as the 2014 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rigby has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and our community; and I am honored to recognize her success and achievements.

In 1983, Mrs. Rigby graduated from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in Business Management, and in 2005 she earned a master's degree from the University of West Florida in Clinical Teaching and Special Education. However, Mrs. Rigby's passion for teaching began well before 2005. Since 1989, Mrs. Rigby has served the students and community of Northwest Florida, both in the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County school districts. Mrs. Rigby initially served an ESE Teacher Assistant and Substitute Teacher for the Escambia County School District from 1989 to 1999. Since then, she has served twice as an ESE Teacher for Pine Forest High School, Math Teacher for Navarre High School, and is currently the an Algebra 1A Co-Teacher at Pine Forest High School.

The superb quality and effectiveness of the schools in Northwest Florida can no doubt be

credited to educators like Susan Rigby. Mrs. Rigby understands the invaluable role teachers play in the lives of their students, and she possesses an unwavering commitment and fervor. She is an exemplary teacher who believes encouraging her students to reach their highest potential is most crucial to the learning experience. The enthusiasm demonstrated by Mrs. Rigby's students is truly a testament to her dedication and desire to see her students achieve both in and out of the classroom.

Aside from her involvement at Pine Forest High School, Mrs. Rigby dedicates her time to various community events such as Relay for Life, We Believe in Children 5K, as well as projects that benefit underprivileged classrooms. Mrs. Rigby's efforts and devotion have not gone unnoticed, and she has been honored for her years of teaching secondary education. In 2004, she was awarded the University of West Florida, Outstanding College of Education Student. She was also the recipient of the Pine Forest High School Teacher of the Year, as well as the Walmart Selection Teacher of the Year in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Susan Rigby as the 2014 Escambia County Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Rigby, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT
HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. DeIBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act, along with my colleague Congressman LARSEN. Green Mountain Lookout, located in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, was built in 1933 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project. During the Second World War, the lookout was used to detect fires and to spot enemy aircraft. It is no surprise that with such a rich history, the Green Mountain Lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately, severe weather caused the Green Mountain Lookout to fall into disrepair, and the U.S. Forest Service began taking steps to preserve the historic structure for future generations. However, a group based out of Montana filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service for using machinery in order to conduct repairs, and a U.S. District Court ordered the Forest Service to remove the lookout. This legislation would protect the Green Mountain Lookout, one of the few surviving fire lookouts in the West, by allowing critical maintenance while keeping this iconic structure in its original home.

The Green Mountain Lookout represents a significant piece of the Pacific Northwest's history and it deserves to be protected for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy today and in the years to come. I urge my colleagues to preserve a part of our Nation's history by supporting this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the integration of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

This weekend, a bi-partisan congressional delegation led by Representative JOHN LEWIS (D-GA) will travel to Alabama as a part of the 13th annual Faith & Politics Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage. I have the great pleasure of co-hosting the delegation with my fellow Alabama colleagues Representatives SPENCER BACHUS (R-AL) and MARTHA ROBY (R-AL). The Pilgrimage allows participants to retrace the steps of our nation's Civil Rights icons through the historic civil rights sites in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma. It is also a time to reflect on our painful past while acknowledging our current progress.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of so many significant civil rights events that occurred in 1963. One of those events was the infamous stand taken by then Governor Wallace at the doors of the University of Alabama to prevent black students from registering. The University of Alabama has come a long way since that infamous day to promote racial diversity within its student body, faculty, and administration.

Today, I pay special tribute to the University of Alabama and commemorate the 50th anniversary of a pivotal event in the struggle for racial equality in America. I believe it is important that we must acknowledge our painful past and frame its significance in the global fight for civil and human rights. The history of the State of Alabama must be embraced for the critical role it played in the Civil Rights Movement which caused a global movement for the quest of human dignity and rights around the world. We, in the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, pay tribute to the University of Alabama, one of the crown jewels of higher education in our district, and honor the courage of the black students—Atherine Lucy, James Hood, and Vivian Malone—who paved the way for the multitude of successes the University enjoys today.

On June 11, 1963, two African-Americans, James Hood and Vivian Malone attempted to enroll at the University of Alabama. Prior to their attempts, only one African-American, Atherine Lucy, had been successful in registering and actually attending classes at the institution.

In 1957, Atherine Lucy and Polly Anne Myers filed suit against the University to clarify their rights and obtain an injunction after being denied admission based on race. The injunction was granted and Ms. Lucy was eventually admitted to the University. She became the first African-American to attend a white public school or university in the State of Alabama. However, she was unfairly expelled after just three days when the University suggested that her presence was a nuisance to the campus because they could not provide a safe environment for the young student.

In 1963, pursuant to the same injunction, James Hood and Vivian Malone made a sec-

ond attempt to fully integrate the University. Upon their arrival to the Tuscaloosa campus, former Alabama Governor George Wallace attempted to block Hood and Malone from entering Foster Auditorium to register for classes. As the world watched, Governor Wallace's attempts to prevent integration of the University of Alabama were recorded in our Nation's history as "The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door." Governor Wallace was determined to defend his now infamous declaration: "Segregation Now, Segregation Tomorrow, and Segregation Forever." But his efforts to halt progress were short lived. Later that day, Hood and Malone with the support of a federal court order and members of the Alabama National Guard, were eventually allowed to register for classes and pursue their degrees. They are forever recorded in our nation's history as two of the first African-American students to attend the University. Vivian Malone was the first African-American to graduate from the University of Alabama and James Hood later received his doctorate from the University.

Today, "The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" is remembered as a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of this historic event, we recognize its significance in the quest for justice and equality. While there were dark moments, the events of that day are now seen as a catalyst on our road to forming a more perfect union.

Today, the University of Alabama stands as a beacon of inspiration. The diversity represented in today's student body is a visible reminder of the sacrifices of Atherine Lucy, James Hood and Vivian Malone. Because of their bravery and courage, the University of Alabama now boast a widely diverse student body, an outstanding academic curriculum and a world class athletic program. Today, the University of Alabama is ably led by its first woman President, Dr. Judy Bonner. We recently celebrated having the number one collegiate team in four NCAA sports—including women's gymnastics and football being named the BCS National Champions for the second year in row.

As a benefactor of the courageous contributions of Atherine Lucy, James Hood and Vivian Malone, I am humbled by the opportunities their bravery has afforded all black Alabamians. As Alabama's first African-American Congresswoman, I know that my journey would not be possible without their sacrifices.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the University of Alabama and its important place in our nation's history.

Roll Tide!

IN HONOR OF THE 52ND
ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 52nd anniversary of Peace Corps. For over 5 decades, through war and conflict, Peace Corps has sent Americans to distant lands to serve others in the common cause of

global peace. Since 1961, over 210,000 Americans have served at the request of 139 developing countries. I am proud to be a part of these ranks. Peace Corps changed my life. And it changes the lives of those who serve and the communities that are served.

