

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### BRINGING ATTENTION TO ILLEGAL POACHING AND TRAFFICKING OF AFRICAN RHINO HORNS AND ELEPHANT IVORY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the issue of poaching and illegal trafficking of African rhino horn and elephant ivory. The barbaric slaughter of tens of thousands of these animals appears to be growing worse, currently occurring at its highest level in 25 years. More than \$19 billion move through illicit wildlife crime syndicates, and ivory's value on the street is sometimes greater than gold or cocaine.

Around the world, rhino horns can cost as much as \$60,000 per pound. To meet this demand, roughly three rhinos are killed on a daily basis. At the same time, more than 20,000 elephants were killed in 2013. If this killing trend continues, the extinction of the African Elephant will occur in our lifetimes. In addition to its profitability, many criminals choose to engage in poaching because it is viewed as a low-risk endeavor compared to other illegal activities, despite the attempts of African nations to crack down on animal trafficking.

Park rangers face tremendous challenges in their efforts to protect these animals, including injury, torture and death as they confront poachers and illegal traders. It is reported that at least two rangers die worldwide each week while fighting to protect wildlife from poachers. Although park rangers have a heavy burden of responsibility, they are too often given little to no support or pay. In contrast, poachers are armed with weaponry such as heat-seeking telescopes, automatic weapons, GPS satellite receivers, and even helicopters. The lack of adequate funding and equipment for park rangers is evident in the brutal massacres of both humans and animals left in the wake of night-time raids, silent ambushes, and communities in poaching areas that are often paid-off or threatened with destruction by poachers.

The illegal trade of animal parts is fueling conflict throughout Africa, providing cash and support for international criminal organizations and terrorist groups. Following the drug and weapons trade, animal poaching is the 3rd most prominent and lucrative source of funding for conflict around the world. With the presence and spread of terrorist groups like Boko Haram in many African nations, the urgency to prevent any contributions to these violent organizations is clear. Ending poaching and illegal trafficking of African rhino horns and elephant ivory is in the interest of our national security, peace in poaching regions and preservation of these majestic animals.

### IN HONOR OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Legal Services for Seniors on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1985, Legal Services for Seniors provides comprehensive legal services to all Monterey County senior citizens at no cost, regardless of their ability to pay.

It opened its first office that year on the Monterey Peninsula with a staff of just three. Since then Legal Services for Seniors has continuously expanded its ability to provide legal services, especially to the underserved low-income seniors of Salinas and its neighboring rural areas. It now employs a full time staff of eight and serves seniors in their Salinas and Monterey Peninsula offices as well as ten weekly outreach sites throughout Monterey County.

Legal Services for Seniors has served an astounding 80,000 clients in the past thirty years and continues to make the lives of those they serve the most important part of their practice. It is particularly noted for its financial elder abuse prevention program which serves as a model for other such efforts throughout California. Indeed, Legal Services for Seniors has been called upon to help train other non-profit legal aid organizations throughout the State of California on financial elder abuse prevention so that not only Monterey County seniors, but seniors throughout the State are benefitting from their expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Legal Services for Seniors will continue to meet the needs of Monterey County seniors with quality care, integrity, professionalism, mutual respect, innovation and accountability for many years to come. I am proud to know an organization with such integrity and compassion exists for Monterey County seniors. I know that I speak for the whole House in congratulating Legal Services for Seniors for 30 years of exemplary service and in wishing it many more years of success.

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRYTANIA THEATER

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the The Prytania Theater, the crown jewel of the New Orleans' art scene and the only single-screen motion picture theater in the state of Louisiana.

The Prytania Theater first opened its doors on December 20, 1914 and has witnessed the

evolution of cinema from silent pictures, to talkies, to the current digital landscape. The owners of the land and building, John and Gayle Gish, placed the Prytania in a protected trust so that future generations could benefit from its historical value. It is currently operated by the Brunet family, who has continuously operated theaters in the New Orleans area for over 100 years.

For the Brunet family, the Prytania is arguably the most important venture they have pursued to date. Rene Brunet Sr. operated several neighborhood theaters beginning in 1907. And after his death in 1946, his son, Rene Brunet Jr., took over the family business and operated as many as six neighborhood theaters at one time. Although the movie industry has changed enormously over the last century, Rene Jr. and his son Robert continue to carry the torch. Currently, Robert oversees the daily operations of the theater alongside his daughter Paige, while Rene Jr. remains an important part of the Prytania operation. On several days of the week, one may find all three generations of the Brunet family at work inside the Prytania, and the Brunets intend to run the theater for as long as possible.

Like all movie theaters, the Prytania brings communities together for the unparalleled and magical experience of collectively viewing a movie on the silver screen. The Prytania is also an anchor for the surrounding community. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Prytania was the first theater to reopen after the Hurricane in October 2005; and upon re-opening, Rene Brunet Jr. extended his hand in generosity and offered free admission to the first responders.

The Prytania is a centerpiece of New Orleans' vibrant arts scene. It has hosted movie stars like Sandra Bullock, Brad Pitt, Nicholas Cage and Quentin Tarantino; New Orleans Saints players; the New Orleans Film Festival; the French Film Festival; the Irish Film Festival and numerous premieres and film community events.

The Prytania's history of hosting world-famous movie industry figures and smaller, independent filmmakers shows that the Prytania is a unique institution that continues the tradition of old Hollywood glitz and glamour while also serving as a bastion of the independent film community. I would like to congratulate the Brunet family on this historic milestone, and I wish them many more years of providing New Orleans residents and visitors a positive movie experience.

### RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF DEPUTY U.S. FIRE ADMINIS- TRATOR GLENN GAINES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to inform my colleagues of the passing of Deputy U.S. Fire

• 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.

Administrator Glenn Gaines, a consummate fire professional and friend whose legacy can be seen today in firehouses across our nation.

I first came to know Glenn Gaines during his tenure as fire chief in Fairfax County, Va., where I served on the local Board of Supervisors. He was a strong leader, who led with character and a gentle touch. He instilled a sense of pride and camaraderie in his firefighters and paramedics that reflected his own love and admiration for the fire service and those who bravely answer the call day in and day out.

Chief Gaines began his illustrious career as a volunteer firefighter with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. His passion for the fire service was evident in his work, and he quickly rose through the ranks of leadership, serving as Fire Marshal, Chief Training Officer, and Chief of Operations. He played a key role in the formation of Fairfax County's elite Urban Search and Rescue Team, which, in partnership with FEMA and USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, has provided lifesaving support to communities here at home and across the globe following natural disasters. He capped his 35-years in Fairfax by serving seven years as Fire Chief, mentoring a generation of Fairfax firefighters and paramedics, who helped mold the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department into one of the best in the nation.

He went on to work for FEMA, where he helped initiate the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Department of Homeland Security. He was instrumental in the creation of the Agency's primary firefighter grant programs, particularly the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (or SAFER) Grant Program, which is utilized by career and volunteer fire departments across the country to increase staffing to meet community needs.

It was more than a commitment to the job for Chief Gaines. He was committed to the people who served alongside him and those that would follow in their footsteps. He held a degree in Fire Administration and authored a fire service text book and contributed to several other publications that are still considered mandatory reading for recruits. He was an educator who shared his knowledge and expertise widely. He served on the faculty of the National Fire Academy and oversaw training programs at the National Emergency Training Center.

As one publication put it, he was a firefighter's firefighter. Whether it was in Fairfax or on the national stage, Chief Gaines garnered respect and promoted positive change. He was recognized by his peers with the International Association of Fire Chiefs Metropolitan Fire Chiefs President's Award of Distinction, and he later was honored with the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received the International Association of Fire Chiefs President's Award for Meritorious Service to the Fire Service.

His colleagues will also recall his outgoing, gregarious nature, particularly his competitive streak when it came to participating in the World Police and Fire Games. He was a gold medal winner in the games, competing in power lifting, running, and other sports. In fact, he was actively preparing to be the Sports Coordinator for Softball at this summer's Games, which will be held in Fairfax County.

Chief Gaines was not the retiring type, and, at the age of 72, his commitment to the fire

service community was unparalleled. He died unexpectedly at his home in Leesburg, Va., last Sunday, April 12. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda, their daughter Christy Stuart, her husband, Sean, and their twin children, Heather and Evan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Chief Gaines. His life's work will always be remembered in his native Fairfax and across the nation's fire service, and his legacy of character and service will endure through the generations of firefighters he helped prepare to answer the call.

#### SMALL BUSINESS TAX EQUITY ACT OF 2015

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since California first passed a medical marijuana initiative in 1996, 23 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have approved medical marijuana programs. An additional 13 states have passed laws allowing for the use of low-THC forms of marijuana to treat certain medical conditions. In addition, voters in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska have voted to allow the retail sale and adult use of marijuana.

Any business associated with these expanding industries, however, face a legal gray area between federal and state law. While states have expanded legal economic opportunities, federal drug, tax, and banking laws continue to limit these emerging small businesses.

It has long been recognized that marijuana has therapeutic values. People use it to deal with chronic and paralyzing pain, the nausea associated with chemotherapy, and the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis. More of our veterans now use it to help with PTSD. At least one million people now receive legal medical marijuana treatment.

What remains illegal, however, is for the thousands of legitimate businesses providing a legal product to treat their business expenses like every other business and deduct them from their operating income.

The federal tax code prohibits anyone who sells Schedule I or Schedule II substances from deducting their business expenses from their taxes. Congress added this prohibition in 1982 after a drug dealer claimed his yacht and weapon purchases as legitimate business expenses. As marijuana is listed as a Schedule I substance, even businesses operating in compliance with state law are not allowed to deduct the common expenses of running a small business, like rent, utilities and payroll.

This is why I am introducing the Small Business Tax Equity Act, bipartisan legislation to allow marijuana businesses operating in compliance with state law to deduct their legitimate expenses. It will only have effect in states which have legalized aspects of marijuana use.

Legal businesses in America are taxed on their income, not on their gross revenues, except for the otherwise legal operation of marijuana businesses. Our failure to update federal tax law forces these businesses to discontinue important services or to drive them

underground, which encourages evasion. This bill adapts federal tax law to state law and ensures the fair treatment of a legal industry.

It is time for the federal government to catch up with the states. We must level the playing field for small businesses that create jobs and boost local economies. The Small Business Tax Equity Act would do just that.

RICHARD SPONZILLI

#### HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Sponzilli who, after 30 years of support and service to his local community will be honored as the recipient of the prestigious Dean McNulty Award this Sunday, April 19, 2015 at the 15th Annual Dean McNulty Dinner in Paterson, NJ.

Born and raised in the Stony Road neighborhood of Paterson, Mr. Sponzilli attended St. Bonaventure High School. At the young age of eighteen, he was drafted to Vietnam. During his military service he demonstrated remarkable courage and dedication to serving his country.

Upon his return, he enrolled at Pace University for two years, and then transferred to William Paterson to complete his degree in elementary education. While attending college, Mr. Sponzilli worked part-time cutting grass and during his senior year decided to start a landscaping business of his own. Not expecting his small business to grow, Mr. Sponzilli decided to enroll in a Master's Degree program at William Paterson University to pursue a career as a school guidance counselor.

