

into a leading pan-Asian organization. Under his leadership, the organization has become renowned in a range of areas that advance the Asian American community.

Under Mr. O's direction the organization has been a leader in policy research, examining the root causes of issues afflicting the community and helping develop commonsense solutions that better the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. The Federation has produced numerous studies examining the economic and mental health effects of 9/11 on New York's Asian American community, how to best care for the Asian community's elderly and children, and how to address poverty among this demographic group.

Beyond shaping the policy dialogue, Mr. O's emphasis on nonprofit capacity building and philanthropy has also led the AAF to steer resources to a range of community based organizations that tackle real world problems facing New York's Asian Americans. The Federation has raised and leveraged \$10 million and made grants to organizations benefitting children, women, elders and recent immigrants, improving the lives of thousands of New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. O himself is an immigrant. Born and raised in Vietnam, he arrived a refugee in this country in 1975. It is clear that he has never forgotten his personal struggles but has instead used them as inspiration to help those around him. This Friday, the Asian American Federation will honor Mr. O for his many contributions. In advance of this celebration, I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this public servant for his many accomplishments on behalf of the Asian American community.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE "MEMPHIS 13"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 13 individuals who broke the barrier of segregation in the Memphis City Schools on October 3, 1961. Formally known as the "Memphis 13," these trailblazers of integration were the first African-American students to be enrolled in the all-white Memphis City Schools system at a time when institutional desegregation was widely criticized. The challenges and accomplishments of these courageous Memphians have been recognized across the country thanks to the work of University of Memphis Law Professor Daniel Kiel in his 2011 documentary, "The Memphis 13."

Almost 53 years ago, 13 first-grade students bravely entered the doors of Bruce, Gordon, Rozelle and Springdale Elementary Schools. These students, Sheila Malone Conway, E.C. Freeman Fentress, Alvin Freeman, Deborah Holt, Dwania Kyles, Sharon Malone, Pamela Mayes, Jacqueline Moore, Joyce Bell White, Leandrew Wiggins, Clarence Williams, Harry Williams and Michael Willis (Menelik Fombi), were some of America's bravest civil rights' activists, even at such young ages. At a time when the nation was witnessing widespread segregation and animosity towards African-Americans who desired equal opportunities, these young civil rights leaders and their fami-

lies made a choice to take a step towards equality for all.

Before the momentous actions of the "Memphis 13," Memphis City Schools had never before afforded African-American students the opportunity to receive a fair and full education. This pioneering instance of school integration went forth with little public discussion or advanced news attention. Because of the heartfelt work of Professor Daniel Kiel and his documentary, the stories of these children, who dared to receive an equal education in a desegregated school system, are now being heard by communities throughout the country.

As a strong believer in the importance of education, I cannot thank enough the "Memphis 13" for blazing the trail for other African-American students to receive the education they deserve and Daniel Kiel for telling their story. The selfless actions by the "Memphis 13" paved a way for students to receive an equal education in Memphis and across the nation. The difference that these legends made will always be remembered and celebrated by the city of Memphis. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the "Memphis 13."

HONOR OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS
THIS WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize our Nation's public servants and to thank them for their important contributions to our country.

In every community across America, federal employees work to make sure the government is effective and keep us safe; their daily contributions to their fellow citizens and to the cause of freedom are simply innumerable. And in America's First District, there are many hardworking and dedicated patriots who serve the people of this nation every day.

As we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week, which started on Sunday, May 4, and ends on Saturday, May 10, I want to express my utmost gratitude to the country's federal employees as well as our dedicated state, county and local public servants for their tireless service. I am proud to represent the tens of thousands of federal employees and retirees who live in the First District of Virginia.

Congress charges these individuals with important duties and expects these duties to be performed with the highest caliber of expertise—but rather than being recognized for their service, these public servants see their salary and benefits continually used as a pawn in the game of politics. I have opposed these efforts because I believe that as Congress continues to ask our federal civilian workforce to do more with less, we should instead be standing with them in recognition of their service.

From the CIA agents on the front lines of the War on Terror to the FBI agents finding suspected terrorists—our Nation's public servants perform critical national security jobs that make our country a safer place. As the House votes to establish a new Select Committee on Benghazi, it is important to note that the Foreign Service officers representing our government at the U.S. consulate and annex where

the September 11, 2012, attack occurred were federal employees.

In addition to serving abroad, our Nation's federal employees frequently risk their lives to protect us here at home as well. The Customs and Border Patrol and DEA agents working to fight illegal immigration, human trafficking and drug running operations are federal employees.

These men and women often get little to no recognition for their work, but day in and day out are repeatedly put in harm's way.

We must also recognize the public servants who are not directly in dangerous situations, but on a daily basis perform duties imperative to our safety. Defense civilian riggers, machinists, refuelers and engineers who repair sophisticated weaponry systems at our Army depots, Air Force bases and shipyards are the federal employees who support our military personnel.

The scientists at Department of Energy laboratories, NASA astronauts, engineers and researchers all work to keep America competitive in the ever increasingly global economy. Meteorologists at the weather service track life-threatening storms, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis and blizzards so that we can prepare to the best of our ability for inclement weather and natural disasters.

The nurses and doctors at the VA who mind for our veterans and wounded warriors, researchers at NIH working to find a cure for cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's—all are federal employees. The FDA public health inspectors who track E. coli and salmonella outbreaks to make certain that our food is safe to eat are federal employees.

Air traffic controllers at FAA work to have safe skies for travelers. Federal firefighters protect homes and businesses during a national forest fire. National Park Service rangers facilitate safe hiking on historic grounds and camping in our parks and tours of our battlefields.

These are only but a few of the vital services federal employees provide to our Congressional Districts and the Nation alike. The federal workforce is full of dedicated and committed citizens who exemplify patriotism in everything they do and I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring them for their service to ensure the security of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 RESTON
ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Reston Association Volunteer Service Awards. The Reston Association (RA) is the largest homeowners' association in Virginia and one of the largest in the country with more than 21,000 homes under its jurisdiction. Among other roles, RA serves as the steward of Reston's architectural aesthetics, recreational amenities, and environmental resources.

RA relies on hundreds of volunteers who serve on boards, committees, and projects to carry out its mission to keep Reston a model community where all can "Live, Work, Play,