

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. CHANDLER 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