After completing his Master's Degree, Mr. Sponzilli was unsure about leaving his business to pursue a career as a guidance counselor. After compliments from clients and advice from a friend, he decided to focus on his landscaping business. At the age of 28, Mr. Sponzilli had finally saved enough money to purchase his first office building in Totowa, NJ and since then he has expanded his business to what is now one of the industry's premier landscape design firms.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr. Sponzilli has coached and been involved with many sports programs, beginning with the Hillcrest Boys Club, serving as Head Coach of the Manchester Regional High School boys' basketball team, and football programs at the Totowa Police Athletic League.

Mr. Sponzilli continues to dedicate his efforts towards bettering his community and exhibits the qualities of an individual we all strive to be. He currently works with many organizations including Landscape Initiative, Morris Catholic High School, Sisters of the Poor Charity, and also finds time to operate basketball camps for children.

Mr. Sponzilli has been recognized for his philanthropic efforts both within his community and outside. Because of these efforts, he was named the Italian American Man of the Year, National Kid Construction Club Man of the Year, was inducted into the Totowa Police Athletic League Wall of Fame, and was most recently awarded the William Paterson University Legacy Award. The Dean McNulty Award

is yet another prestigious recognition of the outstanding work of Mr. Sponzilli.

I have known Richard for many years now as well as have attended the Dean McNulty Dinner for many years and know that this is a well-deserved honor. His story has not only inspired me but has inspired many of those around him. I value Rich's friendship and, as his friend, am happy to see him acknowledged in so many ways.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Mr. Richard Sponzilli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Sponzilli's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Mr. Richard Sponzilli.

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TRIBUTE TO MRS. EMELIA ROSE  
YANKAH

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, I am pleased and honored to join the chorus of family, friends, loved ones and many well-wishers who join in praise and give thanks to Mrs. Emelia Rose Yankah.

As you reflect on the numerous memories and triumphs you have been blessed to experience over the last eight plus decades your professional, community leadership, and membership with numerous civic organizations have given you the opportunity to make an indelible impact in the lives of many.

We are forever grateful to our Heavenly Father for having put Mrs. E.R. Yankah in our midst on April 16, 1930, and for filling her with grace, compassion and love. Today as your family, friends, community and congregation stand to celebrate your 85th Birthday, know that I am exceedingly honored to join this celebration and extend our humble gratitude. Countless lives have been made all the better and richer because of this kind spirit.

We ask:

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine upon you.

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

As you look forward to the years ahead, know that I am praying for your continued health and happiness.

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COL. HENRY CYR

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Henry L. Cyr III, United States Air Force, for his exceptional service to the United States of America. After twenty-six years of

service, Colonel Cyr will soon retire from his position as the Commander of the 461st Air Control Wing, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Born in Hopedale, Massachusetts, Colonel Cyr was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Boston University in 1989, receiving his Second Lieutenant rank in historic Faneuil Hall. Throughout his career, Colonel Cyr has served with great distinction in prominent command and staff positions and operational flying units in the United States and around the world.

His staff tours include two assignments to the Pentagon; first, in 2002, as Air Force staff responsible for overseeing two U.S. and NATO Command and Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft acquisition programs, and again in 2009 as United States Strategic Command staff leading the Global Force Management Division, responsible for supporting the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance requirements of our Combatant Commanders around the globe. In 2011 Col. Cyr returned to Robins Air Force Base to serve as the Vice Commander of the 461st Air Control Wing.

Colonel Cyr has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Air Medal, and multiple campaign medals. His aviation career includes more than 4,700 flying hours, including more than 900 in combat and combat support missions. He has flown operations in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Haiti, Kosovo and Iraq, as well as worldwide Sensitive Reconnaissance Operations missions. Currently, he is the commander of the Air Combat Command's 461st Air Control Wing responsible for leading nearly fifteen hundred Airmen in achieving the worldwide E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System and Deployable Air Traffic Control and Landing System missions.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Colonel Henry Cyr's successful and decorated career. I commend Colonel Cyr for his service, leadership, and example. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Colonel Cyr's family including wife retired Lt. Col. Linda Bethke-Cyr, their children Alexandria and Marcus, and his parents Mrs. Geraldine Francis Cyr and retired Colonel Henry Leonard Cyr, Jr.

We are a nation grateful for the military service of the men, women, and families whose sacrifices secure our freedom. I wish Colonel Cyr and his family the best in his retirement and next steps.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LAS  
POSITAS COLLEGE

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Las Positas College in Livermore, California.

Las Positas has been serving residents of the Tri-Valley with quality educational and vocational training for the past forty years.

Las Positas serves 8,500 students from all walks of life. Their dedication to training and

educating all those that seek to better themselves, from recent high school graduates to veterans to mid-career professionals, is second to none.

In the heart of one of America's fastest growing business and residential regions, Las Positas College has been a staple for higher education and skill development for decades. The college provides the local rapidly growing technological, science, and business industries with the trained personnel they need to be successful.

Las Positas' slogan is "Students First," an ideal mantra that all institutions of higher education should follow. It exemplifies the goals of providing an excellent, equitable, and complete education.

On this day we recognize Las Positas College as being one of the premier educational institutions in the California Community College System for the past forty years and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success in the future.

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THE LIFE OF ALEX MICHEL ODEH

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Alex Michel Odeh.

Alex was born on April 4, 1944 in Jifna, Palestine and immigrated to the United States in 1972.