As I speak, over 8,000 Americans are serving in 76 countries. This includes my constituent Nelly Alcantar from King City, CA. Nelly is helping English teachers with lesson planning, classroom management and language development in Panama. She also started an adult community English course. Then there's Jonathan Lupisan from Salinas, CA. He's a Community Health Education Volunteer in Suriname who helped build a computer lab at the local primary school and developed illustrations for a water and sanitation project manual.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Nelly, Jonathan and the hundreds of thousands of other Peace Corps Volunteers, past and present for fulfilling the vision of President John F. Kennedy. You represent America's highest ideals: peace, equality and friendship. Thank you for your service.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR CARROL
DAUGHERTY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Carrol Daugherty, a respected public servant and good friend who is stepping down after 42 years at helm of the Town of McIntosh, Alabama.

Born and raised in McIntosh, Mayor Daugherty is a graduate of Leroy High School and Huffstetler Business College in Mobile.

A consummate businessman and civic leader, he founded CMS Construction Company in Saraland. While many would be content to focus all their talents toward leading an important and successful business, like CMS Construction, Mayor Daugherty has devoted an equal amount of time to improving his community and South Alabama through a combination of public service and volunteerism.

It must be noted that Mayor Daugherty's community service achievements are far ranging and considerable. He helped organize McIntosh Christian Academy. He was a founder and board member of Southwest Bank, formerly known as Washington County State Bank. He is a former Board Member of Friends of Searcy Hospital in Mt. Vernon; Board Member of North Mobile Community Hospital in Satsuma; Charter Board Member of Southwest Alabama Health Services in McIntosh and a Charter Member and one of the organizers of the McIntosh Betterment Association.

Mayor Daugherty helped organize the McIntosh Volunteer Fire Department and was a staunch supporter of the McIntosh Rescue Squad. Furthermore, he helped establish the McIntosh Public Branch of the Washington County Library with the help of his late wife, Melva Jean, and area industry leaders.

Mayor Daugherty is a former Board Member of the Alabama Sheriffs' Boys Ranch and was appointed by Governor George C. Wallace to serve on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Department of Labor Management Committee.

He also was the Business Representative of Millwright Local 2734 for 32 years, Secretary for the Carpenters, Millwright and Pile Drivers Mobile District Council for 29 years, and President of the Alabama State Council of Carpenters for 18 years.

Given all these accomplishments, it is remarkable that Mayor Daugherty also found time to lead the Town of McIntosh for all 42 years since its incorporation in 1970. Yet, he has done just that with an equal dedication to public service and integrity.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish Mayor Daugherty the very best as he leaves public service and embarks on a well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY IDENTITY DEFENSE ACT OF 2013

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Social Security Identity Defense Act of 2013, legislation to enhance the ability of the Internal Revenue Service to fight identity theft when that agency becomes aware of the fraudulent use of a taxpayer's personal information.

This legislation is a direct response to the experience of constituents of mine in Princeton, Wisconsin. During a routine review of his credit report, my constituent found accounts opened by another person using his Social Security number. This discovery raised many concerns, not the least of which was that this person's income might be reported to the IRS under his Social Security number. Upon contacting the IRS, he was told that the IRS knew of the situation and that they had known about it for some time.

Not surprisingly, this answer was not altogether comforting. The IRS knew that someone else had been using his Social Security number, but kept that information under lock and key. While the IRS remained silent, additional frauds were committed, resulting in the further misuse of my constituent's personal information by another person to establish a fraudulent credit history. When he raised this issue with the IRS, he was astounded by the agency's answer. Privacy statutes prevent the IRS from discussing the return information of one taxpayer with anyone else. In the view of the IRS, the fraudulent use of my constituent's Social Security number was the personal return information of another taxpayer, and this fraud could not be disclosed to the rightful owner of that personal identifier, even if this disclosure would help prevent additional frauds.

This policy makes no sense and actually puts the IRS on the wrong side in the fight against identity theft. My legislation aims to correct this problem by changing the privacy statutes to direct the IRS to inform a taxpayer when the agency learns through its normal course of business that a Social Security number assigned to that taxpayer has been used fraudulently by another worker.

Both Congress and our administrative departments and agencies, including the IRS, have made progress in combating identity theft, but more needs to be done. For this reason, the Social Security Identity Defense Act would provide an additional vital tool for our government to deploy.

Under this legislation, the IRS would be required to share any information in its possession about the fraudulent use of a taxpayer's personal information with that information's rightful owner. The agency also would be directed to transmit information that may be evidence of an identity theft to the FBI so that the Bureau can make this material available to state and local law enforcement agencies upon their request. Finally, the Social Security Identity Defense Act calls for the IRS to direct employers not to include a Social Security number on a W-2 form when that agency is aware that the employee is making fraudulent use of that number.

These are important steps forward. They will empower both citizens and law enforcement agencies in their efforts to combat identity theft, and they will limit the use of personal identifiers in the commission of future crimes. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring the Social Security Defense Act.

HONORING BRENDA LOVE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a minority businesswoman and entrepreneur, Mrs. Brenda Love.

Mrs. Brenda Love is a woman on the move and with many talents. She was born to Martha Lewis and the late Grant Jones, Sr. Until the age of 14, she was raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Later, her mother relocated the family to Vicksburg, Mississippi to be closer to her grandmother, Mrs. Ola Mae Williams.

Mrs. Love credits her ambition to her mother, whom she learned from an early age to work hard, keep good credit, pay your bills, and take care of your kids.

Mrs. Love worked for the Federal Government for 20 years until she decided to step out on faith and follow her heart to being an entrepreneur. She is the owner of Love Income Tax Service, which has been in business for 17 years, with 6 full-time employees. She and her husband, Jacob, own Unique Banquet Hall, which is a thriving gathering place serving the Vicksburg area. She also is a Realtor-associate with Coldwell-Banker All Stars. Brenda, who has been married for 23 years to Jacob, has also owned and operated Unique Impressions Restaurant and Lounge. In her spare time, she loves to decorate and coordinate weddings. Mrs. Love is a member of the Warren County Board of Realtors and also serves on the board for the Vicksburg Convention Center and City Auditorium.

Mr. and Mrs. Love have three children, Jakayla, Jacob, and Manekia Love-Jackson and two grandchildren, Mikayla and Madison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a minority businesswoman and entrepreneur, Mrs. Brenda Love.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again this year I stand to recognize an important period that remains a strong reminder that we must continue to address violent human tragedies whenever they occurred. The American and Armenian people use this time of year to recommit themselves to preventing any further violence. We do this because we mark the anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms where hundreds of Armenians were murdered as a result of long-running hostilities directed towards the Armenian people.

I ask that my colleagues join me in solemnly commemorating the death of these innocent lives. It was on the evening of February 27, 1988 that hundreds of Armenians were brutally murdered, some burned alive and others thrown from windows. Included in the violence was the rape of women and the maiming of children. Armenians saw their belongings stolen, their shops destroyed and thousands were displaced from their homes. To add to the human tragedy, police turned a blind eye thus allowing the pogroms to go on for three days.

