

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE CARTHAGE BULLDOGS FOR WINNING THE TEXAS 3A DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to have a number of outstanding football programs well established within the First District of Texas. To have two tremendous east Texas teams as the last ones standing, battling it out for a state championship title, makes me all the more proud as their Representative in Washington, D.C.

Today, we stand to recognize and congratulate the Carthage Bulldogs on a stellar high school football season in 2013 which culminated with their claiming the Texas State 3A—Division I Championship over the previously undefeated Kilgore Bulldogs, also an extraordinarily talented group of young men who were playing in their second state title match in school history.

As a result of extraordinary teamwork and athletic prowess, these two east Texas powerhouse teams faced off in what became known as the “Bulldog Bowl.” This canine clash came just one year after both teams were defeated in the state semifinals. More than 17,000 fans packed the stadium the week before Christmas to witness this battle to determine who would be “top dawg” in the state of Texas for 2013. The 34–23 victory secured the Carthage Bulldogs’ fourth state championship trophy since 2008, the team having captured three straight state titles from 2008 to 2010.

The Carthage Bulldogs’ 2013 championship success is a testament to superb coaching, as well as a tribute to the players and all who assisted them along the way. Such championships do not come without extensive year-round preparation of everyone involved, the coaches’ tireless groundwork, unrivaled discipline & selfless teamwork of players and staff, enthusiastic support and unwavering encouragement from family, friends and fans, all fueled by a dogged determination to reach the highest goal achievable in Texas football.

The lessons learned about teamwork and discipline will undoubtedly improve every participant’s life in immeasurable ways. These same lessons should help boost every player, coach, and supporter through the knowledge that potential obstacles that lie ahead in life can be overcome with championship capability.

Congratulations to Superintendent Dr. Glenn Hambrick, Principal Otis Amy, Assistant Principals Pat Browning and Wade Watson, along with the entire athletic staff including Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Scott Surratt, Assistant Coaches Chris Smith, Darren Preston, Andre Granger, Chris Cloninger, Clint Endsley, Matt Folmar, John Goodwin, Brandon Hargers, Ryan Marion,

Dennis McLaughlin, Benny Mitchell, Mike Morgan, Jay Malone, Charlie Tucker, Jim Milstead, and Stephen Luman; the Junior High Coaches Paul Bishop, Brian Caver, Jeff Griffin, Brian Stacy, and Damon Roberts; Athletic Trainer Dustin Swaim; and Student Assistants Mason Brittain, Kyla Burd, David Johnson, Nicholle Moore, Cynthia Puente, Hannah Taylor, Sydnee Taylor, and Sarai Vassar; and Athletic Secretary Mamie Vanover.

And of course, we pay tribute to the championship team consisting of Jakeldric Jackson, Dylan Possoit, Keldrean Strong, Blake Bogenschutz, Terian Goree, Jeremy Matlock, O’keeron Rutherford, Clark Neuman, Kirston Ingram, Troy Davis, Roberto Jimenez, Trevor Cooper, Jarod Blissett, Ross Barron, Tevin Pipkin, Christian Allison, Micah Templeton, Jordan Romero, Juston Clough, Tredarion Jackson, Bryan Bolton, Ty Jones, Tra’Kareon Leary, James Marshall, D’Vodney Brooks, Jace Zett, Johnathan Brown, Ronald Mayweather, Javontay Brown, Christopher Howard, De’Arreus Hearn, Rafael Hernandez, Gilbert Perez, Travis Phillips, Jimmy Gonzalez, Seth Ward, Kiiron Lewis, Jonthan Sells, Ravodney Hardy, Kedrick Henderson, Cade Clinton, Garrett Harvey, Branton Halcumb, Bryce Rickert, Mario McCain, Braden Russell, Micah Johnson, Hunter Hutto, Nolan Griffin, Akashdeep Singh, Devon Nitzschke, TC Bryant, Jonathon Rayson, Griffin Bankhead, Trevor Broadway, Brandon Carlson, Adrian Goodacre, Dillon Husar, Cristian Jimenez, Jarrod McLin, Cagan Baldree, Leonard Maxwell, Marquise Guinn, Ja’Marcus Roberson, and Tavorin Pellum.

May God continue to bless these young people, their families, friends, and all those individuals who refer to Carthage as home. It is my most esteemed honor to congratulate the 2013 State Champion Carthage Bulldogs and everyone involved with this endeavor, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

#### HONORING WESLEY CHESBRO

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize California Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro, who will be retiring November 30, 2014 after 34 years of public service.

Assemblymember Chesbro has an illustrious record of serving the North Coast as an environmental champion, public servant and community leader. He has devoted his career to protecting the North Coast’s tremendous natural resources, advocating for underserved populations, and promoting the communities and businesses that call this region home.

Beginning his public service career in the Arcata City Council, Assemblymember

Chesbro served for years in the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the State Senate, and in the State Assembly. In addition to his decades in elected office, Assemblymember Chesbro left an impact on his community as the co-founder of the Arcata Community Recycling Center and later the Northcoast Environmental Center.

As a member of the California State Senate, Assemblymember Chesbro authored legislation to fund rural community clinics, protect California’s natural resources, provide housing for individuals with special needs, and ensure rural law enforcement agencies are fully funded. More recently, in the Assembly, Assemblymember Chesbro has successfully introduced legislation to promote recycling statewide, support local breweries, preserve forests, and protect marine mammals.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Wesley Chesbro upon his retirement for his work in representing the North Coast, protecting its resources, and championing its people. We express our deep appreciation for his service, and convey our best wishes for his long and happy retirement with his wife Cindy and his children Alan and Collin.

#### NATIONAL EATING DISORDER AWARENESS WEEK

#### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. The Renfrew Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been a leader in the education on eating disorders and the treatment of women since 1985. Its clinical excellence and supportive environment has empowered women to change their lives.

More than 8 million people in the United States suffer from eating disorders. Nearly half of all Americans personally know someone with an eating disorder. Unfortunately only one in 10 people with an eating disorder receive treatment for their disease.

The theme of this year’s National Eating Disorder Awareness Week is “I Had No Idea.” Since symptoms can be different for everyone, it’s not always easy for friends and families to tell when a loved one is suffering from bulimia or anorexia. For someone suffering from one of these diseases, it can take over their life.

The Renfrew Center is the nation’s first residential eating disorder facility. Renfrew has helped more than 65,000 women with eating disorders and other behavioral health issues in their 13 locations around the country. Renfrew offers help to women suffering from bulimia, anorexia, binge eating disorder, and related health problems. Renfrew empowers women with the tools they need to succeed in their recovery and in their lives.

The stigma that comes with suffering eating disorders can often lead to other illnesses

• 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.

both physical and mental, and sufferers need and deserve the strong support of their family, friends, colleagues and health professionals. This is where Renfrew excels, and I am grateful for the staff and supporters of The Renfrew Center for their dedication to this important effort.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Renfrew Center and all health professionals across the country for their dedication to treating those suffering from eating disorders. In recognition of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, it remains important today and every day to educate those in our lives about eating disorders and provide them support and hope for a better path.

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TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN  
APPALACHIAN PROJECT

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of a program dedicated to improving lives in my region of Appalachia, the Christian Appalachian Project, in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Whether employees or volunteers, the exceptional members of this organization work hard to fight the problems which have plagued eastern Kentucky and Appalachia, including natural disasters, domestic violence, and barriers to economic development.

The Christian Appalachian Project began in 1964 with Reverend Ralph W. Beiting, who provided clothing, food, and other goods to the people of eastern Kentucky with the help of members of his church and community in northern Kentucky. Over the last fifty years, the organization has grown tremendously to include a vast array of programs for children and families, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. These programs offer hope and help.

Each of these programs is designed to help enrich the lives of eastern Kentuckians and better the community as a whole through an approach that emphasizes providing a hand up and not just a hand out. Each year, more than 1,000 people volunteer from across the nation to help make this project one of the most influential efforts in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an incredible program which helps so many in my region get back on their feet. The program's fifty years of service is a testament to how much this program has done for Kentucky and the whole Appalachian region, and I wish them a bright and exciting future.

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RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF MRS. ALICE  
GEISHECKER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Alice Geishecker to the United States House of Representatives and this great Na-

tion upon the occasion of her retirement. Alice is a true American patriot with over 38 combined years of supporting Military members and families.

Since September 2001, Mrs. Geishecker served as a Congressional Liaison Representative with the United States Air Force House Liaison Office. In this capacity, she was responsible for maintaining a continuous Air Force presence in the United States House of Representatives. Her primary role was to facilitate personal contacts between Air Force leaders, Members of Congress, key personnel and professional House staff. She monitored the ever-changing political environment on Capitol Hill to advise the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Alice was the primary focal point for administrative functions within the office to include all logistical support for events, Congressional member travel departures and arrivals, and movements of Senior Air Force Leadership within the Capitol complex. This endeared her to many Members of Congress and their offices.

Prior to joining the Air Force Liaison Office in the House of Representatives, Alice worked as a contract employee in 1978 with University of Maryland at Camp Pieri, Wiesbaden, Germany and took her oath to federal service on July 5, 1989 working Family Support Services at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Alice also worked with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) liaison officers at the Army Command and General Staff College, Directorate of Combat Development, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and various divisions within the acquisition community and with the Director of Manpower in the Pentagon.