He was married to Norma Odeh and settled in Orange County, CA where they had three daughters, Helena, Samya and Susan Odeh.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Odeh dedicated his professional life to teaching and served as a lecturer of Arabic Language and Middle East History at Coastline Community College in Santa Ana, California.

He dedicated his life to the pursuit of combatting discrimination both at home and abroad as a civil and human rights activist.

He was tireless in working with community and religious organizations to build bridges and foster peace and understanding between diverse groups.

Unfortunately, his life was cut short and Alex was assassinated on October 11, 1985, when a bomb exploded as he entered the office of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) at 1905 East 17th Street in Santa Ana, California during his service as the Western Regional Director of ADC.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of his murder and the community and his family has yet to gain closure and justice for his death.

In June of 2013, I sent the Department of Justice a letter asking for closure in the case of Alex Odeh and we have yet to get a concrete answer from them, even though the FBI has characterized Mr. Odeh's death as a domestic "terrorist attack."

I will continue to fight for answers to Alex's death and bring those that killed him to justice, but let us mark his death by remembering what he stood for and what he dedicated his life to: the pursuit to civil and human rights, as well as peace and mutual understanding between our diverse communities.

RECOGNIZING MARCH 5 AS NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DAY

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize March 5, 2015, as the First Annual National Industrial Design Day. I also want to congratulate the Industrial Designers Society of America on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This day is being used to recognize those in the profession of industrial design, which has enhanced people's lives, not only in the 11th District of Virginia, but also across the United States and the world.

The term "industrial design" was first recognized by the U.S. Patent Office in 1913, but the importance of this field was not fully recognized at that time. Originally comprised primarily of architects, package designers, and stage designers, the field expanded to include many diverse professionals including those in manufacturing, furniture design, graphic design, and automobile design, among others. The focus evolved to using design as a tool to make products more efficient, more cost effective, and more relevant.

Today, the contributions of industrial designers include advanced technology such as GPS, digital interfaces, environmental graphics, communication systems, surgical equipment, MP3 players, and countless others. The economic impact of this industry helps fuel our national economy. In the United States, product design and related services generate billions in sales and the number of U.S. awarded design patents has reached an all-time high.

Promotion of innovation and creativity has created a growing interest in industrial design. What was first hailed as a "modern movement" at the 1927 Exposition of Art in Trade in New York City is now taught at universities around the world.

The Industrial Designers Society of America, headquartered in Herndon, Virginia in the 11th Congressional District, which I am pleased to represent, should be commended for being an instrumental force in the growth and expansion of this profession. Its membership now includes thousands of industrial designers in 29 countries. In addition, it has hosted education symposiums and conferences to ensure the continued growth of this field.

I ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming March 5 as National Industrial Design Day and in expressing our appreciation for the innovation and creativity of its members. Their designs and creations improve our lives in every way and are worthy of our recognition.

**THE CONTINUING THREAT OF  
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a group of 17 parasitic and bacterial diseases which blind, disable, disfigure, and sometimes kill sufferers among more than one billion of the

world's poorest people, trapping the most marginalized communities in a cycle of poverty. The list ranges from chagas to rabies to leprosy to dengue fever. However, there are others not on this list of 17 diseases that also receive too little attention. These include such diseases as polio and smallpox, which have largely been eliminated from the planet, and often fatal, fortunately rare NTDs, such as kuru. Prior to last year, that list of rare diseases included Ebola.

Even though not immediately fatal, these diseases can keep children from attending school and their parents from working, as well as resulting in excessive loss of blood by mothers during birth and low birth weight babies. These conditions constitute a significant hurdle to achieving economic growth and dilute the impact of foreign assistance programs.

Last year, the world witnessed an Ebola disease pandemic that hit six African countries and spread to Spain, Scotland, and the United States. Furthermore, in recent years diseases such as dengue fever and chikungunya have spread into the United States. These and other tropical diseases most often victimize the poor who live in tropical climates—whether in Africa, Latin America or parts of the United States.

Even in the face of the worldwide challenge these tropical diseases pose, the administration has proposed cutting the budget in this area by 17%. Yesterday's hearing examined the problem of neglected tropical diseases and U.S. current and potential efforts to address this problem.

Eight NTDs account for almost all worldwide cases. Seven of them can be treated with low-cost medication that can be dispensed by non-health workers irrespective of disease status. Nearly 80% of all NTD cases are comprised of people carrying intestinal worms.

In our June 27, 2013, hearing on NTDs, we learned the catastrophic nature of these preventable intestinal worm infections. So many of the problems we struggle with, such as difficult births and malnourishment, cannot be remedied without dealing with the infections themselves. These intestinal worms not only steal nutrients from their hosts; they steal their very futures by denying them a healthy life.

We can no longer look at photos of happy young children standing in muddy water without shoes and not think of the possibility that they are losing their future even as we see them enjoy a break from the poverty in which they live. Yet we must understand that these are not merely diseases affecting people in faraway lands.

Current U.S. law favors research on those diseases threatening the American homeland, but in today's world, diseases can cross borders as easily as those affected by them or the products imported into the United States. For example, chagas is most prevalent in Latin America, but it has been identified in patients in Texas, and cases of dengue fever have recently been reported in Florida. We cannot afford to assume that what may seem to be exotic diseases only happen to people in other countries. (And of course, even if that were true, we have a moral obligation to aid and assist those who contract these diseases and mitigate transmittal to the greatest extent possible). Ten years ago, West Nile Virus, another rare disease, was not seen in the United States or anywhere else outside the east Afri-

can nation of Uganda, but in less than a decade, it has spread across this country and much of the rest of the world.