Unfortunately, the underlying hostility that led to the outbreak and continued violence of the Sumgait pogroms continues to survive today. For more than two decades, authorities in Azerbaijan have attempted to ignore and cover up these crimes and have instead fostered hatred toward the Armenian people. In an affront to basic senses of justice, the Azerbaijani government recently pardoned Azerbaijani military officer, Ramil Safarov who was sentenced to life in prison in Hungary for murdering an Armenian military officer during a NATO-sponsored training program in 2004. I continue to be outraged by this promotion of violence against innocent Armenians.

I ask that my colleagues join me in calling on Azerbaijan to fully recognize the Sumgait pogroms and to give an accurate historical account of the events. I also ask my colleagues to join me in calling upon the Azerbaijani government to acknowledge Ramil Safarov as a convicted murderer and immediately take action commensurate with a democratic nation that supports justice under the rule of law. Azerbaijan must break from its current course and take action to create a peaceful future.

As co-chair and founder of the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus, I know that the caucus will continue its work to ensure that the basic rights of life, liberty and security are promoted throughout the Caucasus region. We will continue to advocate for a peaceful resolution to conflict in the region. We will continue to call on Azerbaijan to cease its hostilities toward the Armenian people and stand for justice whenever it is violated.

RETIREMENT OF RICHARD
HERTLING

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the call to serve one's country comes to people in many different forms. Some protect our nation in the Armed Forces. Some are elected to public office. Others serve officials in the three branches of our government. But all work together to protect, preserve and uphold the founding principles of this great nation.

Richard Herding has spent the last 27 years serving his country in both the legislative and executive branches. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, he began his career at the U.S. Department of Justice. Since then he has worked for Senators, Congressional committees and a presidential campaign.

During the Bush Administration, he oversaw major policy decisions by the Justice Department as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy.

He also managed the Justice Department's communication with Capitol Hill as the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Legislative Affairs.

Most recently, he served as the Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, which I chaired in the last Congress. With Richard's help, the House Judiciary Committee passed more substantive bills than any other committee in the last Congress. His strategic thinking was instrumental in achieving this goal.

Today, Richard Hertling is retiring, and we in the House are losing a smart attorney and good friend. But the Senators, members of the House and staff who worked with him will also miss his tutorials in ancient history and his use of Latin in everyday conversations.

We thank him for his service to his country, and wish him the best on his well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF QUEENS COUNTY EXECUTIVE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JESSE J. SLIGH

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor a respected leader in my community, Queens County Executive District Attorney Jesse J. Sligh. I have known Jesse Sligh for over 20 years and during that entire time his character and the way he conducts himself has been an example for all.

Since 1991, for twenty-two years, Mr. Sligh has served in the Queens County District Attorney's Office as an Executive of District Attorney Richard A. Brown's Special Prosecutions Division. The Special Prosecutions Division serves as a bridge between the Queens County District Attorney's office and the diverse people of Queens. The division

proactively fights crime by building strong community partnerships, tackling quality of life issues, and spearheading crime prevention and mentoring programs that educate the youth of Queens about law enforcement and provide a positive structure for children who might otherwise head down the wrong path.

Mr. Sligh, the third of thirteen children, was the first member of his family to attend college, but not only did he attend college he graduated from the Ivy League Columbia University and then he earned his juris doctorate from Georgetown Law School here in Washington D.C. After that, he served our great nation as a Captain in the U.S. Army Jag Corps and earned an exemplary trial record in the process. In 1982, he joined the Queens County District Office. Jesse Sligh's talent impressed his supervisors and continued to impress them until he reached the position of Executive District Attorney. Thirty-one years later he still serves Queens County.

On February 20, 2013 the Queen's County District Attorney office honored Jesse Sligh as a part of a Black History Month Celebration and I want to honor him today as well. Jesse, a man of great faith, is a founding member of the Erie Avenue Baptist Church in Philadelphia and he is a member of the Queens Executive Board for the Boy Scouts. Jesse has been a mentor to young and old, he is a true friend to everyone he has known, and he always offers help in times of need. I applaud Mr. Sligh for all he has accomplished and his service to our Country, his family, public service and God. I am proud that he is a member of my district.

Jesse, we thank you for your good and faithful work.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ATHERLENE
MONROE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a spiritual leader and a pillar of Houston's Sunnyside community, Mrs. Atherlene Monroe. With extraordinary dedication, Mrs. Monroe devoted her life to the spiritual instruction of others and her family.

Mrs. Monroe was born in Houston, TX on February 6, 1935. Her parents instilled within her an unshakeable faith, and a desire to spiritually mentor as well as teach others. On December 20, 1953, Mrs. Monroe met and married another pillar of the Sunnyside community, Reverend Rugley Monroe, Jr., Pastor of the El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Together Reverend and Mrs. Monroe raised three sons as well as one daughter. They worked to serve their community as well as save the souls of a multitude of people.

Mrs. Monroe served in several roles at the El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and the local spiritual community. Through her selfless hard work and integrity, she eventually became a member of the choir, president of the Women's Mission, as well as treasurer of the Southside's Minister's Wives Union organiza-

tion. She was also a faithful companion to her husband of 59 years in all his endeavors.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Monroe will be missed dearly by a host of family and friends. The family includes her husband, four children, Rugley Monroe, III, Angeline Stewart, David Monroe, Sr., and Patrick Monroe, Sr., as well as her nine grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Mrs. Monroe will be remembered in the Sunnyside community as an exemplar of a faithful Christian lady, wife, mother, and teacher.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DUDLEY
TERRELL, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an American hero and a good friend, Mr. John Dudley Terrell, Jr., who recently passed away at the age of 91.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Mr. Terrell graduated from McGill Institute and attended Springhill College.

Like many Alabamians of his generation, John answered his country's call to serve during World War II. As a young lieutenant with the Army Air Corps, he flew 51 combat missions at the controls of a B24 Liberator bomber in the European Theater of Operations.

His considerable wartime experience included participation in three historic battles: Air Offensive Europe, The Rome-Arno Campaign, and the Battle of Normandy where his bravery and combat piloting skills no doubt helped to advance the Allied efforts against the Axis powers.

For his courageous service, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the European Theater Medal with three Bronze Stars.

After the Allied Victory in Europe, Mr. Terrell left the Army Air Corps to return to civilian life where he traded his role as an aviator for that of an Independent Insurance Agent in his hometown.

He partnered with business associates to form the Robertson, Grove and Terrell Agency. Later he joined W.K.P. Wilson and Son's, Inc. During his long and successful career in the insurance industry, he distinguished himself as exceptional businessman. Among his achievements, he was presented the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation. He later joined TriCorp, Inc., where he worked until his well-deserved retirement.

John was a longtime member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church of Mobile. He was also an active member of numerous local community service organizations including several mystic societies.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to extend my personal condolences to his wife of 60 years, Annunziata, their three children: Liz, John III, and Kathleen, and their 10 grandchildren. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, in Connecticut last week, I heard a lot of different fears from people in my district about sequestration. Almost everyone is worried about the economy. Small business owners and manufacturers in Torrington and Waterbury are worried about staying above water. Parents in Danbury are worried about their children's education. Social service providers in New Britain and Meriden are worried about losing funding to help seniors who need meal assistance and to help families who need housing assistance. People everywhere are worried about keeping their jobs.