Alice had a varied and full civil servant career, but also served as a dedicated Army spouse to her husband Alan, a retired Lieutenant Colonel; loving mother to her three children, Cassie, Angela, and Jackie; and grandmother of eight.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is an honor to recognize the career and service of Mrs. Alice Geishecker. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Alice and wish her and her family all the best.

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PREVENTING CARBON MONOXIDE  
TRAGEDIES

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of a preventable tragedy that occurred in my congressional district this past weekend. On Saturday, at a local shopping mall, carbon monoxide leaked from a faulty basement pipe and tragically killed Steve Nelson, who managed the Legal Sea Foods there. 27 people were also sickened in moments by this colorless, odorless gas.

Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning; more than 20,000 visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized. Just one preventable death is too many.

This gas is so toxic because it is both odorless and colorless. In a house, for example, everyday items such as kerosene and gas space heaters, gas water heaters, fireplaces,

and gas stoves are sources of carbon monoxide. A leak or improper use of these appliances can be fatal.

However, carbon monoxide detectors are an incredible weapon in our fight against carbon monoxide poisoning. These detectors, which cost as low as \$15, are designed to alert people before potentially life-threatening levels of CO are reached.

In fact, reports of carbon monoxide incidents that aren't related to fire almost doubled from 2003 to 2010. This is actually good news because it means these detectors are doing their job to alert people before it's too late.

I usually talk about carbon monoxide poisoning during natural disasters, as I did during Superstorm Sandy when many of my constituents lost power for weeks and resorted to gas generators in order to stay in their homes.

But as we learned from this past weekend, we must always be aware and we also must make sure that not only homes, but also businesses and other public areas are adequately protected.

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HONORING HY RAMM

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Hy Ramm who recently passed away. Hy was a longtime friend, an accomplished business man and an asset to our community.

Hy was born in Liverpool, England and as a child he witnessed first-hand, the Nazi bombings during WWII. He was forced to grow up quickly, and the horrible things he saw during the war gave him a level of maturity and determination that I have rarely seen in others. After immigrating to Los Angeles with his family following the war, with only a fourth grade education, Hy quickly established himself as a force to be reckoned with. He worked hard to support his family and quickly rose to the level of Vice President of Dosimeter. Hy was determined to achieve success for himself and his family but always made time to give back to others. Even after his retirement, Hy worked with the Silicon Valley Coalition of Retired Executives (SCORE) and dedicated countless hours to mentoring young entrepreneurs.

Hy had a great passion for politics and public affairs and was actively involved in numerous campaigns over the years. I had the great honor of meeting Hy in the 1960s during his term as President of the Beverly Hills Democrats and he was truly an inspiration.

Hy is survived by his wife and two children, daughter-in-law Jenifer, son-in-law Warren, and grandchildren Meredith, Annabella, Kira, Griffin and Amelia. He will be missed by all who knew him.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life and tremendous contributions of Hy Ramm. Our community owes Hy a debt of gratitude for his tremendous accomplishments and philanthropic efforts and he will not be forgotten.

HONORING DR. ETHEL HALL DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2014

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History month and my commitment to honoring influential African Americans that have impacted the state of Alabama and this nation. Today, I have the pleasure of sharing the inspiring story of Dr. Ethel Harris Hall. Dr. Hall was the first African American to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education and she was also the first African American Vice President of the Board of Education. In Alabama, we remember this exemplary educator for her role in breaking barriers in education and for her lifelong commitment to excellence.

Dr. Hall was born on February 23, 1928 in Morgan County Alabama to Harry and Fannie Mae Harris. The Harris' sent their daughter to Birmingham to ensure that she received a quality education. She attended Ullman High School, A.H. Parker High School, and Council Training School. She was valedictorian of her class and went on to attend Alabama A&M University where she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1948. She also obtained masters degrees from the University of Chicago and Atlanta University. She continued her studies at the University of Alabama where she obtained a doctorate in social work in 1979.

Throughout her tenure, this stellar educator taught in various schools systems throughout the state of Alabama including Hale County Schools, Birmingham City Schools, and Jefferson County Schools. Dr. Hall also taught at the collegiate level and was the first African American faculty member at the University of Montevallo. She later taught in the school of social work at The University of Alabama where she retired in 1999.

On January 19, 1987 Dr. Hall made history when she became the first black elected to serve on the Alabama State Board of Education. During her 24 year tenure, she served six terms and became vice chair in 1994. Dr. Hall served on the State Board of Education during many tumultuous battles over issues such as funding levels for schools, teacher testing, accountability standards for schools and academic standards for students. In making these tough decisions, she always remained a woman of principle-putting Alabama's children first.

In 2010, shortly before her death, Dr. Hall published her autobiography entitled "My Journey: A Memoir of the First African American to preside over the Alabama Board of Education." Dr. Hall stated that she felt it was important to share her story to inspire others to appreciate the opportunities they had been afforded. "I wrote the book because as I worked on the state board I found so many young people who took education for granted," Hall said. "They just assumed that everybody had the opportunity to go to school where they wanted to . . ." In telling her story, she hoped to not only share her experiences as a trailblazer, but to tell others about how she saw Alabama's education system evolve through the years.

While we honor Dr. Hall for breaking barriers, we must also salute this extraordinary

woman for her commitment to the students that she served. She led with grace and impeccable character that was defined by her passion for challenging students to be their very best. As a role model, she inspired her fellow educators to be servant leaders to their students and to their community. This beloved figure is also remembered for belief that all children deserved a quality education. Through her work she truly taught us to see education as the great equalizer.

During Black History month, simply saying thank you to Dr. Hall seems woefully inadequate but on behalf of a grateful nation we salute this pioneer and acknowledge her role not only in black history but American history. Her story is a perfect illustration of passionate leadership and selfless service to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Ethel Harris Hall, a phenomenal woman and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS M. HUNTER

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Appalachia's most dedicated allies, Thomas M. Hunter. Tom will retire after 20 years of esteemed service as Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Over the years, Tom has made a tremendous impact on eastern Kentucky's communities and local economies. The ARC has consistently worked to leverage their funding in order to spur private-sector investment in commercial and industrial development, as well as provide for improved water, sewer, gas, fiber, and road infrastructure projects where they had previously been sorely needed. Many of these investments have occurred in my District, where all 28 of the counties I represent are recognized as a part of the ARC. Specifically, Tom has had oversight of the 3,080-mile Appalachian Development Highway System; noted to be the cornerstone of the ARC's transportation efforts. The ADHS is a system of modern highways that connect with the interstate highway system. The ADHS recently achieved 85 percent completion, and has already proved to be a formidable economic stimulator for a region where roadways have traditionally been difficult to construct and often fall into disrepair. In my district, these vital corridors allow Kentuckians from even the most remote areas a chance to reach interstates with ease; thus opening up entire communities to travel and trade in a way that would have been impossible just a few decades ago.

All told, Tom Hunter has his fingerprints on hundreds of improvement projects in eastern Kentucky alone. Over the last 20 years, he has affected the lives of countless Kentuckians by overseeing the installation and repair of water lines, investments in small regional businesses via grant initiatives, and educational programs such as the Appalachian Higher Education Network—a group developed to work with high schools to increase the number of college-ready students in Appalachia. Tom has aided in tourism development with projects such as the Kentucky Artisan

Heritage Trails, and actively demonstrated his interest in improving the health of Appalachians with the creation of the Appalachian Health Policy Advisory Council. Tom has done so much for my district, and for Kentucky, that it becomes difficult to fathom how he has likely been an equally significant champion for the other 12 states included in the Appalachian Regional Commission's territory. The ARC has been an extraordinary federal agency due to the constant commitment they have shown in responding to the needs of people throughout Appalachia. There is no doubt that Tom's strategic leadership was a fundamental driver behind the ARC's steady success.

As he moves into retirement, Tom leaves behind a legacy of forthright demeanor, an attentive ear, and humility in service. His wisdom, care and passion for the region will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true hero of the Appalachian region, Thomas M. Hunter. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING AUGUST "GUS" SCHAEFER ON A DISTINGUISHED 41-YEAR CAREER WITH UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES

**HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor August "Gus" Schaefer for an extraordinary career—41 years of innovation and leadership in product and public safety at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in the suburban Chicago district I represent. Under his watch, more than 25 billion products worldwide have earned the UL stamp of approval.

As UL's Public Safety Officer, Mr. Schaefer has pioneered and overseen countless major safety initiatives. His work and leadership have helped firefighters do their jobs better and safer. His commitment has guaranteed the safety of imports from around the world. And his dedication has helped teach fire, water, health, environmental, online and consumer safety to untold thousands of children each year.

Mr. Schaefer began his career with UL in 1973. Over the next 41 years, he built a reputation for excellent work and leadership, as well as for building partnerships and forging friendships. Mr. Schaefer successfully built teams and cultivated a team atmosphere.

His record, his experience and his work ethic earned him roles as the Director of Asian Operations and then U.S. and Canadian Operations before finally taking his position as Senior Vice President and Public Safety Officer.

Throughout his storied career, Mr. Schaefer maintained his commitment to excellence and team building. His accomplishments demonstrate the grand vision and discipline necessary to take ideas to action.