More than 10,000 people have died of Ebola worldwide thus far. Although only one person died in this country due to that disease, we saw clearly how unprepared our medical services and the rest of the world were initially to deal with a rare disease that had previously been confined to isolated areas in Central Africa. There are other rare diseases—not to mention the recognized NTDs—that can cause havoc if they find their way to populated international transit areas as Ebola did last year.

Meanwhile, far too many people live lives of quiet suffering from diseases we must fight more effectively. This is why I have introduced H.R. 1797, the End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act. Among other provisions, H.R. 1797 calls on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to modify its NTD programming with respect to rapid impact package treatments, school-based NTD programs and new approaches to reach the goals of eliminating NTDs. This bill also sets forth measures to expand the USAID program, including by establishment of a research and development program.

In our effort to achieve reachable goals to prevent and eliminate NTDs, the projected 17% cut in funding for such projects in the FY 2016 budget would pose a serious setback. I have appealed to the appropriators to maintain NTD spending at the most recent regular budget levels in FY 2014, and our hearing yesterday examined how our current NTD programs will be affected either by the planned budget cut or by maintaining the level of funding we saw before the Ebola response skewed the level of such funding.

**TRIBUTE TO COLONEL (RETIRED)  
JOSE GERARDO GARCIA, M.D.**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Colonel (Retired) Jose Gerardo Garcia, M.D. of Laredo, Texas.

Jose Gerardo Garcia was born on the 21st of November, 1935 to Gerardo and Anita Garcia in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He received a Bachelors in Biological Sciences at la Escuela Preparatoria Federal and his Medical Doctor degree from la Universidad de Nuevo Leon Medical School in Monterrey in 1957. Following graduation, he completed psychiatry internships at Warren State Hospital in Warren, Pennsylvania and Austin State Hospital in Austin, Texas.

IN 1965, Dr. Garcia became a naturalized citizen of the United States. His love of country compelled him to enlist in the United States Army in 1969. Dr. Garcia's 20 years of service allowed him to use his medical training, serve his country, and help others. Beginning as a major at Fort Dix in New Jersey and then as a surgeon in the Army National Guard, 36th Airborne division, he developed an expertise in aerospace medicine. With this knowledge, Dr. Garcia became a charter member of the U.S. Army Aviation branch upon its creation in 1983. Additionally, he was the first native

Mexican physician assigned to the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General at the Pentagon, a position that allowed him to work directly with the White House physician. Following his promotion to the rank of colonel, Medical Corps, Dr. Garcia served as dean of the U.S. Army School of Aviation at Fort Rucker in Alabama. Dr. Garcia has been the first and only Hispanic to occupy this post. Additionally, Dr. Garcia served as chief training supervisor for the VA hospital in Houston, Texas, certified NASA flight surgeon supporting Space Shuttle landings at two primary landing sites, and as a medical consultant to the Texas Department of Corrections for inmates on death row. Dr. Garcia was also integral to the U.S. Army's adoption of research and clinical hyperbaric medicine.

After 20 years of distinguished service, Dr. Garcia transferred to Reserve duty in 1989. In 1990 he married Yolanda Davila and settled in Laredo where he continued to practice medicine and be an active member of the community until his passing. Dr. Garcia served as medical director of Charter Hospital of Laredo, CEO and medical director of St. Joseph's Psychiatric Day Treatment Center and Laredo Drug Detection Services, medical director of Casa Amistad/San Antonio State Hospital, senior psychiatrist of Border Region MHMR, and clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. This beloved family man and talented doctor will be dearly missed and forever remembered for his faith, altruism, optimism, patriotism, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the legacy of Colonel (Retired) Jose Gerardo Garcia, M.D. His exemplary service to this country and the people of Laredo will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO  
MADE THE APPOMATTOX SES-  
QUICENTENNIAL A SUCCESS

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to recognize and thank those who worked tirelessly to make the week-long Appomattox Sesquicentennial commemoration such a major success.

After years of preparation, the National Park Service, with the support of Appomattox County leaders and hundreds of Central Virginia volunteers, did an outstanding job hosting the thousands of Americans who came to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial this past week at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. It was estimated that approximately 3,600 re-enactors took part and 25,000 individuals came to Appomattox Court House National Park throughout the week to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the meeting of Generals Lee and Grant which put an end to the Civil War and the nearly ninety events that preceded it. The hard work, effort, and organization executed by Appomattox County local businesses, vendors, and volunteers was observed by all and made for an especially memorable event of this momentous turning point in our nation's history.

I was pleased to be able to attend the moving and dignified opening ceremony and was impressed at the manner in which the National Park Service went above and beyond to ensure that the American people had the opportunity to pay tribute to those who re-united our country 150 years ago. Please join me in thanking all those who worked tirelessly to make this remembrance possible.

RECOGNIZING AIR ZOO

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nationally renowned Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, Michigan, which is hosting the 2015 Science Innovation Hall of Fame Awards on April 18, 2015.

It is only fitting that the Air Zoo is the setting for this gala event to recognize the transformative work of top Southwest Michigan students and teachers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics as well as residents who have advanced the area of aviation. The Air Zoo was founded in 1977 as the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum by Suzanne and Pete Parish, who wanted to share their enthusiasm for World War II airplanes and artifacts. Scientific affiliations grew to include the Smithsonian Institution and the Michigan Space Science Center, which allows visitors to experience some of the challenges astronauts face during their training. Full-motion flight simulators, 3-D and 4-D theaters, and interactive exhibits—including one about women in aviation and space—provided adventure little seen in regular museums.