And there's a question in common. With this imminent, self-inflicted threat to people's jobs and people's livelihoods, why isn't Congress doing anything about it? Why, at the very least, are we not voting on a balanced alternative?

Our constituents deserve more than an answer to that question, they deserve action. There is no reason businesses and families in Connecticut, or in any state, should be facing this catastrophe. It is entirely of our own doing but it's the folks back home that suffer the consequences.

I ask unanimous consent that the House now take up H.R. 699, the Stop the Sequester Job Loss Now Act, introduced by Mr. VAN HOLLEN to replace the sequestration with commonsense, cost-cutting policies—repealing subsidies for big oil and big gas, refocusing subsidies for big agriculture, and enacting a "Buffet Rule" so that the wealthiest are paying their fair share.

We should be allowed to vote on this bill, and we should vote to remove this threat to the well-being of folks in all of our districts who have worked so hard to get by and to bring our country back from recession.

HONORING AARON HONEYSUCKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Aaron Honeysucker. Aaron was born in Camden, Mississippi in 1948. He is the father of three adult children—Felicia A. Berry, Marcus M. Honeysucker, and Chelsie B. Coleman. Mr. Honeysucker is a retired military veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

While serving in the military, Mr. Honeysucker also worked as an insurance salesman from 1972–1980. He's currently a small business owner and sells real estate. Mr. Honeysucker graduated from Velma Jackson High School in 1967, Hinds Junior College in 1972, and Jackson State University in 1997.

Mr. Honeysucker is a member of several social & civic organizations including the Veteran of Foreign Wars, JSU Alumni Association, Blue Bengal Athletic Association, Woodhaven Homeowners Association, The Retired Active Reserve and Armed Forces Association, and Red Cross Volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Aaron Honeysucker for his dedication to serving to our great country.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS' CHARTER FELLOWS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 101 inventors who were recently recognized at the University of South Florida in Tampa and inducted as the 2012 National Academy of Inventors' Charter Fellows by the United States Commissioner of Patents, Margaret A. Focarino. In order to be named as a Charter Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society. Collectively, this elite group holds more than 3,200 patents.

The individuals making up this year's class of Charter Fellows include individuals from 56 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning not just the United States but also the world. This group of inductees touts eight Nobel Laureates, 14 presidents of research universities and non-profit research institutes, 53 members of the National Academies, 11 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, two Fellows of the Royal Society, five recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, four recipients of the National Medal of Science, and 31 AAAS Fellows, among other major awards and distinctions.

The contributions made to society through innovation are immeasurable. I commend these individuals, and the organizations that support them, for the work that they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future innovators to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of innovation.

The 2012 NAI Charter Fellows include:

Dharma P. Agrawal, University of Cincinnati; Anthony Atala, Wake Forest University; Benton F. Baugh, University of Houston; Khosrow Behbehani, University of Texas at Arlington; Raymond J. Bergeron, University of Florida; Gerardine G. Botte, Ohio University; Robert H. Brown, Jr., University of Massachusetts Medical Center; Robert L. Byer, Stanford University; Sir Roy Calne, University of Cambridge; Curtis R. Carlson, SRI International.

Nai Yuen Chen, University of Texas at Arlington; Stephen Z. D. Cheng, The University of Akron; Paul C. W. Chu, University of Houston; James J. Collins, Boston University; James G. Conley, Northwestern University; Joseph T. Coyle, Harvard University; James E. Dahlberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Roger J. Davis, University of Massachusetts Medical Center; Sandra J. F. Degen, University of Cincinnati; Hector F. DeLuca, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Donn M. Dennis, University of Florida; Akira Endo, Tokyo University of Agriculture & Technology; Howard J. Federoff, Georgetown University; Thomas J. Fogarty, Fogarty Institute for Innovation; Kenneth M. Ford, Institute for Human & Machine

Cognition; Eric R. Fossum, Dartmouth College; Robert C. Gallo, University of Maryland; Alan N. Gent, The University of Akron; Morteza Gharib, California Institute of Technology; Ivar Giaever, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Barbara A. Gilchrest, Boston University; Richard D. Gitlin, University of South Florida; Leonid B. Glebov, University of Central Florida; D. Yogi Goswami, University of South Florida; Mark W. Grinstaff, Boston University; Greg Hampikian, Boise State University; Barbara C. Hansen, University of South Florida; Patrick T. Harker, University of Delaware; Martin E. Hellman, Stanford University; Nick Holonyak, Jr., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Leroy E. Hood, Institute for Systems Biology; Richard A. Houghten, Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies; Ernest B. Izevbigie, Jackson State University; Stephen C. Jacobsen, University of Utah; Eric W. Kaler, University of Minnesota; Linda P. B. Katehi, University of California, Davis; Joseph P. Kennedy, The University of Akron; Sakhrat Khizroev, Florida International University; Sung Wan Kim, University of Utah; George V. Kondraske, University of Texas at Arlington.

John J. Kopchick, Ohio University; Roger D. Kornberg, Stanford University; Max G. Lagally, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Robert S. Langer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Brian A. Larkins, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Victor B. Lawrence, Stevens Institute of Technology; Virginia M.-Y. Lee, University of Pennsylvania; Jean-Marie Pierre Lehn, University of Strasbourg; Shinn-Zong Lin, China Medical University; Thomas A. Lipo, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Barbara H. Liskov, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Alan F. List, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute; R. Bowen Loftin, Texas A&M University; Dan Luss, University of Houston; Robert Magnusson, University of Texas at Arlington; Richard B. Marchase, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Stephen W. S. McKeever, Oklahoma State University; Craig C. Mello, University of Massachusetts Medical Center; Shyam Mohapatra, University of South Florida; Theodore D. Moustakas, Boston University.

George R. Newkome, The University of Akron; C. L. Max Nikias, University of Southern California; David P. Norton, University of Florida; Julio C. Palmaz, U. of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Thomas N. Parks, University of Utah; C. Kumar N. Patel, University of California, Los Angeles; Prem S. Paul, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; David W. Pershing, University of Utah; G. P. Peterson, Georgia Institute of Technology; Leonard Polizzotto, Draper Laboratory.

Huntington Potter, University of Colorado Denver; Paul R. Sanberg, University of South Florida; Timothy D. Sands, Purdue University; Raymond F. Schinazi, Emory University; Dean L. Sicking, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Oliver Smithies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Solomon H. Snyder, Johns Hopkins University; Franky So, University of Florida; M. J. Soileau, University of Central Florida; Nan-Yao Su, University of Florida.

Jack W. Szostak, Harvard University; Esther Sans Takeuchi, Stony Brook University; H. Holden Thorp, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Charles H. Townes, University of California, Berkeley; John Q. Trojanowski, University of Pennsylvania; Roger Y. Tsien, University of California, San Diego; James L. Van Etten, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; James W. Wagner, Emory University; John E. Ware, Jr., University of

Massachusetts Medical Center; Herbert Weissbach, Florida Atlantic University; Shin-Tson Wu, University of Central Florida.