Mr. Schaefer's career has indeed been long and distinguished. I have no doubt his presence, guidance, friendship, leadership and vision will be sorely missed at UL, but his legacy and accomplishments will long be remembered and have set the foundation for years more success and safety.

RECOGNIZING JANA PAVLUS AS THE 2015 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Jana Pavlus as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. An outstanding educator, Ms. Pavlus has been an inspiration to her students, her colleagues, and her community, and I am proud to recognize her success and myriad of achievements.

Ms. Jana Pavlus graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Mobile in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Religion and Psychology. She began her teaching career in 2008 in Northwest Florida's Escambia County School District. After serving as a substitute teacher, as well as a Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) math tutor, Ms. Pavlus joined the faculty at Woodham Middle School, located in Pensacola, Florida, in 2010, where she currently serves as a seventh grade science teacher.

Ms. Pavlus not only believes that community involvement is critical in fostering a love and value of education in each student, but she understands and values the critical role she plays in the journey and professional development of her students. Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Pavlus has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring her students and pushing them to their highest potential. In addition to helping students grasp difficult scientific theories, Ms. Pavlus also recognizes the importance of strong communications skills in improving critical thinking and is constantly challenging her students to understand why writing, analysis, and mathematics are important not only in other areas of study, but particularly in the study of science.

The dedication and commendable work Ms. Pavlus demonstrates as an educator has not gone unnoticed. She was awarded the Woodham Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2013–2014 and was one of a few teachers invited to attend a Capturing Kids' Hearts Workshop, which has influenced her teaching style and strengthened her connection with her students.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida has been blessed with an abundance of exemplary educators who constantly strive to empower as well as teach their students, and it is a privilege to recognize Ms. Jana Pavlus as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Ms. Pavlus and thanking her for her commitment to serving the students and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish her all the best for continued success.

COMMEMORATION OF SUMGAI, KIROVABAD AND BAKU MASSACRES

**HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 26th Anniversary of the horrific

Sumgait Pogroms. On February 27, 1988 organized mobs of Azerbaijanis aimed at killing and driving Armenian Christians living in Sumgait from their homes. Armed with sticks, axes and iron rods, they attacked Armenian men, women and children by breaking into their homes and brutally beating and killing them just because of their ethnicity. Despite Sumgait's 30 minute proximity to Baku, police allowed the pogroms to go on for 3 days, during which Armenians were burned alive and thrown from windows.

These acts were merely a continuation of the Azerbaijani authorities' unswerving policy of racism towards Armenians and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population, with unpunished killings and deportations.

The Sumgait massacre is a black mark on history and sadly, this event sparked further violence as Armenians would be targeted less than 9 months later in Kirovabad and again in Baku in 1990.

The Azerbaijani Government has shamefully continued to undermine prospects for a lasting peace in the Southern Caucasus, recently in 2012, pardoning an Azerbaijani military officer Ramil Safarov who brutally murdered Armenian military officer Gurban Margaryan during a NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace exercise in 2004. Safarov confessed and was convicted in Budapest for brutally axing Margaryan while he was sleeping. Safarov never showed remorse for the murder and stated that he wished he had killed more Armenians. Immediately after his pardon Safarov received a promotion in the Azerbaijani military, an apartment, and years of back pay for his time spent in prison.

For more than 20 years, the people of Nagorno Karabakh have fought and died for their independence. From the earliest days of its formation, the Republic's freely elected governmental bodies have helped build an open democratic society through transparent elections and it is critical that the United States support their independence and autonomy.

As we reflect on these horrific outbreaks of ethnic violence, I join with Armenians in Rhode Island, and across the world in remembering these victims and renewing our commitment to justice, independence and finding lasting peace.

I am proud to say Rhode Island was the first state in our nation to pass a resolution to recognize the Independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and set an example for other legislatures to follow, like Massachusetts, Maine and Louisiana. The time has come for the United States Congress to do the same.

HONORING REV. ABRAHAM L. WOODS, JR. AND BISHOP CALVIN W. WOODS

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise today to continue my commitment to paying tribute to outstanding African-Americans who have made tremendous contributions to the political, economic and social fabric of Alabama and

this nation. Today, I am honored to recognize brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr. for their incredible audacity and courage during the darkest days of the Civil Rights Movement.

Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr. were both born in Birmingham, Alabama to Maggie Rosa Lee Wallace Woods, a homemaker, and Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods Sr., a plant worker and Baptist minister.

In the spring of 1963, Rev. Abraham Woods led Birmingham's first demonstration at a whites-only lunch counter in downtown Birmingham. In the days and weeks following the first sit-in, Rev. Abraham Woods was arrested along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders for confronting Bull Connor. Rev. Abraham Woods had become friends with Dr. King while they were students at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and later joined him on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

Rev. Abraham Woods received a bachelor's degree in theology from Birmingham Baptist College, a bachelor's in sociology from Miles College in Birmingham and a master's in American history from the University of Alabama. He co-founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956 with Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and served as the director for the Miles College Voter Registration Project.

Thirty-four years after the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, Rev. Abraham Woods played a pivotal role in urging the federal government to re-investigate the bombing. The new investigation led to the conviction of two Klansmen. "Even the Klan, as bad as they are," he told the New York Times in a 1997 interview, "you didn't think they would go as far as to bomb a church on Sunday with little children in Sunday school."

While president of the Birmingham chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Rev. Abraham Woods led protests which were instrumental in integrating country clubs and golf courses in Alabama and across the nation. The P.G.A. had chosen a Birmingham country club as the site for its 1990 Championship. The protests that followed impelled major corporations to withdraw advertising from the tournament which led to the integration of the club.

Rev. Abraham Woods is also remembered as an exemplary educator. He was the first African American to teach American history at the University of Alabama. In 2002, Rev. Abraham Woods retired from Miles College after forty years on its faculty. Upon his retirement, Miles College conferred upon him the Doctorate of Humane Letters. He went on to retire as president of the Birmingham chapter of the SCLC in 2006. He served as pastor of St. Joseph's Baptist Church in Birmingham for thirty-seven years until his death on November 7, 2008 at the age of 80.

Rev. Abraham Woods had an incredible impact on the state of Alabama and this nation in his pursuit of justice. He taught all of us the importance of loving God and living for others.

In 2006, Bishop Calvin Woods succeeded his older brother as president of the Birmingham SCLC and became president of the New Era Baptist State Convention a year later.

Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr. was born on September 13, 1933 in Birmingham, Alabama. At the age of twelve, he entered Parker High School where he developed a talent for shoe repair and tailoring and a gift for public speaking.

Bishop Calvin Woods graduated from Parker High School in 1950 and went on to earn a B.S. degree in social science and B.D., B.R.E., M.B.S and D.D. degrees from the Universal Baptist Institute, the Universal Baptist Seminary and Birmingham-Easonian Baptist Bible College.

In 1960, Bishop Calvin Woods became pastor of East End Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. During the 1960's, he was a resolute advocate for the boycott of Birmingham's segregated city bus system. He was sentenced to prison for six months and fined for his leadership in the Birmingham Bus Boycotts. Despite this setback, Bishop Calvin Woods continued his steadfast commitment to the Movement. In 1963, he was arrested and beaten by Birmingham's police for participating in public protests. Again, his dedication to fighting segregation and intolerance in the Deep South did not waver. Bishop Calvin Woods was heavily involved in the 1965 protest of Birmingham's voter registration procedures. He served as the strategy chairman for the protest of the shootings of five black protesters at a Birmingham supermarket.

Today, Bishop Calvin Woods continues to be a guiding light for the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama. He remains an outspoken advocate for justice speaking out most recently against the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case and the Supreme Court's decision striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. I am inspired by the words he spoke at a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony in 2012 for the 6 Birmingham youth killed on September 15, 1963. "In a sense we've crossed a stream," he said, "but still there are mighty oceans of adversity that lie ahead."

As a direct benefactor of their life's work and sacrifices, it is my honor to recognize the contributions of brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Their contributions have inspired generations. On behalf of a grateful state and nation, we acknowledge these trailblazers and their influence on the progress we have made. The City of Birmingham, the State of Alabama and this entire nation have benefited from their sacrifices and tenacious pursuit of justice. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods.

HONORING ANITA BLEDSOE-COVINGTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Black History honoree, Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington.

Raised in Grenada County, MS, Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington is known within the community for her entrepreneurship and an active

member of the community. Born 9th out of 11 children of the late Icy Bell and Willie Sykes, the family had made strides of their own. Her mother, Ms. Icy Bell, was the head cook of a prestigious and all white restaurant, Monte Cristo, of Grenada, MS from 1963 until the year she passed 1973. Ms. Juanita Sykes, Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington's twin sister, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he made his way through the south in 1967. And for her courage and civil defiance, she was arrested and jailed for this act.

With her three children, Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington moved to Yalobusha County in 1973. This move would be the first of many for Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington. In 1978, she became the first black female delegate for the Mississippi Democratic Convention in Jackson, MS, as a representative for Yalobusha County.