Education is tucked inside a fun setting as evidenced by the Air Zoo being named as the "Best Place to Spend a Day with Your Family" and "Best Place to Take out-of-Towners" for the past three years by the more than 130,000 visitors it has touching down at its doors each year.

Mr. Speaker, many have wondered how the facility got its name. As the collection of airplanes grew, so did the number of animal names: Wildcat, Hellcat, Bearcat and Flying Tiger. Obviously, these flying critters can only be contained in an Air Zoo.

Recently the Air Zoo was recognized as one of the jewels in the crown of the state by receiving a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs to keep this state-of-the-art air and space museum on its mission of preserving the legacy of flight. I am proud to recognize the many accomplishments of the Air Zoo by the people who work there and wish them much success in the future.

HONORING ROBERT HILL YOUTH  
FOUNDATION, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc., Charleston, MS inside of Tallahatchie County, MS.

The Robert Hill Youth Foundation, Inc. began in the early 1980's by Mr. Robert Hill. It was initially conceived with the idea of simply being a sports organization for youth focusing on baseball. The organization eventually ceased being active after the death of Mr. Hill in 1991.

In the year 2000, Mr. Cedric Terry revived the organization because the youth in the community didn't have many options for constructive activities and adult mentoring. He took on the task of recruiting children and parent's involvement. Mr. Terry was successful by getting 9 boys excited about playing baseball for the summer and competing. Their team would travel and they would be role models for other youth. Everyone had to pledge to abide by the rules, get good grades in school, and participate in an award ceremony at the end of the season.

Mr. Terry's vision was just what the youth in the community needed to take the Robert Hill Youth Foundation to the next level. It was just what Mr. Hill always wanted the organization to be. The organization grew and became a huge success serving over 10,000 boys and girls. The effort was so well received that it attracted youth not just inside Charleston, but they came from miles outside the area. It now has extended its activities to include education, recreation and arts for youth in the area.

Through their education program they offer: Abstinence Education, After School Tutoring, and Fatherhood Preparation. Their recreation program offers: basketball, football, baseball and track. The arts program includes: praise dancing, dancing and acting classes. Since 2000 through 2015 the organization has been responsible for helping over 500 boys and girls in the area attend and receive a college education.

Their accolades are just as impressive. In fact, there are too many to name them all. A few of them include constructing the first park in Charleston in order to be home based for the youth. All they had to do was walk to the park and "Play ball!" Thanks to the Robert Hill Youth Foundation their work has reached all corners of youth life. In 2011 the Charleston High School Tigers Football Team won its 1st State Football Championship. Almost ninety percent of the players came from the Robert Hill Youth Foundation. In 2012 the Charleston High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team was the runner up in the Girls Basketball State Tournament. And over ninety-five percent of the girls played for the Robert Hill Youth Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today, in recognizing the Robert Hill Youth Foundation, an asset to Tallahatchie County in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING PETER AND  
MAUREEN JANELLE FOR CON-  
TRIBUTIONS TO PROVIDING MEN-  
TAL HEALTH CARE AND SERV-  
ICES

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, for the last 35 years both Peter & Maureen Janelle have

been staunch advocates and compassionate caregivers to the citizens of the Granite State living with mental illness. Working as counselors with The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, they have provided care to many individuals struggling with a variety of afflictions. After 20 years with the center Peter Janelle took the helm as President and CEO, helping to launch a number of programs focused on not only treatment, but vocational services, supportive living techniques, and illness management. These programs aim to promote wellness and independence for the center's patients, to empower them to manage their mental illness and be productive, contributing members of the community.

Peter has also worked tirelessly with other providers and organizations from across New Hampshire to offer care to those most in need and support the community of mental health professionals in the state. Whether working with patients and staff at NH Hospital, local law enforcement or with local schools he has helped to expand and develop the reach of the services offered by the center to give care to people of all ages from children to seniors, and addressing the need for treatment and care for small behavioral problems and mild depression, to treatment for Alzheimer's, psychosis and schizophrenia. The result of these efforts has enabled the center to provide care to almost 11,000 patients a year.

The work that both Peter and Maureen have done in the field of mental illness is not an easy job, and the success and accomplishments they have been able to achieve in their service to The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester is truly remarkable. I applaud and thank them for devoting their life's work to this worthy and much needed field, and for all they have contributed to New Hampshire and especially the City of Manchester.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Israelis—whether sitting at their desks, playing on the beach, or driving on a busy highway—came to a complete standstill as sirens rang out across the small country to commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust and the six million Jews systematically murdered by the Nazi regime.

I join the global Jewish community in remembering those we lost and honoring those who survived to carry on the proud traditions of the Jewish people. On this Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us all recommit ourselves to preserving the memory of the past while working to build a better future. As the number of Holocaust survivors continues to diminish it becomes increasingly incumbent upon future generations to never forget.

#### THE GOLDMAN ACT TO RETURN ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN: REVIEWING OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTATION

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I held a hearing to continue and increase attention on international parental child abduction, whose victims include primarily children denied the love and attention of one of their parents, and parents cut off from the children they love.

Every year, approximately 1,000 American children are unlawfully removed from their homes by one of their parents and taken across international borders. Less than half of these children ever come home.

Most of the left-behind parents in the audience at last month's hearing have not seen their children in years and know all too well the financial, legal, cultural, and linguistic obstacles to bringing their children home from a foreign country. Many of them had already been through U.S. judicial proceedings prior to the abduction, and the courts had settled custody and visitation, only to have a kidnapping spouse defy a court order. Other parents were caught completely by surprise when a spouse's vacation turned into an abduction, a phone call in the middle of the night telling them that would never again see their child.