HONORING DOCTOR SUSAN M. WIDMAYER AND THE CHILDREN'S DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT CENTER

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Doctor Susan M. Widmayer and the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center (CDTC). I would like to honor both Susan and the CDTC on their excellent research on infant mortality and efforts to improve the lives of children and their parents.

Founded in 1983 by Dr. Widmayer, the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Broward County has made great strides in providing special care for children with disabilities and mothers with HIV. When the CDTC started, Florida had one of the worst infant mortality rates in the country. As a result, Dr. Widmayer and her staff committed to improving the health prospects of children throughout South Florida. Thanks in part to the research by the CDTC, world HIV transmission rates from mother to infant dropped from 25 percent in the mid '90s to around 3 percent today.

When no one else would care for the tens of thousands of children with impoverished parents, Dr. Widmayer answered the call. Approximately 70 percent of the Center's clients live in poverty, but that has not stopped the CDTC from providing prevention, intervention and treatment services. Every patient that walks into the CDTC is welcome, regardless of family income. By serving the specialized needs of these children, Dr. Widmayer is giving them the opportunity and care that no other institution would.

Today I would like to honor Dr. Widmayer and the Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center, and I hope that they will continue to serve our communities by improving the lives of children throughout South Florida.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2-28 MASSACRE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 66th commemoration of Taiwan's 2-28 Massacre. The Massacre was an anti-government uprising in Taiwan that began on February 28, 1947 and was violently suppressed by General Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) government during the following weeks. Estimates of the number of deaths are around 28,000.

In the fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended after Japan had lost World War II. In October of that year, the KMT-administered Republic of China (ROC) received administrative control of Taiwan. 16 months of KMT administration on Taiwan led

to the widespread impression among the people of Taiwan that the party was plagued by nepotism, corruption, and economic failure.

Tensions increased between the Taiwanese people and the ROC administration. The flashpoint came on February 28, 1947 when in Taipei a dispute between a female cigarette vendor and an officer of the Government's Office of Monopoly triggered civil disorder and open rebellion by the native Taiwanese against the KMT repression.

During the following weeks, Chiang's government sent troops from China to the island. The Chinese soldiers started to round up and execute a whole generation of an elite of Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, professors etc.

It is estimated that up to 30,000 people lost their lives during the turmoil. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan with an iron fist under a Martial Law that would not be lifted until 1987.

Mr. Speaker, the Massacre had far reaching implications. Over the next half century, the Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the event helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship under the Chinese Nationalists to a democracy.

In some ways, the 228 incident was Taiwan's Boston Massacre for both events functioned as the cradle of a move by both peoples to full democracy and helped galvanize the strive to independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it before: Freedom is not negotiable. May the lessons learned from the 2-28 Massacre continue to inspire the people of Taiwan in their struggle for freedom, full independence, international participation, and for the continued enhancement of the mutual relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commemorating this important historical event.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Black History Month—an opportunity to celebrate the rich legacy of African-Americans and the many ways they have shaped our Nation's history.

This Black History Month, we commemorate two landmark anniversaries in American history: the 150th anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. Separated by a century, these two seminal events underscore what the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once said—that “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.” Each successive generation of Americans must always do their part to build on the progress of those who came before them in order to advance the ideals of freedom and equality upon which our Nation was founded.

In South Florida, we have benefited tremendously from trailblazing African-American leaders who have broken through color barriers in order to contribute to our communities and our country.

They include individuals who served our country bravely, including Lt. Col. Eldridge Williams—one of the legendary Tuskegee airman—and Col. Brodes Hartley Jr., who has been a leading civil rights leader in South Florida committed to improving quality health care access for low-income families. And also Reverend John A. Ferguson, who after serving in the Navy helped found a small congregation in Richmond Heights that would grow to nearly 800 under his leadership and today stands at over 1400.

They include leaders like Al Dotson Sr., a pastor who served as the first elected African American president of the Orange Bowl Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Florida International University, as well as Mayor Otis Wallace, who has served Florida City as mayor for over twenty-eight years and is today the longest serving elected official in the State of Florida.

I could name so many others. South Florida is a better place because of their commitment to public service and their strong leadership.

EXPANDING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DEFINITION OF “HOMELESS VETERAN”

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after over ten years of wars, we have a growing number of veterans in our nation. We have a responsibility to provide support and services for our soldiers once they return home. This includes the area of domestic violence.

Sadly, our brave soldiers who return home after protecting our nation are not immune from domestic abuse. As I've said previously, we have a duty to our veterans. However, current law fails to fully protect those veterans who have been driven from their homes because of domestic violence.

In order to reflect the modern day reality that there are more women in our military than ever before, it is important that we continue to update our laws to address emerging issues within this new trend.

The civilian definition of homelessness includes people fleeing from domestic violence. However, the current law the Department of Veterans Affairs uses to administer benefits for homeless veterans does not recognize those driven from their homes by abuse as homeless.

The full definition of “homeless” under the law includes the following: “Any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.” However, the Department of Veterans Affairs currently defines “homeless veteran” based on an incomplete citation of the civilian homeless law.

That's why I have decided to reintroduce this bipartisan legislation with my colleague Congressman RUNYAN that would expand the Department of Veterans Affairs' definition of

“homeless veteran” to include veterans fleeing situations of domestic violence and other life threatening emergencies. As a result, this change will allow those veterans who find the courage and the means to leave their abusers the ability to access the benefits that should be available to all homeless veterans.

This legislation is a bipartisan common sense bill that adds no additional cost to the taxpayer. When we introduced this bill last Congress, we were able to garner 72 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. The legislation also had the support of a number of organizations including:

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

AMVETS

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

The Service Women’s Action Network

The Association of the US Navy

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Veterans for Common Sense

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

By passing this bill, we will ensure that this especially vulnerable population of veterans has the chance to access benefits the Department of Veterans Affairs already provides. After fighting for our country, our veterans should never find themselves without a safe home to come back to.

HONORING CAPTAIN TAMIKO
WRIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an active soldier, Captain Tamiko Wright.

Captain Wright is a 1996 graduate of Vicksburg High School. Upon graduating from high school, she attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology. She also holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Columbia Southern University and is currently seeking an additional Masters degree in Logistics.

Captain Wright is employed by the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at Camp Shelby, Mississippi where she is the Supervisor of Production Control. Captain Wright oversees the flow of approximately 1500 work requests per month on various types of military equipment. Her additional duties at CSMS include Anti-Terrorism Officer, Assistant Safety Officer, Hazardous Waste Management Coordinator, Sexual Harassment Officer, Assistant Operating Manager and SAMS-1E training officer.

Captain Wright and her husband, Larry Wright, reside in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and have two lovely daughters: Amari, 7 years old and Lorrie, 2 years old.

Captain Wright has dedicated over 12 years to the Mississippi Army National Guard. While doing so, she has served her country in deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom to Kuwait and served on the S1 administrative staff for Operation Clean-Up during Hurricane Katrina.