During 1982 Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington opened Nita's Beauty Salon making her a staple in serving her community as a business woman. The salon earned Mrs. Anita numerous accolades as a beautician and entrepreneur. By 1986, she was the first black chairman of the Title I program for the Coffeeville School District as an active parent. As the 90's rolled in, Mrs. Anita was elected the first female Trustee of Coffeeville School Board District from 1991 through 1998. She also was hired as the first black female city clerk for the town of Oakland, MS in 1991.

During this time, the beginning of her career as a teacher with the Institution of Community Service head start program. Although she had already started her career as an early childhood school teacher, Mrs Bledsoe-Covington graduated from Coahoma Community College with an associate in early childhood education in 2003.

By 2005, in the same field, she earned her B.S. from Mississippi Valley State University. Coming full circle, 2010, Can's Chapel CME Church honored Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington as an unsung hero for Succeeding against the Odds during their Black History program. In 2012, she has obtained the Dean and President Certificate from the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Now married at the age of 60 and with 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild later, when asked if it was her agenda to create Black History, her response was, "I've always accepted challenge and I guess maybe I did! I wanted to see if I could make a difference."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington for her quest in being a part of making history.

“GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY”

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the thousands of dentists and volunteers who participate in the "Give Kids A Smile Day." Each February, Illinois dentists donate more than \$1 million in much-needed dental care to children. Many families cannot afford to provide their children with regular dental care. This can not only result in potentially serious health problems but is also likely to serve as an impediment to

economic success. The unfortunate truth is that individuals with unhealthy looking teeth are less likely to be hired than those with better oral health. Furthermore, an inability to obtain dental care can adversely affect children before they even enter the job market—dental pain can affect both sleep patterns and school performance. Inadequate dental care is not a cosmetic concern; it has a real impact on a person's economic mobility and success.

I commend the American Dental Association for its tireless efforts to raise awareness and develop solutions so more people can receive dental care. Since the ADA's "Give Kids A Smile" program was founded twelve years ago in St. Louis, it has grown to become the world's largest oral health charitable program—encouraging parents, health professionals and policymakers to address the year-round need for oral health care for all children. Each year, thousands of the nation's dentists, dental team members and community volunteers provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families.

This February in Illinois, over 2,000 dental care professionals volunteered for "Give Kids A Smile Day," reaching upwards of 17,000 kids. Dentists in Illinois have demonstrated their commitment to giving back to the community. In June 2014, the Illinois State Dental Society and its Foundation will hold the third "Illinois Mission of Mercy" in Peoria, Illinois. The Mission of Mercy is a free, two-day dental clinic during which over 950 volunteers see 1,000 patients each day and provide over \$1 million in much-needed oral health care.

I would like to thank all the dental professionals who have volunteered their time this year to provide screenings, treatments and education to children throughout the United States. I urge my colleagues to support the ADA's efforts to improve the lives and expand opportunities for our nation's children.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
JOE INFAUSTO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Infausto as he retires after 43 years of public service as a police reserve officer. Joe's commitment and dedication to serving his community deserves to be commended.

Joe began his career in law enforcement in 1970 with the Clovis Police Department Auxiliary Unit. In 1977, he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno. That same year, Joe was transferred to the Fresno Police Department Reserve Unit where he served for 36 years.

As a reserve officer, Joe was a citizen volunteer who donated his time and energy to help make Fresno a better place. Throughout his law enforcement career, Joe received numerous commendations for his service and professionalism, including achieving the rank of Lieutenant in 1999.

Joe's dedication to the security of his community was not only exemplified through his service but also through the establishment of his small business, BESTEC Security in 1983.

BESTEC Security provided state of the art security systems and equipment to individuals and families throughout the Central Valley for 23 years. Joe sold the business in 2006 and continued to serve as a Fresno Police Department Reserve Officer.

Prior to leaving the Reserve Unit, Joe was assigned to the Mounted Unit, where he continued to carry out his duty to protect and serve the citizens of Fresno while on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joe Infausto as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Reserve Unit.

CONGRATULATING JON REEDY ON BEING THE NSSGA'S 2013 SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jon Reedy of Irving, Texas, on receiving the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association's (NSSGA) 2013 James M. Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year award.

The award, established in 1987, gives national attention to an individual who contributes outstanding efforts to his or her company regarding healthy work practices. Mr. Reedy, Director of Environment, Safety, and Health for the South Region & Hanson Building Products, Lehigh Hanson, Inc., has been a strong advocate for a safe work environment and brought proactive changes to daily procedures, particularly in mining. His tireless efforts have led to many man-hours without workplace injuries among several facilities as well as reductions in compensation costs. He is a great asset to not only the company but the community as well. NSSGA President and CEO Michael Johnson stated that "Jon's diligent work to boost safety and health performance is a great example of the aggregate industry's commitment to worker wellness celebrated by the Christie Award."

Jon Reedy's receipt of this honor evidences his hard work and dedication to not only his company but his workers and community. Keeping a safe and healthy work environment is beneficial to all parties involved. It is an honor to represent such a distinguished and hardworking constituent in Congress and I look forward to seeing the results of that success in the form of safer workplaces in North Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Jon Reedy on his award.

HONORING CATHERINE MILLER

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Civil

Rights Activist, Mrs. Catherine Miller who is a resident of Friars Points, Mississippi.

Mrs. Miller was born in the historical Taborian Hospital in Mound Bayou, Mississippi and resided with her parents the late James Lee Nolan, Sr. and Juanita Grandberry Johnson and her sixteen siblings in Friars Point, Mississippi. At the age of five her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee and after three years the family relocated to Friars Point to run their farm.

Mrs. Miller was educated in the Memphis City School District, Friars Point Elementary School, and graduated from Coahoma Agricultural High School and Coahoma Junior College. She furthered her education at Alcorn State College and received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from LeMoyné College in Memphis, Tennessee, and continued her studies at Walden University towards a Master Degree in Non-Profit Management.

In the early 1970's Mrs. Miller participated in boycotting stores in Friars Point where people were being treated unjustly and got involved with activities which highlighted change for equality. She became a member of the Young Democratic Organization, and worked and campaigned in several Coahoma County Board of Supervisors Elections where her interest in politics evolved.

Mrs. Miller lives by the motto, "action speaks louder than words". In 1982 she entered the political arena and ran unsuccessfully for the position of Town Clerk for the Town of Friars Point, but that did not deter her because she was determined to be the town clerk. In October, 1986 she was elected Friars Point Town Clerk. After being in this position for about two years, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance making the Town Clerk's position an appointed position instead of an elected position. During this time Mrs. Miller stated that she would never run for another elected office because her mother was totally against her being involved in politics. She was employed in the appointed position as town clerk for over 20 years.

In February, 2009 Mrs. Miller left the Town of Friars Point Town Clerk's position and was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the newly elected Coahoma County Sheriff Charles Jones. A lot of things had changed in her life, with the passing away of her mother, she decided that she would no longer sit back and just talk about how she was not pleased with the leadership or the conditions of the town where she lives.

After soul searching and much prayer about the situations Mrs. Miller decided to enter the political arena, once again, in March, 2009 to seek the position of Mayor and was unsuccessful. Over the next four years she continued to show an interest in becoming Mayor of the Town of Friars Point, to see, make changes and improvements in the town. In March 2013 she threw her bid in to run for the position of Mayor of the Town of Friars Point. On June 4, 2013 her dream became a reality. She was elected the first African-American woman to become Mayor of the Town of Friars Point in over 120 years in history of being incorporated as a town.

Mrs. Miller's former position as the Town Clerk of Friars Point afforded her a wealth of knowledge and experience to assist her in the position of Mayor. In serving as Mayor she welcomes the challenges with the help of her constituents and the Board of Aldermen to move the Town of Friars Point forward.

Mrs. Miller is married to Arthur Lee Miller, Jr and they have five children: Danielle, Domanique, Rosalind, Chantauna, Arthur, III; seven grandchildren: Cameron, Hollis, Arveon, Lauren, Itlay, Asia, London and one grandson, Carson. She is a member of the First Community Church in Dubbs, Mississippi under the leadership of Pastor Rodney Hibbler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Civil Rights Activist, Mrs. Catherine Miller Williams, for her dedication to change and equal rights.

HONORING THE TORNADO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF MENIFEE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims and the surviving families of Menifee County on this second anniversary of the devastating EF3 tornado that ravaged eastern Kentucky.

On March 3, 2012, Kentuckians were devastated by the worst storms in almost 25 years, affecting at least 27 counties. The storms were responsible for injuring over 300 people and taking the lives of 20 of our loved ones in the Commonwealth.

Today, I would like for us to especially remember three of those individuals from Menifee County: Beverly Bowman, Vershal Brown and Anita Smith. May their memories continue to live in our hearts forever.

I would also like to recognize the resilience of the residents of Menifee County as well as many of the surrounding counties that have, without question, suffered much.

The Bible promises us in Psalm 147:3 that "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." The people of Frenchburg and communities across the Commonwealth have renewed this hope and promise of healing. This catastrophic event has reminded us that when tragedy strikes, it strikes in the hearts of us all.

It is a testament to the character and compassion of Kentuckians that individuals from all across the Commonwealth were willing to step in and help so that the victims of these storms did not have to carry the burdens alone.

In the face of adversity, communities find a way to come together. Over the last two years, the citizens of Menifee have banded together, leaned on each other and come out of this tragedy stronger than ever.