Their suffering is exponentially compounded by knowledge of the pain caused to their child by the separation. Child abduction is child abuse. Parentally-abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems, and may experience anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive behavior, resentment, guilt, and fearfulness.

These young victims, like their left-behind parents, are American citizens who need the help of their government when normal legal processes are unavailable or have failed.

In 1983, the United States ratified the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to try to address abduction and access. This convention creates a civil framework for the quick return of abducted children and for rights of access for left-behind parents. Absent extenuating circumstances, the child, or children, are to be returned within 6 weeks to his or her country of habitual residence for the courts there to decide on custody, or to enforce any previous custody determinations.

The Convention has helped return some children but implementation has been unpredictable and spotty at best. Susceptible to abuse by taking parents or judges who either don't understand their obligations under the Convention or are unwilling to abide by them, the Convention has too often been stretched to provide cover for the abduction, rather than recovery of the child.

Some Hague Convention parties are simply not enforcing legitimate return orders. The State Department's 2014 Hague Convention Compliance Report highlights four countries—Brazil, Mexico, Romania, and Ukraine—that habitually fail to enforce return orders. Other countries—Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras,

and the Bahamas—are non-compliant with the Convention.

In other words, abducted American children are not coming home from these countries and so many other countries where the Convention operates weakly, or with which the U.S. has no bilateral agreement of any kind.

To give one more example, Jeffery Morehouse a left behind parent testified that "there have been 400 cases of U.S. children kidnapped to Japan since 1994." We do not know of a single case, however, in which the Government of Japan has issued and enforced an order for the return of an abducted child to the United States.

And, I must emphasize, that since they have signed the Hague, Japan's efforts have been breathtakingly unresponsive especially for abductions that occurred prior to their ratification of the Hague Convention.

Mr. Morehouse testified that, "one year ago next week, at the very moment Japan acceded to the Hague Abduction Convention, parents joined us to hand-deliver 30 Article 21 Access applications (I joined those parents at the Japanese Embassy) . . . none of the BAC Home parents have received access to their kidnapped children. Japan's implementation of the Hague Abduction Convention is an abysmal failure. Sanctions under the Goldman Act will provide some of the necessary public pressures on Japan to create change to this ongoing human and family rights crisis."

The status quo is simply unacceptable.

Over the last 5 years, many of those at the hearing helped me write and pass through the Congress the Sean and David Goldman Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act. Last month's hearing occurs more than seven months after the Goldman Act became law and gave us an opportunity to hear from the State Department and parents whether the bill's key provisions are being implemented according to the law.

A brief refresher on Sean and David: David Goldman spent over 5 agonizing years trying to legally rescue his son, Sean, from an abduction to Brazil, which is a signatory nation, like the United States, to the Hague Abduction Convention.

Despite Mr. Goldman's airtight case that demonstrated an egregious example of both child abduction and wrongful retention, the Hague treaty was unavailing, and the outcomes in the Brazilian courts largely proved infuriating, infirm, and ineffective.

David Goldman waged his case by the book and won judgments in the New Jersey courts. Yet both Sean and David were made to suffer emotional pain for over half a decade as one delaying ploy after another was employed by the abducting party. In the end, because of the father's abiding love for his son and an indomitable will, the Goldmans today are united and happy.

To underscore: the Goldman Act was not intended to simply reform the system, but to bring about a fundamental sea change in U.S. diplomacy so that State Department officials would see themselves as advocates for the return of abducted American children.

Now under the Goldman Act, when a country fails to appropriately address an abduction case pending more than 12 months, the law requires the Secretary of State to take action. When a country has more than 30% of its U.S. cases pending for more than a year, the law requires the Secretary of State to designate the country as "Non-Compliant" in an annual report, and take action.

The Goldman Act specifically lists the increasingly escalating actions that Congress has in mind, from a demarche—or a protest through diplomatic channels—to a public condemnation to a delay or cancellation of one or more bilateral visits and even the withdrawal, limitation, or suspension of foreign assistance including non-humanitarian aid and including security assistance to the central government of a country. These are serious sanctions that must be seriously applied by a country that takes parental child abduction seriously.

We may also request extradition where appropriate.

If these measures sound pointed, it is because they are intended to focus the destination country on quick and accurate resolution of abduction and access cases.

The Goldman Act was written to cover countries that have signed the Hague Convention, such as Brazil; countries that have not signed the Convention, such as India; and countries that have a mix of open abduction cases from before and after signing the Hague Convention, such as Japan.

In 2013, India was the number three destination in the world for parents who abducted from the United States. Currently, there are 64 known open abduction and denial of access cases involving India. And yet the United States does not have any sort of resolution mechanism with India. Moms and dads left behind in the United States are forced to enter a labyrinthine foreign court system known for its incessant appeals and multi-year delays.

But now the Goldman Act applies. India will now face real penalties for any case that has been pending for more than one year, and will be “named and shamed” in the State Department’s report. As with the State Department’s annual trafficking report, there is morally suasive value in simply reporting what a country does, and some countries will I am sure respond to such moral pressure.

Thus we expect the State Department to apply these penalties zealously, and to work with India on establishing a bilateral agreement for the efficient and fair resolution of abduction and access cases. If the State Department faithfully applies the law as written, it will be in India’s interest to come to the negotiating table.

The same holds true for Japan, even though Japan recently signed the Hague Convention. Among such cases is that of Michael Elias, who has not seen his children, Jade and Michael Jr., since 2008. Michael served as a Marine who saw combat in Iraq. His wife, who worked in the Japanese consulate, used documents fraudulently obtained with the apparent complicity of Japanese consulate personnel to kidnap their children, then aged 4 and 2, in defiance of a court order, telling Michael on a phone call that there was nothing that he could do, as “my country will protect me.”

