

economic instability, the strategy will allow Kazakhstan to strengthen its already strong trajectory of sustained growth.

I have every confidence that Kazakhstan will achieve the objectives of the Kazakhstan 2050 strategy and that the United States will support these efforts.

HONORING THE HALLIE Q. BROWN
COMMUNITY CENTER'S 85TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the volunteers, staff and patrons of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, past and present, on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. Since this agency was founded in 1929, it has served as a shining example of leadership and progressive commitment to advancing the quality of life for residents of Saint Paul, Minnesota's Summit-University neighborhood.

African Americans in Minnesota's capital city faced growing social challenges in 1929, leading the Saint Paul Urban League to formulate plans for a new community center. The center's first Executive Director, Miss I. Myrtle Carden, chose to name the newly formed center after Hallie Quinn Brown, honoring her work as a prominent suffragette, African American educator, author and elocutionist. The community center has been thriving ever since.

After its relocation to the Martin Luther King Center in 1972, the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center has evolved to encompass other organizations and programs, including the nationally recognized Penumbra Theatre Company. The Hallie Q. Brown Center is designed to provide a wide range of services that reflect the diversity of the community. Providing access to critical human services, fostering personal growth, and developing community leadership is the ongoing work of Early Childhood Education, Youth Out of School Time, Multi-Service Hub Center Administration, and the Emergency Food Shelf and Clothing Closet among many other programs at the center.

Mr. Speaker, 85 years of supporting the community at the Hallie Q. Brown Center deserves to be commended. Employees, volunteers and donors to the center have made valuable contributions of time, talent and resources that have made a difference in the lives of so many in this community. Please join me in rising to honor the 85th anniversary of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL MICHAEL L. DAVIDSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Michael L. Davidson for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to our great nation. He has served

for the last two and a half years as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army. On November 25, 2014, he deployed to Afghanistan where he is serving as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces—Afghanistan.

A native of Moore Haven, Florida, Lieutenant Colonel Davidson became a Cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1989. While at West Point, he participated in Corps Squad Sports and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He was commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in May 1993. After completing the Artillery Officer Basic Course, he served as a Lieutenant for 18 months in the Republic of Korea as a platoon leader and operations officer in 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, a rocket artillery unit. After returning from Korea, Lieutenant Davidson was assigned to 1st Battalion 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There he served as a platoon leader, battalion adjutant officer, and assistant battalion operations officer.

After graduating from the Captain's Career Course he returned to the Republic of Korea and the 2nd Infantry Division, where he served in the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment (Manchu) as a Battalion Fire Support Officer, Battery Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander; and Aide de Camp to the Commanding General. Following this assignment, he deployed with the 3rd Army Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) in 2002, serving as the lead planner for the Deep Operations Coordination Cell and later as an effects planner in the CFLCC Commander's Early Entry Command Post in Baghdad, Iraq.

Major Michael Davidson returned to the 18th Airborne Corps and served as a Multi-National Corps-Iraq lead planner before serving as the 3-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment Battalion Operations and Executive Officer in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division during their combat deployment in Iraq.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and knowledgeable resource in 2008 when Major Michael Davidson was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he served as a Congressional Fellow in my Washington, D.C. office. Following his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he took command of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division where his battalion served as part of the Army's Global Response Force for all world-wide contingency operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Davidson's leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. As a Congressional and Budget Liaison Officer, he worked directly with the Senate and House Appropriations and Armed Services Committees to educate and inform Members of Congress and staff on the many diverse and important procurement initiatives of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the more than 700,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Michael L. Davidson for two decades of service to our nation. In addition to gratitude for his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,

Lieutenant Colonel Davidson has the respect, admiration, and affection of many on Capitol Hill and we wish him all the best in his deployment to Afghanistan and his upcoming promotion to Colonel.

CYNTHIA JAMES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cynthia James for her passion for helping and supporting people.

With two Master Degrees in spiritual psychology and consciousness studies, Cynthia has become a transformational specialist guiding people as they make lasting changes and healing in their lives. Cynthia is a speaker, a coach, a musical performing artist and the multi-award winning author of *What Will Set You Free and Revealing Your Extraordinary Essence*.

Through her program, Advanced Awareness Coaching, Cynthia has coached thousands of people worldwide, including high level business leaders. In 2014, Cynthia's Extraordinary Living Project was selected to be a Commitment Maker by the Clinton Health Matters Initiative. In addition to her work and her new project, she also serves as a minister in Special Ministries at Mile Hi Church in Denver, CO.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cynthia James for her well-deserved honor and the positive impact of her leadership, healing, and dedication on the lives of others across our community and the world.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD AIDS DAY
2014

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge World AIDS Day, 2014.

Today, more than 35 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS. Of the 35 million, 1.2 million are in the United States and almost 1 in 7 Americans—that's 14 percent—are unaware of their infection.

It grieves me to know that Brooklyn has earned the dubious distinction as an HIV/AIDS epicenter for African-Americans in NYC. Nearly 29,000 Brooklyn residents were living with HIV/AIDS as of June 30, 2013. Over 30 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the first half of 2013 were made concurrent with AIDS diagnoses and years after infection, when HIV was already causing illness. And surveys suggest that 40 percent of Brooklyn adults have yet to receive an HIV test.

Though there have been many successes in the treatment of the disease, given the grim statistics that I just noted, we cannot rest on our successes. It is imperative that we continue to push forth policies, initiatives, and legislation that support HIV/AIDS research and programs, both domestically and globally. We

also must continue to significantly fund HIV/AIDS research and programs.