OBAMACARE AND HISPANICS

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the White House has declared this week National Latino Enrollment Week, just five weeks short of the delayed deadline for purchasing insurance.

Healthcare.gov was a mess at its rollout, but the Hispanic website was even less functional.

Once it finally opened for business, the text was riddled with basic grammar errors, as if

the designers were using Google translate to build the site.

Now, Spanish-speaking Americans have the pleasure of finding out just how costly coverage in the Obamacare exchanges is.

In Pennsylvania, premiums in the individual market will run about 39 percent more than what they were previously.

Since Hispanic Americans are on average younger than the general population, they will face an even greater premium hike.

There are plenty of ways to expand access to insurance without forcing people into an expensive, government-dictated marketplace.

Obamacare is hurting many Americans, but its poor treatment of Hispanic Americans is notable.

We can do better.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL'S SUCCESS AT THE MASSACHUSETTS "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Auburn High School for their selection as the state champions at the 2014 Massachusetts We the People Competition.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is an innovative program designed to educate elementary, middle, and high school students about the U.S. Constitution and the founding of our country. At the high school level, the lessons prepare students for district, state, and national academic competitions, where high school teams participate in simulated Congressional hearings.

On January 25, 2014, 8 schools from across our Commonwealth competed in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Massachusetts High School State Finals. After a rigorous competition, Auburn High School was named the state champions, and the team was awarded the opportunity to compete at the national finals in Washington, D.C. this April.

Last month, I was pleased to meet with the bright and enthusiastic students competing on the Auburn High School team: Matthew Amiot, Connor Aubuchont, Matthew Blais, Erin Breen, John Bylund, Andrew Carpenter, Ture Carlson, Elise Cavanaugh, Erin Collins, Christopher Cubbedge, Tyler Ducharme, Matthew Frappier, Sarah Gardner, Nicole Grabowski, Liam Gribbons, Claire Hutner, Nicholas John, Katherine Johnson, Raymond Leo, Jaimee Martin, Jacqueline Matthews, Lillian McPheron, Matthew Nelson, Richard Phan, Nicole Plona, Kyle Quitadamo, Matthew Rodwill, Alekxiss Rojee, Scott Ruane, Bakhtyar Shairani, Camille Thomas, Michael Travers, and Jaime Vera. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students for their incredible work in mastering a number of topics including the foundation of our political system and selected contemporary issues. I would also like to recognize teachers Vincent Benacchio and Spencer Kennard for their work in mentoring the Auburn High School team.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud of Auburn High School's We the People team, and wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the national finals. Please join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Auburn High School team.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND ROSA PARKS

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, every February, we celebrate Black History Month by honoring the achievements and contributions of those African-Americans who have courageously challenged the status quo, pushed boundaries and moved our country forward in the name of justice and equality for all.

Rosa Parks, the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, embodied courage and strength when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white passenger on December 1, 1955.

Her courage and perseverance continues to inspire me, my constituents in the third congressional district of Ohio, and our nation.

I was privileged to have met her and so proud to sponsor the legislation that made Ohio the first State to recognize December 1st as Rosa Parks Day.

This Black History Month, I am honored to reflect and celebrate the rich legacy of Rosa Parks and so many other African-Americans who have shaped our Nation's history.

HONORING EDDWIN ALEXANDER SMITH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this is Black History Month and I rise to honor Mr. Eddwin Alexander Smith who was born on May 27, 1974 to Dr.'s Jimmy Lee and Jo Ann Smith. He has one sister, Ms. Geraldine Smith.

Mr. Eddwin Smith graduated from Port Gibson High in 1992. He matriculated through Alcorn State University receiving a B.S. degree in Elementary Education in 1996 and a Masters in Administration and Supervision in 1998.

All through Eddwin's family life, he has been heavily engaged in civil rights and politics in his community. He learned early on of the importance of people and community. As he grew and matured, this allowed him to witness his family for over two generations, come to understand why it takes a village to make change with effective leadership.

Eddwin has been in Education for 16 years in various capacities as: Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal. He has been employed in the: Claiborne County Public Schools, Memphis City Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, Noxubee Public Schools and Wilkerson County Public Schools. He has demonstrated a real passion for students which he believes, "A well equipped Male/Fe-

male will make any community a better place." When he visits the different communities, where he once was employed, he can now begin to see the fruits of his labor. Some of the students are beginning to graduate from college and start their careers.

After a number of years serving in education, there came a greater calling, in terms of him wanting to become more engaged in his community, therefore, he ran for Supervisor. Eddwin ran for this office in 2011, won the election and began working in this office in January, 2012. During his first year in office, he focused on the needs of the people. In his second year, he was elected President of the Board of Supervisors by his peers. His continued goals are to improve community and economic development through effective leadership and his success has been seen in the Community of Claiborne County.

Eddwin is a devoted father of one daughter, Embree Gwendolyn Smith, who is following in the leadership of her father. He is also a dedicated member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Port Gibson, Mississippi. He states that, "He accepts that God wants him to be a change agent for the betterment of all its citizens in Claiborne County, Port Gibson, Mississippi."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Eddwin Alexander Smith, a sincere and dedicated man with a mission for change, during this Black History Month.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FRANK PROTO

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the long and successful public service of Tompkins County Legislator Frank Proto. Having served since 1985, Frank will be leaving office after nearly three decades. Mr. Proto chaired numerous committees during his tenure and played a leading role in shaping our community.

Mr. Proto's impact on our region is truly difficult to quantify as he has influenced countless aspects of the community. As Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee, he oversaw the growing emphasis that was placed on recycling and the area's diminished waste production. He fought for the distinct needs of our rural communities as Chairman of the Rural Affairs Committee and promoted public library reading rooms in small municipalities. Outside of his legislative service, he spends his time assisting others through organization such as BOCES, the Cayuga Medical Center, and the Brooktondale Fire Commissioners.

Despite leaving his legislative post, Frank will continue serving the community in a variety of roles: as board member of both the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District and with Slaterville Ambulance. His passion for public service and his dedication to the community are unmatched and it is with great pleasure that I honor Frank here today.

OBSERVING THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNSPEAKABLE VIOLENCE IN SUMGAI, AZERBAIJAN

### HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 26th observation of unspeakable violence in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, I proudly stand with the Armenian community of Massachusetts in remembrance and mourning of the loss of innocent lives.

Anti-Armenian aggression in Sumgait in the early months of 1988 gave way to violent death and destruction. Thousands of Armenians were forced to flee their homes as refugees.

Today, the families of those who lost their lives, or were displaced by this violence, still seek resolution and justice.

Over decades, many displaced Armenian families have sought refuge in America, and are now making vital contributions in the Fifth District of Massachusetts. Proudly, our diverse district is home to one of the largest Armenian communities in the nation. Together, our community is a thriving example of strength and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity.

Like the persecution of too many other peoples before it, the lessons of Sumgait must not be forgotten.

As diverse families of the Commonwealth, and as Americans, we have a moral obligation to promote tolerance and justice, and we have a duty to recognize the atrocities that have kept us from our common goal.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT "HARRY" ROGERS

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Harry" Rogers who passed away on January 16, 2014, at the age of 84. As the founder of Rogers Helicopters Inc., Harry saved countless lives in firefighting, salvage, and search and rescue operations. His kind heart, talent, and tireless service to the Central Valley will be greatly missed.

Harry was born on March 28, 1929, in Clovis, California. As a child, Harry dreamed of flying and was inspired by his father, Robert, as well as other local pilots.

After graduating from Clovis High School in 1947, Harry attempted to join the Air Force but was unable to do so because of an injury he suffered while playing football in high school. However, this setback did not stop Harry from following his dream to fly and serve others. After attending Reedley College, Harry worked as a pilot and mechanic for several helicopter companies before founding his own operation.

In 1962, Harry and his wife, Wanda, founded Rogers Helicopters Inc. in Clovis. The operation remained in Clovis for three decades before moving to Fresno Yosemite International airport. Over the years, Harry and his pilots flew tens of thousands of hours in operations throughout the state of California.

Harry was an authority on flying in the Sierras, which is characterized by treacherous summer winds, icing in the winter, and few places to make emergency landings.

Many people relied on Harry's expertise and services including sheriff's deputies, park rangers, and search and rescue crews. Harry and his choppers worked tirelessly to rescue and recover stranded hikers and climbers, investigate wildfires and mountain utility lines, and transport emergency supplies to the needy.

Harry exemplified selflessness and was always dedicated to helping others. In 1965, the U.S. Army awarded Harry with a citation for flying in dangerous weather to deliver supplies to flood victims in Northern California. In one incident, Harry's chopper crashed in a river canyon, and Harry was quick to rescue his passengers seconds before the aircraft exploded.

In 1969, Harry achieved the tremendous feat of being the first person to land on top of Mount Whitney, the highest summit in the continental United States.

In his spare time, Harry liked to share his passion for flying with others. In the 1960s and 70s, Harry often took Clovis High School cheerleaders for a ride before dropping them off on the football field. Throughout his career, Harry regularly flew news crews over the Central Valley so they could photograph the beautiful scenery and was especially partial toward the Kings River in Fresno.