Captain Wright is presently serving as Company Commander of the 1387th Quarter Master Water Supply Company in Greenville, Mississippi. Her successful career includes: Platoon Leader for D1 367th Maintenance Company, DeKalb, Mississippi; Executive Officer, 367th Maintenance Company, Philadelphia, Mississippi; and Acting Commander of the 367th Maintenance Company.

While attending Officer Candidate School (OCS), Captain Wright was named Outstanding Graduate for excellence in academics and leadership; she also received the Erickson Award for the candidate whose overall class ranking was number 1 based on overall criteria; and the Adjutant General Award for outstanding leadership ability. She also received numerous decorations and badges: the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Device, Mississippi Longevity Medal, Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Army Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an active soldier, Captain Tamiko Wright.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
CARROLL THACKSTON

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of a remarkable public servant, my friend Major General Carroll Thackston, of South Boston in Virginia’s 5th Congressional District.

Major General Thackston had a distinguished military career spending six years in the United States Army and 35 years in the Virginia National Guard, where he served as inspector general, commander of the 116th Support Battalion, state military personnel officer, chief of staff, assistant adjutant general, and adjutant general following his 1994 appointment by Governor George Allen.

As adjutant general, he provided encouraging words as he visited Virginia National Guard members; he helped those in need as he engaged in state emergency response operations; and he provided leadership as he oversaw the transition of Virginia National Guard operations to Fort Pickett.

The recipient of two Virginia Distinguished Service Medals, Major General Thackston will be remembered for his unwavering loyalty and true devotion to serving and protecting his fellow Virginians.

In addition to his role as a highly respected military veteran, Major General Thackston was also known for his service to his local community. He was a member of the South Boston Town Council and served as Mayor of South Boston. He also served on several boards including the Halifax County Chamber of Commerce, the Richmond and South Boston United Way, the South Boston School Board, and the YMCA.

Major General Thackston was a dear friend and he will be missed by our community. I ask

my colleagues to join me in remembering a great Virginian and a truly dedicated public servant who not only made an impression on the lives of those of us in the Fifth District, but a man who made a difference in the lives of all Virginians.

SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER (VOTING RIGHTS ACT) BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, the struggle for equality and justice through the Civil Rights Movement would not have attained its level of success without dedicated leaders such as Rosa Parks, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., and my colleague, Representative John Lewis who put their lives on the line to make it so.

So here we are, nearly 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Supreme Court heard *Shelby County v. Holder*, the outcome of which holds the possibility of setting our nation back centuries.

Much of the debate regarding Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has been focused on the plight of the south and relevance to the southern perspective as it should. We are all too aware of the blood that was shed to demand basic human, racial equality. However, I stand here today in solidarity with my colleagues to lend a voice and perspective to this debate of Section 5 covered areas outside of Southern States. When most people think of Brooklyn, New York, a progressive mentality comes to mind. However, Brooklyn is likewise a Section 5 covered jurisdiction and historically “Brooklynites” have encountered voter discrimination tactics that has resulted in Kings County being subjected to the requirements of Section 5’s preclearance rules and provisions.

In 1921, New York State enacted an English-only literacy test that remained on the books through the 1960s. During this time, New York State experienced a “Great Migration” from the South, as well as, from Puerto Rico and other areas of Latino decent. Most of these migrants lived in communities such as Harlem in Manhattan, the South Bronx, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. At that time, New York State law included a literacy test which proved difficult, if not impossible for people with educational or language barriers. Coincidentally, there were three counties in New York City with low voter turnout in the 1968 elections, due in large part to the fact that these literacy tests could not be passed. This ultimately became the reason why jurisdictions for Section 5 preclearance were extended to specific counties in New York, in particular, Brooklyn, New York.

On May 10, 1967, a federal court ruled that the hodgepodge of gerrymandered congressional districts that snaked in and out of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn were unconstitutional, in that they operated “to minimize or cancel out the voting strength of racial or political elements of the voting population, violated the recently passed Voting Rights Act and deprived one of the nation’s largest and densest African-American communities the right to adequate representation.

Andrew W. Cooper, a community activist, was the impetus for this historic change. A year after the Voting Rights Act became law he sued New York State officials in a case called *Cooper v. Power*. The ensuing legal battle led to the redrawing of the now historically famous 12th Congressional District of New York (the district was later reapportioned to parts of the 11th District and now 9th Congressional District).

The ruling set in motion a monumental shift in voting rights in New York and beyond, redefining political representation for people of color. It was built on the foundation of civil rights gains made in the south and helped push the agenda for Voting Rights nationwide.

As a woman of color, a witness to the reelection of our nation's first Black President, and the U.S. Representative for the Ninth Congressional District, which is a majority-minority district covered under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, I am deeply concerned by the potential ramifications of this case and the impact of its ruling on people of color and their right to vote.

Most recently a Brooklyn elected official wrote an editorial questioning the validity and significance of Brooklyn's classification as a Section 5 covered jurisdiction. Brooklyn NY has one of the largest concentrations of people of color in the nation. It is also worth noting that another elected official from Brooklyn appeared in "Black face", just this Sunday. These types of hostile inquiries and acts erode the fabric of American democracy and speak to the heart of why Section 5 preclearance is vital to the realization of justice and equality.

In many areas, racially polarized voting and the intent to disenfranchise Black voters demonstrate that the requirements of Section Five remain crucial to the basic function of our democracy.

The 9th Congressional district of New York, which I presently represent, was birthed in 1965 when Andrew Cooper brought suit under the Voting Rights Act against racial gerrymandering and in response to widespread and prolific discriminatory voting practices in Brooklyn. This suit gave birth to New York's 12th Congressional district and the election in 1968 of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman ever elected to the U.S. Congress to whom I have the distinct honor and privilege of succeeding almost 40 years later.

Even in the years after the formation of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, people of color remain underrepresented at every level of elected offices.

These are just a few examples of why Section 5, and in particular its preclearance clauses, are essential to ensure that changes to voting rules and practices do not result in voter suppression, retrogression, and discrimination.

Without the existence of majority-minority districts, the voices of millions of Americans will be excluded from Capitol Hill; and their perspectives would not inform public debate. Without Section 5 covered districts, our democracy would exist in form, but not in fact.

When I was elected to Congress in 2006, and after Congress had just reauthorized the Voting Rights Act, I would never have thought that today we would be re-litigating issues that I believed were long since settled and resolved.

It took our nation over 200 years to obtain the victories of the Civil Rights Movement,

now less than 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law are we truly to believe that systemic racial discrimination and voter suppression has ended?, I think not!

These advancements in the struggle for equality, permitting All Americans to freely exercise their right to vote will take more than a lifetime to protect and preserve. Jurists of the Supreme Court, a word of advice- If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

ST. MARKS PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of St. Mark's Parochial School in Bristol Borough, PA. On December 27, 1887, St. Mark's Parochial School was opened and officially blessed, becoming the first parochial school in Bucks County. St. Mark's School was initially staffed by The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Father Ward, who was Pastor of St. Mark Parish from 1879 to 1887, is considered the founder of Catholic education in Bristol. For the next 125 years, the school would become an integral part of the Bristol Borough community.

