

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Captain Nao Yeng Vang. He will always be remembered as an influential member of our very important Hmong community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
BILL KREITTEIN

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, a true friend of veterans in the State of Alabama, Bill Kreitlein, is retiring after many years of loyal service in my district office in Birmingham. On this occasion I would like to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives his dedicated work on behalf of our men and women in uniform as well as the entirety of his service to the district.

Bill was one of the first people I asked to join my district office staff when I was originally elected in 1992. He has been a primary liaison for my constituents to a variety of federal agencies. Bill has served two "tours of duty" as a permanent full-time employee and more recently as an invaluable part-time staff member. His personal style has been to work in a respectful and determined way to try to solve problems for people.

As a member of the Alabama National Guard from 1966 to 1972, Bill was the natural choice to handle military and veterans affairs issues in my district office. The members of our military, their families, and veterans have greatly benefited from his concern, diligence, and effectiveness. He has worked tirelessly to help veterans obtain rightfully-earned benefits, health care, and military honors and to address challenges facing active duty members. Bill's unique blend of maturity, experience, and insight has provided relief and comfort to many military families during times of great distress. As a result, Bill is held in the highest regard by veterans groups in the Birmingham region and the State of Alabama.

Bill is a native son of Alabama, having been born in Mobile on May 11, 1941. After attending high school in Pensacola, Florida, he received his bachelor's degree from Livingston State College in Livingston, Alabama. Like many conservatives of his generation, he began his involvement in politics during the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater in 1964. He has been active on the Republican State Executive Committee in Alabama, run for the Jefferson County School Board, and worked on my first campaign for Congress.

Because of his unwavering devotion and steadfast pursuit of excellence in his duties, Bill has been a great asset to me and the people of the Sixth District. The quality most associated with Bill by anyone who has come in contact with him on either a professional or personal basis is "kindness." He has demonstrated how to achieve success by living out one's faith and principles and by treating all individuals with respect and decency, and that is a wonderful and satisfying legacy to have established during a distinguished career in public service.

CONGRATULATING DANA ELEMEN-  
TARY SCHOOL FOR BEING  
NAMED A 21ST CENTURY LEARN-  
ING EXEMPLAR SCHOOL BY THE  
PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CEN-  
TURY SKILLS

**HON. MARK MEADOWS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dana Elementary School in Hendersonville, North Carolina, for being named a 21st Century Learning Exemplar School by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21).

The 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program seeks to identify, document, promote and celebrate examples of successful 21st century learning across the country. For the past 10 years, P21 has advocated for 21st century readiness for every student.

Last spring, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction nominated Dana Elementary for the 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program. After visiting classrooms and interviewing teachers and students at the school, P21 stated, "A coordinated effort between school leadership and teachers helps students develop problem-solving skills, a collaborative mindset and a goal-oriented approach to learning."

Dana Elementary has also been awarded one of six National School Change Awards from the National Principal Leadership Institute.

In May, I had the opportunity to visit Dana Elementary and see the school's innovative teaching techniques firsthand. By combining a dynamic curriculum and modern technology, Dana Elementary engages students and prepares them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate Principal Kelly Schofield and the entire team at Dana Elementary for being named a 21st Century Learning Exemplar School and thank them for their commitment to our future leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF EDWARD O. WATTS, SR.

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Edward O. Watts, Sr., director of Watts Architecture & Engineering, who passed away on October 31, 2013 in Buffalo at the age of 70.

A native of the State of Alabama, Mr. Watts attended school there, graduating from Camden Academy. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tuskegee University, and went on to gain his master's degree from Baldwin Wallace College.

Mr. Watts began his career at Lockheed Martin in Atlanta as a design engineer, and moved on to work for DuPont in Cleveland, Ohio, before being transferred to Niagara Falls. He was able to follow the American Dream and start his own business, now known as Watts Architecture & Engineering. The

company began with just one employee—Mr. Watts himself—and now employs about 100 people. Recently, the firm celebrated its 25th anniversary. Mr. Watts received many business and design awards for his work, perhaps the most prominent being the U.S. Small Business Administration Graduate Firm of the Year Award in 2010.

Dedicated to giving back to communities that helped him grow, Mr. Watts was a member of the Tuskegee University Alumni Association, and frequently returned to the school to raise funds to upgrade the engineering department and for scholarships. He helped fund the Watts Family Scholarships at Alabama State University in honor of his mother, who was a graduate of the university. Mr. Watts also generously contributed to schools in his native Western New York. His company provides scholarships every year at the University at Buffalo for minority students, one for the School of Engineering and one for the School of Architecture. Mr. Watts completed the University at Buffalo Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, and for more than 10 years he returned as a mentor for numerous business owners.

Mr. Watts was a member of the Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and served on its board of trustees as church treasurer. His favorite pastime was playing the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama—a passion he pursued at home as well. He organized the Watts Open Golf Tournament for his employees as well as the American Institute of Architects/American Council of Engineering Consultants of Western New York Golf Tournament.

Mr. Watts's dedication to his community was equaled by his love for his family.

Together, he and his wife of forty-four years, Lydia, raised two sons, Edward and Jonathan. Mr. Watts was close with his siblings, Dr. Vivian DeShields, Claudette Camp, Dr. Geraldine Bell, and Harold Watts.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize Mr. Watts's incredible contributions to Buffalo's architecture and engineering community, as well as his admirable philanthropy. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, and am truly appreciative of all his great works.

HONORING THE TUTWILER FU-  
NERAL HOMES 220 HANCOCK  
STREET AND 218 HANCOCK  
STREET AND MRS. ANN COUTEE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two historic sites in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. The Tutwiler Funeral Homes are both located in Tutwiler, MS.

Mr. Speaker it is important that I make mention of the addresses of the Tutwiler Funeral Homes. The original one is located at 220 Hancock St. There is a newer structure located at 218 Hancock St.

220 Hancock Street is the original Tutwiler Funeral Home. History has documented the funeral home as having several owners. When Mr. C.M. "Chick" Nelson owned it, it was for