Harry cherished his time with family and friends. He was a devoted husband to Wanda, a loving father to his sons, Rory and Robin, and he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, Robby and Randy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Robert "Harry" Rogers, a Central Valley pioneer in rotary-wing aviation.

### HONORING MOUNT ELIZABETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable rural town sanctuary, Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church.

"If you desire to eat for a year, plant rice. If you desire to be remembered ten years later, plant a tree. If you desire to save future generations, educate a child. But, if your desire is to preserve mankind, plant rice, a tree, educate a child, and build a church."

It was with this philosophy, spurred by the divine inspiration of God, that the Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church was organized. The year was 1864. Worship services began under a brush harbor on a two acre plot of land given to the church by Mr. Bolton and was originally known as Bolton Baptist Church. The first pastor was Rev. Bob Sanders.

During this time, there were many ladies who were strong believers in God, so they joined the church to help manage its affairs. By now, the Sunday school was beginning to play an important role in the church and Mr.

John Williams was elected the first Sunday School Superintendent. The church was making progress and everyone turned to it as the last phase of life and hope.

In 1918, at the tender age of 54 years, Bolton Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, but with Mrs. Elizabeth Brown and other determined people, a portion of the building that the congregation now worships in was rebuilt and named after her. This changed the name from Bolton Baptist Church to Mt. Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. Since the year 1864, the church has been a symbol of strength.

In 1954, when the State Highway Department began construction on New Highway 80, Mt. Elizabeth was moved from its original site to about one-fourth mile south of Highway 80. In 1964, the State Highway Department began construction on Interstate 20. At the age of 100 years, the church was moved a second time from one mile north of the town of Bolton to one mile south of Bolton, where it stands today.

Down through the years, the church was blessed with leaders, men who walked and talked with God and have kept the church moving for the past 150 years. Some of those who delivered their sermons from the pulpit were Rev. Bob Sanders, Rev. J. C. Lambert, Rev. Richard Patton, Rev. Jack Anthony, Rev. Cassidy Buckley, Rev. John C. Hunter and Rev. Wilbert Owens. Some moved on while others passed on.

In 1984, God saw that the congregation was struggling to stay together without a shepherd to lead them. God answered their call and sent to them a humble and loving Christian man, Rev. Bernard McKinley, Sr. A number of deacons and mothers were instrumental in assisting the aforementioned leadership carry on the church business, ultimately helping the congregation to grow were Deacons: Deacons Dave McCray, Edmond Jefferson, Elicit Watts, John Williams, Busher Mitchell, Jim Gooden, Robert Miles, Sr., Isiac George, Marshall Richmond, J. W. Wilburn, Dave Wilkins, Van Green, Sr., Jack Bennett, David Keys, Frank Johnson, L. C. Barber, William Johnson, Thirley Lewis, Sr., Ronald Mack, J. C. Malone and Clyde Montgomery, Sr.; Mothers: Magaree Garner, Callie Green, Katie Jordan, Louise Keys, Lucille Keys, Ruth Bell Lewis, Bernice Miles, Mary Porter, Frankie Reese, Ocey Richmond, Lillian Rollins, Minerva Rollins, Lee Ann Ross, and Frances Wilson; Sunday School Superintendents: Rev. William Levi, L. J. Myles, Jesse Burns, Jr., Johnnie M. Thompson, Thirly Lewis, Jr., Kenneth R. Lewis, Deloice Lewis, Susie J. Carter, and Jimmie Lewis, Sr.; Sister Rosie Patterson served as Church Clerk/Sunday School teacher; and Brother James Malone served as musician for many decades. Under the leadership of Rev. John C. Hunter, an outdoor baptismal pool was built. In 1977 under the leadership of Rev. Wilbert Owens, indoor bathrooms, three classrooms, a pastor's study and kitchenette were added.

During the span of 30 years, the church has undergone many changes, both in physical and spiritual growth, including the purchase of an additional acre of land for a cemetery plot. In 2005, the church underwent a major renovation project, which included the addition of an indoor baptismal pool, fellowship hall (with kitchen, restrooms, and classrooms), a foyer with additional restrooms and storage spaces, and pavement of the previous dirt and gravel parking lot.



Presently, the leadership of the church encompasses Pastor Bernard McKinley, Sr.; Deacons: Steve Adams, Tywon Alexander, Sr., Jesse Burns, Jr., Michael Green, Albert Lewis, Sr., Kenneth Ray Lewis, Terrence Sanders, and Bernard McKinley, Jr.; Deaconesses/Mothers: Linda Adams, Earnestine Alexander, Ola Cotton, Flora Green, Fannie Lewis, and Alberta Williams; Trustees Susie Carter, Edward Cotten, Wayne Gaddis, Vera Gaddis, Bobby Kirksey, and Mollie Bell McCray; Church Secretary, Sister Carolyn G. Price; and Sunday School Superintendent, Sister Johnnie M. Thompson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church for serving as a pillar of steadfast dedication, providing an ever growing spiritual place of worship within the Bolton community for 150 years.

#### CONGRATULATING SUGAR LAND PARKS AND RECREATION

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on being named the Texas Recreation and Parks Society's "2014 Texas Gold Medal Award Winner" in the 50,000 to 100,000 population category. This award recognizes communities who excel in resource management, park planning, and coordinating community programs and events.

Over the past three years, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation has gone above and beyond to improve our community. It established the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation to facilitate park project donations, doubled programmable space for seniors, and acquired 281 acres for future parks. Sugar Land commissioned an "Art in Parks and Public Spaces" program for community enjoyment and updated the Hike and Bike Trail Plan to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Sugar Land Parks and Recreation also opened the City's first Indoor Recreation Center, featuring space for classes and events, as well as a gymnasium, kitchen, exercise rooms, and activity space. This award is a testament to the hard work of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation employees and their dedication to making Sugar Land a better place for all.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, it's an honor to recognize Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on earning this prestigious award. We are all very proud of your hard work.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF RON WHITEHEAD

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ron Whitehead the city manager of Addison, Texas, who is retiring today, February 28, after nearly 32 years of service for the Town of Addison and over a decade more in other Texas municipalities.

Mr. Whitehead was raised in Orange, Texas, where he learned about city management from his father who was a city councilman and mayor. He participated in student government and graduated Stark High School in 1967. After graduating from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, with a degree in Government in 1971, he started interning for the City of Beaumont and eventually became the assistant director of personnel. Mr. Whitehead began work as the administrative assistant to the city manager in Irving, Texas, in 1974 and in 1977 became the assistant city manager for administration. He earned his Masters in Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas in 1980 and became the general supervisory assistant city manager in Irving the following year.

In June of 1982, Mr. Whitehead became the city manager of Addison and he has served that role until today. Over the decades, Mr. Whitehead helped Addison transform from a small town with a handful of businesses to a bustling center with approximately 1,600 registered businesses. In 1982 there were 200 family households in Addison, and today the population numbers 15,000. Today Addison has 260 full-time employees and an annual budget of \$60 million. As city manager, Mr. Whitehead helped build up the modern city with multiple projects such as Wheeler Bridge, Addison Circle, Vitruvian Park, and the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel. The Dallas North Tollway came through Addison during his tenure as well. Future projects that the city will continue to develop include work on Addison Airport, a pedestrian connectivity effort, and underground utilities along Belt Line Road.

His long-standing passion for people, service, and making a difference have earned Mr. Whitehead many board positions and awards during his 32 years in Addison. In 2006 he received the Texas City Management Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2009 he was named Metrocrest Citizen of the Year by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, which represents Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Addison, Texas. He earned the William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award in 2013 and was commended for his strong commitment to regionalism and collaboration with neighboring cities with regard to transportation, services, art, and planning. Mr. Whitehead has also been the recipient of a distinguished alumni award from the University of North Texas, the L.P. Cookingham Award for Career Development from the International City Management Association (ICMA), as well as recognition from the ICMA on his 35th anniversary of municipal service. Among his roles in numerous associations, he has been particularly active in the Greater Dallas Planning Council, the North Texas City Management Association, the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and the Metroplex Mayors Association.

Mr. Whitehead has been married to his wife Donna for 27 years and they have two daughters, Maxey and Lauren. Donna is an elementary school music teacher in Good Shepherd Episcopal School and also plans to retire soon. They are involved in church and civic activities, and intend to travel together in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Ron Whitehead on his 32 years of serv-

ice as city manager of Addison and wishing him well in retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIOGA STATE BANK

#### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Tioga State Bank. Reaching this milestone is a testament to the hard work and commitment displayed by the Fisher family, which has operated the bank for five generations since its inception in 1864.

Over the past 150 years, Tioga State Bank has been a beacon of excellence in our community. It has continuously displayed steadfast dedication to providing financial services, creating local jobs and contributing to a vibrant economy while faithfully serving the needs of its constituents. The bank has also embraced community service, demonstrated by a recent \$20,000 donation to local food pantries in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

A core principle contributing to the success of Tioga State Bank is the commitment to "fiscally conservative" banking practices. This standard has enabled Tioga State Bank to stand the test of time through changing cultural and economic conditions. The business's proven track record of local job creation and economic impact has enabled Tioga State Bank to open new branches and expand into neighboring regions.