Thanks to its dedicated teachers and staff, St. Mark's Parochial School provides students with a high quality and well-rounded education in a Christian environment. It helps children develop a strong sense of morality and concern for their fellow neighbor. Further, members of St. Mark's routinely demonstrate an active presence in fostering their community. The school has become a great source of pride for the Borough of Bristol.

St. Mark's shows promise and growth as an institution and will continue to cultivate young minds. Because the school serves as a model of excellence in education and an active participant in community development, it is my pleasure to honor St. Mark's Parochial School of Bristol Borough on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

SEQUESTER HARM IS "ABSOLUTELY OVER-HYPED"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Bloomberg says, "Spare me!"

He said yesterday that the Administration's efforts to scare people about the sequester have gone too far.

He said, "In all fairness, on Monday, we'll be able to police the streets."

He said "there's a lot of posturing" and that statements about laying off employees, closing down hospitals, and letting prisoners go "are not good for the country."

The Mayor said, "Spare me, I live in that world. I mean come on, let's get serious here."

In today's National Journal Daily, Steve Bell, senior director of the Bipartisan Policy Center, says the sequester is "absolutely over-hyped."

He says, "A sequester will occur and the next day the likelihood is that almost no one will know that it started."

The choice is simple. We can cut now or crash in the very near future.

The press says the sequester will hurt the economy. Actually, the sequester is miniscule in comparison to the harm to our economy from the President's tax hikes, Obamacare, and environmental overkill.

HONORING MINNIE DODGE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Ms. Minnie Dodge, Administrative Manager for the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, who is retiring after 14 years of outstanding service to our community.

Ms. Dodge attended Boise State University. During her time in the state of Idaho, she worked for L.B. Industries, Inc., the Larry Barnes Foundation, and was the co-owner of Omega Construction.

Minnie then relocated to California, where she was hired at the Modesto Chamber of Commerce as the Customer Service Manager in February of 1999. During her years at the Chamber, she was on several committees, including the Ag Aware Luncheon, the Harvest Luncheon, the Good Egg Breakfast, and the Modesto Chamber of Commerce Leadership Steering Committee. In July 2002, Minnie was promoted to Administrative Manager.

Minnie and her husband, Tony Meli, will soon be moving back to Boise, Idaho. Her family includes children Nicole, Cherene and her husband Steve, and Shane and his wife Tracy; along with their grandchildren Emily, Ashley, Conner, and Jack.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Minnie Dodge for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the vote on Monday, February 25, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 47, H.R. 667—To redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

HONORING JESSE J. JOSSELL, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable veteran of the Korean Conflict from 1954–1957, Pastor Jesse J. Jossell, Jr., of Marks, Mississippi.

Jesse was born in Coahoma County on September 5, 1935 to the late Jesse J. and Cordelia B. Jossell, Sr. His family later moved to Quitman County, Mississippi where he attended school and in May 1954 he graduated from Marks Industrial High School. He received his Associate of Arts Degree from Coahoma Junior College in May 1959. In 1961, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Jackson State College, now Jackson State University. He also attended Howard University in 1965. In 1969, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Natural Science from Oklahoma State University and later a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1973.

From 1960 until 1973, Jesse Jossell worked for the Quitman County School District in Marks, Mississippi as a classroom science teacher and science supervisor before accepting a principal position at the Falcon Junior High School in 1973.

In 1973, Jesse Jossell was asked to seek the office of Superintendent of Schools in the upcoming State and County Elections in 1975. Just four years earlier, the leadership in the black community under the new voting rights law sought to test this new tool. Jesse by far was the most attractive candidate and offered the best opportunity to elect an African-American to a countywide position. For two years, voter registration was the order of the day. More than 1,500 African-Americans were added to the voter rolls by qualifying deadline. Although Jesse and the other black candidates were not elected, three years later he was elected the first African-American to the Quitman County Board of Supervisors.

Jesse Jossell was later called into the ministry, where he has served as Pastor of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church since 1984. Through his work as pastor, he has provided child care to working mothers, especially single low-income and those trying to better themselves by going to school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Jesse Jossell, Jr. for a life of dedication to bettering the lives of the least among us.

HONORING CONNECTICUT'S PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the 26 Peace Corps members from eastern Connecticut who are currently serving in the Peace Corps around the world. For five decades, the Peace Corps has supported international diplomacy through the promotion of peace, goodwill, and social and economic equality. I am proud that these young Connecticut residents have devoted part of their lives to help improve the lives of others.

Among these eastern Connecticut volunteers is Keith Esposito, a resident of Gales Ferry and a Boston University graduate who is teaching English in Ukraine. Emily Howell Heller, a Niantic resident and Connecticut College graduate, is serving in Panama as an Environmental Education volunteer. Justin Lamountain, who is serving in the Philippines,

is a forest and land management consultant as part of the Peace Corps Response program.

Another volunteer, Chelsea Krieger, is serving as a HIV/AIDS technical health advisor in Malawi. Chelsea previously spent a year in Honduras through the Peace Corps; however, the Honduras program was suspended only a year into her service. Chelsea completed a Master's in Public Health and was motivated to apply for a Peace Corps response position to use her knowledge to assist those in need. Lantham Avery Jr. is currently serving in Kenya, a country currently experiencing unrest in the wake of the upcoming national elections. Additionally, one of my former interns, Gabrielle Tassone from Montville, is serving in Madagascar as an education volunteer. Other eastern Connecticut residents are serving in countries from Armenia to Tanzania to Gambia, and Kenya.

As we recognize the 52nd Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps program, it is important to recognize the over 210,000 American volunteers that have participated in this important service program. Volunteers have shown the international community the American value of service in over 139 countries. This program provides the best and brightest of our young people the opportunity to represent their country abroad, by teaching English, by assisting with economic development programs, and by providing necessary support to small communities throughout the world. As we begin Peace Corps month, I am hopeful that we can all recognize all of these invaluable contributions to American values and global understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these distinguished volunteers from Connecticut and across the country, for their contributions to the developing world and for embodying the core value of service we all share.

RECOGNIZING THE ALLIANCE FOR LUPUS RESEARCH'S 10TH ANNUAL WALK WITH US TO CURE LUPUS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alliance for Lupus Research's tenth annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus. Since its creation, Walk with Us To Cure Lupus has promoted awareness in our community and raised over one million dollars in support of medical research aimed at curing this disease.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which a person's immune system attacks normal, healthy tissues. The underlying causes are unknown, and there is no cure. This disease may cause damage to various parts of the body including skin, joints, and internal organs. As a chronic disease, those who suffer from lupus can endure months of symptoms that may reemerge as flares throughout their lives.

It is estimated that over 1.5 million Americans have lupus, including 100,000 people in my home state of Florida. The worldwide total is now over 5 million. It is important that we

continue to support research to develop better treatments and find a cure, educate our friends, families, and health care professionals to improve diagnosis and treatment, and promote awareness of this disease and advocate on the behalf of those who are affected by it.