One such program that benefits from HIV/AIDS funding is SUNY Downstate's HIV Center for Women and Children, which is located in my district—the 9th Congressional District of New York. The center provides: HIV/AIDS clinical support, mental health assistance, psychosocial support, educational outreach, research—and the all important testing program—and in doing so helps stop the transmission of HIV/AIDS in my district.

We must continue to fight on behalf of those who need to access life saving research and programs. The manner in which we as a nation address HIV/AIDS will determine the fate of the next generation of Americans. Let's continue to take a stand against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. NGUYEN
AN HA OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF VIETNAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and brother, Mr. Nguyen An Ha of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen has been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 1993. He was assigned as Political Counselor at the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States in March 2011, and also serves as Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2007 to 2011, Mr. Nguyen served in the America Department of MOFA. From 2003 to 2007, he worked as Second Secretary of the Mission of Vietnam to the United Nations (UN). From 1996 to 2003, Mr. Nguyen worked as an expert at the Department of International Organization in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1994 to 1995, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen graduated from the University of Foreign languages in Hanoi. He is married to Hoang Thi Hai Yen, and he and his lovely wife have a beautiful daughter, Nguyen Hoang Minh Ngoc. Mr. Nguyen is the son of Mr. Nguyen Huu Xuyen and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Huong.

On behalf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen has spared no effort in strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations. He has served his country and colleagues with distinction and honor. As Political Counselor, he worked side-by-side with His Excellency Nguyen Quoc Cuong, former Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States, and also with Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, former Minister at the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States, to promote Vietnam's stance in calling for a peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Because of their tireless efforts and leadership, the U.S. House of Representatives finally passed for the first time ever a Resolution calling for such support. H. Res. 714, a Resolution I introduced in support of peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided by universally recog-

nized principles of international law, was unanimously passed by the House on December 2, 2014.

In my official capacity as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have relied on Mr. Nguyen's expertise regarding many matters affecting the security of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the U.S.-Vietnam relationship. Mr. Nguyen has been a tremendous help to me and I will miss him when he returns to Vietnam next year.

Because so many in diplomatic missions serve so well, it is rare for me to include a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of diplomats. But Mr. Nguyen has served exceptionally well—in a way that deserves to be recognized and preserved in the records of U.S. history and so I am including a statement as I also did for Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and Ambassador Cuong.

On a more personal note, knowing and serving with Mr. Nguyen, Dr. Duong and Ambassador Cuong has been one of the highlights of my career. I am thankful for our friendship and I will always be grateful to them for all they did to bring about recognition of the interim board of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam. Furthermore, I will also hold a special place in my heart for Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Truong Tan Sang, the Politburo, Vice Chairwoman Tong Thi Phong, the National Assembly, MOFA, Public Security and the countless other individuals, departments, organizations and individuals who supported recognition—a cause that meant so much to me.

As I now leave the U.S. House of Representatives, I hope I will be remembered as having given all I could on behalf of the leaders and people of Vietnam, too. Once caught up in a war I knew little about, I thank God I was able to return to Vietnam later in life as both Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. In returning, I found a people I love.

This is why I have repeatedly called for the United States to clean up the mess it left behind and do right by the victims of Agent Orange. I have also advocated for the United States to boost bilateral relations in several sectors, including defense, trade and security. Strong U.S.-Vietnam ties are key to stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and H. Res. 714 is a step forward.

I thank Mr. Nguyen, once more, for his work in bolstering the U.S.-Vietnam relationship. Until we meet again, I wish Mr. Nguyen the very best, and I extend to him my highest regards.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR OF
THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHAN-
DLER III

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend and outstanding citizen, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, for his 33 years of dedicated, distinguished, and honorable service. SMA Chandler will retire on August 1, 2015, leaving be-

hind a legacy of excellence and devotion to the United States Army and this great nation.

A native of California but raised in the Boston area, SMA Chandler enlisted in the Army in 1981. He excelled throughout his career and served in all tank crewman positions and had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. SMA Chandler's skill as a leader of warriors was recognized early on as he assumed command positions in numerous regiments and divisions. He was assigned as the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy command sergeant major in December 2007. Nearly two years later, he became the 19th Commandant of United States Army Sergeants Major Academy and the first enlisted commandant in the academy's history.

In his final assignment, SMA Chandler served as Sergeant Major of the Army, our Army's most senior enlisted soldier, leading the Noncommissioned Officer Corps and carrying news of the enlisted ranks to the Chief of Staff of the Army and other leadership. He served as the role model and standard bearer for enlisted personnel, built relationships between the Army and Congress, and rallied support from community and business leaders for soldiers and their families. His guidance and influence have steered the Army into a well-equipped and well-trained force over the past four years.

His extraordinary service has not gone unnoticed. SMA Chandler is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. He has also been honored with the Order of Saint George, the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. Additionally, SMA Chandler sat on a wide variety of councils and boards that made decisions affecting enlisted soldiers and their families and was routinely invited to testify before Congress.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues to celebrate SMA Raymond Chandler's retirement. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service reflect the very best values of our nation. He has been a shining example for the nation and has earned our gratitude. I commend him for his selfless service to the nation and the United States Army. I wish him and his wife Jeanne all the best in their much-deserved retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 26TH
ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY AND
OF AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 26th Annual World AIDS Day, which also marks the beginning of AIDS Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation," which embodies the core strategy for reversing the AIDS epidemic domestically and internationally.

Since its establishment by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988, World AIDS Day