I once again congratulate Tioga State Bank on achieving 150 years of banking, service and commitment to caring for the local community. The bank is a strong example of entrepreneurial spirit and a small business's ability to blossom into an established and respected institution. I am proud to recognize this great achievement and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of Tioga State Bank.

#### HONORING NEW GREEN GROVE CHURCH OF FAITH

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, New Green Grove Church of Faith of Greenwood, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood, Mississippi was founded in 1909. It was founded by a dedicated group of people who wanted a place to worship. Services were held each fourth Sunday. In 1965, Green Grove M.B. Church was destroyed by fire and was completely rebuilt 1½ years later.

Since the church's inception, it has served under nine pastors and several outstanding officers. Reverend Milton L. Young, the eighth pastor, served for a period of fifty-four years. Reverend Young was a wonderful pastor. Under his leadership many souls were brought to Christ.

In 1995, Pastor Young's health began to fail. He suffered a stroke causing paralysis to his left leg. Reverend Milton Glass presided briefly in his absence and in July of 1995, Pastor Glass was elected "shepherd over the flock" with 25 active members.

The Church's name was changed in 1995 to New Green Grove M.B. Church. Today, it is called New Green Grove Church of Faith. From October, 1995 to August, 1996, New Green Grove began holding its services at Jones Chapel #1 because of costly water problems in its building. Easter Sunday of 2001, New Green Grove Church of Faith celebrated the dedication of its current sanctuary. On February 10, 2008, the church held its Mortgage Burning Service to celebrate the completion of their mortgage.

Under Bishop Glass' leadership, many services have been added to spiritually feed the members of the church. Worship is every Sunday with the exception of the fifth Sunday. Sunday School, Bible study and Intercessory Prayer Service are included in their weekly worship schedule.

Over the years, the pastor and members of New Green Grove Church of Faith have added spiritual growth programs to help the church become more knowledgeable of the Gospel. Some of these programs are: New Membership Orientation, Men of Standard Men's Ministry, Saturday Early Morning Prayer Service and an active Missionary Society.

The Congregational Health Ministry is an ongoing ministry to help the members take care of themselves physically, while maturing spiritually. Also established is the church website which is [www.newgreengrovechurchoffaith.org](http://www.newgreengrovechurchoffaith.org). In 2010 the Audio/Visual Ministry was instituted which included the CD/DVD tape ministry.

On May 19, 2002 the sister church, The Living Word Church, a division of Catch the Vision Ministries was established in Lake City, Florida under the leadership of Pastors Vernon and Mitzi Singleton with Bishop Milton Glass as the overseer.

With the need to transport their members to and from services the church purchased a church bus in 2002. The bus served its purpose, however; in 2009, it was sold and replaced with a second van and a 25 passenger bus. The transportation ministry is always ready to assist the members who don't have a ride to church.

With the increase of its membership over the years, New Green Grove had to physically expand. One area of expansion is the purchase of twenty acres of land in 2003 located across the street from the church. In 2009, part of that land was converted into a parking lot to assist with the overflow of parking. Future plans and the vision of Bishop Glass is to use the remainder of the land to build a Spiritual Life Center to further support the outreach ministry in the community.

Currently, they are adding 4,500 sq. ft. for additional classrooms and fellowship hall space. Today, they have over 700 members with an average attendance of 400 each Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Green Grove Church of Faith for its contribution to the black community and black churches.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

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

Today, it is \$17,410,830,777,447.36. We've added \$6,783,953,728,534.28 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.7 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## STATE AND LOCAL PREDATORY ENFORCEMENT ACT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, since the mid-1990's the authority to regulate the towing industry had been in limbo. Through a provision slipped into the Federal Aviation Administration Act of 1994 that defined the tow truck industry as an interstate carrier exempt from state and local regulation. One year later, passage of the Interstate Commerce Termination Act eliminated the federal regulatory body that oversaw the towing industry, leaving the industry without proper federal, state or local regulation.

With no federal regulator, confusing restrictions and conflicting court rulings on what states and localities are permitted to regulate, no level of government has been able to adequately regulate the towing industry. This lack of regulatory authority has led to more than two decades of major consumer abuses by some unscrupulous towing companies. These bad operators have continued to taint an otherwise much needed and respectable profession.

Complaints about exorbitant towing fees and abusive operators grew so bad that in 2005, Congress agreed, through an amendment to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy of Users (SAFETEA—LU), to allow some limited state regulation in the area of non-consensual towing. The amendment also directed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study to identify additional means to protect the rights of individuals whose vehicles are towed.

That study offers some recommendations that track with conclusions I made several years ago, that consumers and tow truck operators would be better served by removing the last vestiges of federal preemption. It notes that consumers needing redress for overcharges today or other unfair treatment would no longer be in the Catch-22 position of having their State case thrown out on preemption grounds only to find that they may have no real recourse at the Federal level either. Since business practices vary from place to place, it may also be more practical to have non-consensual towing regulated by the States rather than by the Federal Government.

States are the more logical place to regulate towing. They already have an established

body of law in place to do so. This bill would bring those laws back into effect by removing federal preemption and allow state and local governments the ability to establish common-sense, pro-consumer trespass towing protections for their residents.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING ROBERT JAMISON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Jamison.

Robert Jamison was born in Quitman County in 1954. He was a student in the Quitman County School System. In 1968, he was among the first blacks to integrate schools in Quitman County, Mississippi.

Mr. Jamison also marched with Dr. Martin L. King. He helped with changing from the "Old Stacked Voter System to the Ward Voting System", in order for blacks to have equal representation when voting. He worked as a Social Service Director at Quitman County Development Organization. He also served on numerous boards such as: North MS Legal service, Housing Authority's, Deporres Health Center and Selective Service System.

Mr. Jamison is a Quitman County Veteran Service Officer and is the founder of a non-profit organization, North Delta Youth Development Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Jamison for his dedication in being a part of the history making in Quitman County, Mississippi.

## RECOGNIZING THE DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF POLAND

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas, The United States House of Representatives recognizes the delegation of the National Cereal Producers Association of Poland; and

Whereas, The twenty-eight members in the delegation of the Polish farmers and representatives of agricultural producer organizations to include the Polish Association of Cereals Producers, the Polish Agro-Business Club, the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Milk Producers Zamojskie Agriculture Association are actively involved as agricultural leaders in Poland; and

Whereas, The Polish delegation's mission is to study Texas agriculture and oil & gas industries working in tandem in a safe and healthy environment making Texas the 11th largest economy in the world; and

Whereas, The goals of the program are to provide insight and educational information into United States agriculture and oil & gas industries, identify potential investments, enhance export and import opportunities and

continue to build strong Texas/US and Poland/EU relationships; and

Whereas, The areas of study and business opportunities will include crops such as wheat, corn, soybeans, canola and vegetables; livestock to include cattle, horses, poultry and dairy; policies to include the farm bill, taxation, environmental regulation and tort reform; and the new technologies and production practices with oil & gas especially, shale gas; and

Whereas, The agricultural leaders from the National Cereal Producers Association of Poland represent Polish landowners and all sectors of Polish agriculture and will visit Lubbock, Amarillo, San Antonio, Panna Maria, Austin, College Station/Bryan, Brenham, Anderson, Chappell Hill, East Bernard and Houston, Texas during a two week span; the delegation will learn firsthand the diversity of Texas to include rainfall, agriculture and oil & gas production practices, temperature, soils, size and distance, population densities, infrastructure, ethnic groups and the various economic industries; and

Whereas, The delegation of the Polish farmers and representatives of agricultural producer organizations are devoting their time and finances to explore Texas Agriculture and Oil & Gas from production to transportation to processing to storage to marketing to selling commodities while studying the issues facing Texas and the United States of America while discovering fertile opportunities to enhance business and personal relationships between Poland and Texas; they deserve recognition for their initiative and motivation to explore new opportunities to enhance food and energy production for all; and therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the United States House of Representatives:

Congratulates the members of the Polish farmers and representatives of agricultural producer organizations on their involvement and participation in the agriculture industries of Poland with interest in the Texas agriculture and oil & gas industries and extend best wishes and prosperity for the future.

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IN HONOR OF KENTUCKY RIGHT  
TO LIFE OF CENTRAL KENTUCKY

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Right to Life of Central Kentucky. As a strongly pro-life father of two young girls, I consider protecting the unborn and the most vulnerable among us as one of my greatest responsibilities as a parent and legislator.

This organization's mission is to increase public awareness and restore legal protection to those members of our human family who are threatened by abortion or infanticide. The Right to Life Association of Central Kentucky works tirelessly to advocate for the dignity and worth of all human life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending my friends with the Right to Life Association of Central Kentucky for their leadership, and I would like to thank them for all that they do for our community.

HONORING MELVIN C. JOHNSON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary community leader, Mr. Melvin Johnson.

Mr. Melvin Charles Johnson was born and raised in a small town of Tunica, MS. He has been married to Debra L. (Toney) Johnson for 23 years. He was introduced to politics at the early age of 10. He marched in his first Civil Rights March in Tunica, MS in 1963 and became the vice president of the SCLC Youth Organization in Tunica.

Mr. Johnson was very talented in sports. One day at school after a football game, Mrs. Velma (Turner) Brown, which was one of his high school teachers, told him that if he would put the energy that he played in football in politics, that he could help change Tunica County. So, he took her advice because she counseled him and was a great mentor.