I am especially proud of the many Floridians who have contributed to these efforts. In particular, I would like to recognize my good friend and the district director for Florida's 21st Congressional District, Wendi Lipsich. Wendi was diagnosed with lupus 25 years ago. While she is well-known for her energetic advocacy on behalf of seniors, children, and families throughout our community, she deserves special recognition today for her contribution to the Alliance for Lupus Research. Ten years ago, with the help of her friends Allison Rubin and Randy Netko, Wendi launched the first annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus event in South Florida. Eight hundred people attended the first walk in 2004 and raised \$200,000. Each year since, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised exclusively for the purpose of research into curing lupus. In total, the Alliance for Lupus Research has committed \$81 million to develop a greater understanding of this disease and find a cure.

This weekend on March 3, 2013, hundreds of participants will join together at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida to walk together in support of lupus research. I commend all of the participants and donors that will make the tenth annual Walk With Us To Cure Lupus a success. Congratulations to Wendi, Allison, and the other organizers of this year's walk. Together, you are providing hope to the millions of families touched by lupus and bringing our nation closer to finally discovering a cure.

INTRODUCING THE EVERGLADES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everglades for the Next Generation Act.

Everglades restoration is unfortunately at a standstill. All of the projects that can be started are already underway and nearing completion. It has been six years since the last Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) were authorized. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is supposed to be the vehicle for these authorizations, but clearly is not sufficient. In the 12 years since CERP was signed into law, Congress has passed only one WRDA bill. An awkward state of limbo is not the future Congress had in mind for the Everglades when it passed CERP, and it is not the future that the American people deserve. Congressional inaction has persevered for far too long despite bipartisan support for restoration.

Regardless of the real progress, restoration efforts will not succeed without the next generation of projects, which cannot begin without further Congressional authorizations. That is exactly what this bill does: authorizes the shovel-ready projects which have been awaiting another WRDA. Additionally, this legislation will make it easier for the Army Corps of

Engineers to move on many of the remaining projects in order to prevent future Congressional bottlenecks.

Restoration is not a theoretical exercise. CERP has demonstrable successes and biennial reports from the National Academy of Sciences. We know that the federal and state governments can successfully work together with private businesses and landowners to reach mutually beneficial agreements that restore the health of this unique, beautiful, wild, and wonderful resource that is absolutely essential for Florida.

I urge my colleagues to support critically important legislation.

STATEMENT ON SEQUESTRATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with the budget sequester that seems almost certain to occur. These automatic budget cuts will become effective tomorrow, Friday, March 1, 2013 unless Congress acts immediately. Many of my Democratic colleagues have proposed serious alternatives to the cuts, which I fully support.

Since the start of the 113th Congress, House Republicans have failed to bring a single bill to the floor that would prevent the cuts. The sequester will harm every American, especially the constituents of my district.

Estimates from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities demonstrate that the Women, Infant and Children nutrition program will be unable to assist between 600,000 and 775,000 individuals. Low income families depend on food assistance programs. Too many children in my district come to school hungry, which leads to the inability to focus on their schoolwork.

Sequestration will also undermine federally-funded programs that provide low income, underinsured, and uninsured women access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic testing. The women in my community need these programs to receive proper treatment.

Layoffs and furloughs to the Social Security Administration will slow the processing of Social Security applications. Many of my constituents who are retired or have disabilities depend on Social Security. Americans have worked for their Social Security benefits, and have the right to expect service.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am concerned about cuts to airport security. This issue has enormous importance to me and my fellow New Yorkers, many of whom work in airport security at JFK and LaGuardia airports. The cuts present seri-

ous risks to the workers at these airports and to our national security. These men and women have dedicated their lives to serving this country to keep it safe. A reduction in security workers will increase complications in air travel and increase the possibility of danger to this nation and its people.

The sequester will also harm small businesses, by reducing support for loan programs administered by the Small Business Administration as well as government contracts, and training program for small businesses. I am extremely sensitive to the plight of small businesses, as a member of the Small Business Committee.

I urge my colleagues to prevent these cuts to important programs. Our constituents want us to compromise to prevent these drastic cuts. In the words of Mohandas Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." We swore an oath to defend, protect and serve this country. Americans are depending on us to make the right decision. We should not delay a vote. We need to come together, make a decision and protect the interests of the people we represent.

VOICING SEQUESTER CONCERNS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is bad way to deal with deficit reduction and will likely have a negative effect on our economy, particularly Maryland's economy, which I have been saying for years is unusually vulnerable to reductions in government spending. We are faced with the sequester because our government has failed to act in a bi-partisan way for the good of the country. The cost of doing nothing is not nothing. Because we failed to take the necessary steps to deal with our deficit in a balanced way—and because special interests were uncompromising in the face of any proposals that affected them—we find ourselves facing a mini-doomsday machine in the sequester.

Unless Congress acts, sequestration would have a serious and disproportionate impact on job creation and economic growth in Maryland. The 60 non-military federal facilities and 17 military facilities in Maryland would see their ability to conduct operations significantly erode; nearly 140,000 federal civilian employees who work in Maryland would face furloughs and potential pay cuts; and thousands of jobs in Maryland would be put at risk. Our students, small businesses, families, and first-responders would also be affected by devastating cuts to investments in education, law enforcement, infrastructure, innovation, re-

search, and other areas that are critical to building a strong middle class.

Our focus should be on avoiding the sequester and passing a grand budget deal along the lines of Simpson-Bowles that reduces the deficit in a balanced way. We should do our job, which is to come together, negotiate in good faith, and find a solution.

THE 52ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding the 52nd anniversary of the Peace Corps to recognize the service, sacrifice and commitment of the men and women who devote a portion of their lives to the task of helping to strengthen the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of United States and others around the world. These cultural ambassadors embody the legacy of service that is the foundation of this nation's image abroad. Since 1961, more than 210,000 volunteers have served in 193 countries around the world. Their efforts in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere have made significant and lasting contributions in the areas of agriculture, business development, education, health, and youth development among others.

I know firsthand of the long-lasting benefits of the good work of the Peace Corps. My father served in the Navy and then went on to become a United States Foreign Service officer, proudly representing America in places like Turkey and India and Pakistan, where I was born. I learned a lot about the world as a child in those places, but I also learned a lot about America.

One memory of those years stands out. It was in the early 1970s, and I had just turned 14. One day, I traveled with my parents to a tiny remote village in Sri Lanka. There, I walked into a family's small hut and as my eyes adjusted to the light, I noticed, hanging on the wall, a portrait of President John F. Kennedy. It was 10 years after he had been in the White House and half a world away from our country, but for these villagers it represented the America that had sent Peace Corps volunteers to help them. It represented the America they looked to as a land of opportunity and as a force for good and justice around the world. That portrait of our president represented an America that was a beacon of hope.

As we celebrate the fifty-second anniversary of the Peace Corps, let us salute the men and women who helped bring the best of America to the people of the world.