Later, he went on to organize and establish the first voter league in Tunica County. It was called "United Voters League of Tunica." He also organized a voter registration booth in downtown Tunica in front of one of the night clubs. He collected all the information from each individual, filled out their applications and sent them to the circuit clerk's office to legally sign the papers in person.

He was one of the first that was elected State Constable in the Northern District of Tunica County. Mrs. Nellie Johnson, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Johnson contacted a TV spokesperson to tell them and to show them the conditions people were living in. This area was called Sugar Ditch, at the time.

Mr. Johnson also walked with Jessie Jackson when he came to Tunica to address poor living conditions in Tunica County. After this was brought to the world's attention, several people came to him looking for advice and told him about many other concerns that needed addressing in the community.

Mr. Johnson saw in a local newspaper where they had printed an article that referred to him as the "County Community Organizer." In his lifetime, the only thing he had ever wanted to do was to help improve the living conditions in Tunica County, Mississippi. His mentors were Mrs. Lucille Hudson, Jessie Brandon Sr., and Mrs. Alice Brandon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Johnson for his dedication in being a respected community leader.

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IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 38th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice

Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African-Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business. They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others. And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union. Earlier this week, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressmen JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed "Triple Nickels" at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group. So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces. It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether "colored" soldiers' were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa. They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200

bombing missions. They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities. In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said: “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston: Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.; Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.; Rev. Crawford W. Kimble; Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch; Rev. William A. Lawson; Rev. Johnnie Jeffery “J.J.” Robeson; Mr. El Franco Lee; Mr. John Brand; Ms. Ruby Moseley; Ms. Dorothy Hubbard; Ms. Doris Hubbard; Ms. Willie Bell Boone; Ms. Holly HogoBrooks; Mr. Deloyd Parker; Ms. Lenora “Doll” Carter.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today’s and tomorrow’s generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

RECOGNIZING TEAM OF PARTICIPANTS IN SOLAR DECATHLON 2015

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a team from Alfred State College of Technology and Alfred University selected to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2015. The team will complete a series of projects and initiatives, culminating in the construction of an energy-efficient, solar-powered house. Selection for participa-

tion in this event is a remarkable honor, with positions awarded to only 20 collegiate teams from across the country and around the world.

Throughout the competition, students will develop energy-efficient designs, products, and technologies. The Solar Decathlon will provide students with practical training in engineering and architecture fields while allowing them to gain real-world experience. Students will gain valuable skills, enabling them to pursue careers in the expanding clean energy industry.

The availability of renewable energy is essential in today’s world. Energy-efficient designs and technologies reduce costs and energy consumption while protecting local communities and facilitating economic growth. As the need for energy continues to grow it is critical that we develop new methods for producing sustainable sources of renewable energy. Solar Decathlon 2015 will encourage a new generation of young engineers and entrepreneurs to face this challenge. I am confident that these students will develop innovative solutions and new technologies that will benefit families and businesses in my district and across the country.

I once again congratulate the team of students from Alfred State College of Technology and Alfred University on their participation in Solar Decathlon 2015. I am proud to recognize this great achievement and I look forward to witnessing the great things that these students will accomplish.

HONORING ARCHIE TUCKER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Archie Tucker.

In 1974, while still in high school, Mr. Tucker was hired by former ARS Mid-South Director Ed King as a biological aide during a time when there were no minority administrators or scientists at the station. Since then, Mr. Tucker has followed a nearly four-decade career as one of the highest-ranking African-Americans in the ARS’s Mid-South Area.

After graduating from Leland High School, Mr. Tucker enrolled at Mississippi Valley State University while retaining his part-time job at the ARS’s Stoneville station. He majored in business administration to gain administrative knowledge to go along with the research expertise he was learning each week.

After graduating from the MVSU, Mr. Tucker was promoted to a full-time biological lab technician in 1980.

Seven years later, he again was promoted to area property manager and eight years later, he became the first African-American Area Administrative Officer in ARS history. Mr. Tucker noted that each promotion brought additional responsibilities.

In 1997, Mr. Tucker became the Mid-South’s Area’s first African-American Deputy Mid-South Area Director and in 2011, broke another barrier by assuming his current post as Mid-South Area Assistant Director.

Mr. Tucker is charged with managing a \$110 million annual budget and has overseen the renovation of the Jamie Whitten Center,

the service’s main facility in Stoneville, the principal headquarters of the Mid-South area, which includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Louisiana. Here, Mr. Tucker oversees research stations employing more than 1,000 workers in all. Mr. Tucker credits others, particularly former Director King, for his advancement.

The Stoneville offices were recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, for their diversity. Mr. Tucker said the station now includes many African-American administrators and scientists.

Mr. Tucker has made assisting future scientists, a priority, collaborating on research projects with several traditionally black schools, including Alcorn State, Tuskegee and Alabama A&M Universities.

The Stoneville station also has been involved with local school districts, conducting tours for students and in 2012 launched the Future Scientists Program, a collaboration between the service and the Texas A&M University Extension Program, which has scientists visiting classrooms, judging science fairs and students touring the Stoneville facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Archie Tucker for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African-American community.

IN HONOR OF HINTON MILLS

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hinton Mills in Fleming County, Kentucky, and to congratulate them on the 31st Anniversary of their Seed Days Customer Appreciation Event.

Hinton Mills, with four locations serving the Fleming county area, was founded by Frank L. Hinton in 1918. Frank L. Hinton was born in the Plummers Mill area of Fleming County in 1891 and orphaned at the age of six. He began his own business at the age of sixteen, and opened a small store six years later.

Soon after, he began operating a much larger store; this store thrived under the leadership of Frank L. until his retirement in 1956. The store continued with success under Frank O. Hinton, who added a feed mill to the Hinton Mills family. Fleming County Farm Supply was opened in 1977. Today the fourth generation of Hintons are serving area farmers at four locations; Fleming Co. Feed Supply, Frank Hinton and Son, Jabetown Mill and May’s Lick Mill.

Hinton Mills is well-known for their wide-range of products, quality feed, and customer service, and it also contributes to the region in many other ways. The Hinton family has always been involved in the community through service on various boards as well as active involvement with FFA chapters in the area.

Seed Days began as a way for Hinton Mills to honor its customers and is now in its 31st year. Food and fun abound at each of the four locations during Seed Days. While the Hinton family honors their community through Seed Days this week, I would like to honor their devotion and service to the Sixth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Hinton Mills on their success

in business as well as the 31st Annual Seed Days. I would also like to extend my personal appreciation to Hinton Mills and all of its employees for all that they have done and continue to do for our community our the Commonwealth.

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CONGRATULATIONS GAIL SANDE

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, this week, at its Public Media Summit in Washington, D.C., the Association of Public Television Stations (APTS) honored Gail Sande, Member of the Board of Trustees, KNPB Public Broadcasting in Reno, with the 2014 National Advocacy Award for her exceptional efforts in support of public television.

Said Patrick Butler, president and CEO of APTS, "Gail is a tireless advocate for public broadcasting, helping to advance bipartisan support of public broadcasting in Congress. She has demonstrated tremendous effectiveness on both sides of the Hill and both sides of the aisle."

Gail is the immediate past Chairman of the Board and stepped down after serving in that position for three years. She is a Trustee of the National Association of Public Television Stations. Gail serves on the Nevada State Board for the Humanities and is a board member for the First Tee of Northern Nevada and the American Heart Association.

She has been a dynamic member of the Reno community for the past 37 years. Some of Gail's activities have included serving as vice president and development chairman for the Lear Theater, a member of the Reno Tahoe Young Professional Network advisory board, treasurer of Young Audiences, president of the Roy Gomm Parent Facility Association, treasurer of the Sons of Norway, president of Law Wives and director of community relations for the Assistance League of Reno/Sparks.

A graduate of the University of Nevada at Reno—go Wolf Pack—Gail was an operations officer at First National Bank of Nevada until 1977, when she retired from the business world to be a stay-at-home mom and community activist.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Gail, and thank you for all you do to make Northern Nevada a better place.

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RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 28, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the voice of 184,995 workers in my state that will be positively affected by the minimum wage increase—nearly 20% of my state's total workforce.

Families and parents are struggling financially because we have failed to keep up with the rising costs of living.

The Economic Policy Institute found that "at the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a parent who works full time, year round, [still] does not earn enough to be above the federal poverty line."

For these Americans, working hard year round will not be a gateway to gradual success, because in their realities, it does not even mean that you will be above the federal poverty line.

For these parents, our very own constituents, the pursuit of happiness, the American dream, and ultimately being able to mobilize economically is but a faint light forever out of reach.

In 2009, we raised the minimum wage in order to keep up with the rising costs of living thereby admitting that an irresponsible minimum wage causes financial hardship for the families that we are elected to represent.

People, we have a track record for making the impossible possible for Americans, so, now, I speak on behalf of those families in need when I say that we have a responsibility as public servants to see to it that a parent who works full time, year round, can live above the poverty line.

It is our moral obligation to see to it that our families earning minimum wage can have the means to economic mobility. Thus, we as legislators should rise to this challenge in order to ensure that all Americans have not only the opportunity to pursue their happiness—but that they also have the means to achieving success.