Her country will protect her, but what is our country doing to protect Michael and his children?

While the State Department has touted Japan’s accession to the Hague Convention as an accomplishment, Japan has said the Convention would only apply in post-ratification cases. As Ambassador Jacobs knows, I and several others predicted that unless a MOU or other bilateral agreement was concluded with Japan, American children and their left behind parents will be left behind in perpetuity. I ask to my friends at the State Department, what

then is to happen for parents already suffering from abductions prior to ratification? Would they be left behind again—this time by their own government?

I know Ambassador Jacobs, who testified at last month’s hearing, as recently as February 2014 in her testimony before the Senate, stated that she would continue to make “progress with the Japanese government on resolving existing cases in the spirit of the Convention.”

The Goldman Act requires accountability for the Japanese government on the abduction cases open at the time Japan signed the Convention. Unless Japan resolves scores of American cases before the end of next month, nearly 100% of abduction cases in Japan will still be unresolved and Goldman Act penalties will apply.

The Goldman Act has given the State Department new and powerful tools to bring Japan, and other countries, to the resolution table. The goal is not to disrupt relations but to heal the painful rifts caused by international child abduction.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equality for All Resolution—which declares that gay, lesbian, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Earlier this month, I watched as Indiana—my home state—enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over the last few weeks, I’ve heard from businesses, religious organizations, community leaders, and countless concerned Americans.

It’s clear that the vast majority of Americans oppose this kind of discrimination.

Yet, in 2015, it is still legal in over 30 states to discriminate in the workplace, to refuse to sell or rent a home, or to turn someone away from your business—just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

As elected representatives, we have a responsibility to show that America is better than this. I would like to thank the 126 colleagues who join me today as original cosponsors of this resolution.

I encourage every Member of the House to join me in supporting the Equality for All resolution.

#### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark an important milestone in the history of my home state of Maryland. On April 15, 2015, the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Bowie State

University will celebrate the school’s 150th anniversary at its annual Founders Day.

In the final months of the Civil War, the Baltimore Normal School began serving emancipated African-Americans by offering training for teachers. In 1910, it outgrew its facilities and moved to a 187-acre lot in Bowie, Maryland, and in 1914 it became the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie. Over the course of the twentieth century, the institution evolved into a four-year degree-granting college and eventually became a liberal arts college whose mission extended well beyond training educators. Renamed Bowie State College in 1963, it provided access to higher education for African American students, many of whom were barred from other institutions as a result of segregation.

In 1988, in recognition of the school’s important role in higher education for Marylanders and its expansion into graduate studies, it was elevated to University status and welcomed into the University System of Maryland. Since then, Bowie State University has been one of Maryland’s top institutions of higher education and has continued to rank as one of our nation’s leading historically black colleges and universities, preparing not only some of the brightest young minds in Maryland but also training a new generation of leaders for our nation’s African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to represent Bowie State University in Congress and to help secure federal grants that help the school expand its cutting-edge programs, including in the high-demand areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or “STEM” education. In recent years, Bowie State University has become a national leader in what many are calling “STEAM” education, which brings traditional “STEM” fields together with art and design in order to prepare students for careers in digital technologies. At the same time, Bowie State University has become a national center for training in cybersecurity, drawing on its proximity to Ft. Meade and defense institutions in the Greater Washington area. It continues to build on a groundbreaking \$27 million award from NASA and the National Science Foundation in 1995 that recognized Bowie State University as a national Model Institution for Excellence in STEM education.

Last year, I joined President Obama in Prince George’s County, Maryland, to highlight a \$7 million Youth Career Connect grant that was made possible through an innovative partnership between the County’s public schools, Lockheed Martin, and Bowie State University’s Maryland Center to grow the pipeline of students pursuing college degrees and STEM-related careers. The University is playing a major role in growing Maryland’s high-skill workforce for the twenty-first century, and I am excited for what the future holds.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Bowie State University’s proud history as it marks its sesquicentennial. I look forward to continuing to work closely with President Mickey Burnim and the Administration to ensure that Bowie State University can continue to carry out its mission of providing high-quality higher education and research that supports learning and careers in Maryland and across the United States.



TRIBUTE TO LEE P. EVANS, SR.

## HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida, I am pleased and honored to join the chorus of family, friends, loved ones and many well-wishers who join in praise and give thanks to Lee P. Evans, Sr., for his endearing legacy of love, kindness and generosity. Our lives have been made all the better and richer because of this kind spirit. We are forever grateful to our Heavenly Father for having put him in our midst on April 15, 1925, and for filling him with grace, compassion and love.

These 90 years are marked by many milestones in his life, none more representative of the breadth and depth of his character than that of his humanity. We celebrate the richness of his life. We honor his strength of faith and his unwavering belief in the goodness of all. We come now to honor the man, for in him, and through him, the love of God flows, and warms us in his rich embrace. On this day, we say Happy Birthday Lee P. Evans, Sr., we love you, and may God continue to shower his blessings upon you and all that you love.

## COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

## HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). The U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has expanded and grown stronger since the TRA was signed into law in 1979. I recently returned from Taiwan where I experienced firsthand our shared values and close economic ties. Last year, Taiwan was the United States' 10th largest trading partner. My home state of Indiana has also benefited from these commercial partnerships and was the first state to establish a trade office in Taiwan. On April 9th, President Ma Ying-jeou shared his insight on our bilateral relations in his remarks at the AmCham's annual Hsieh Nien Fan gala which I have included below. Like President Ma, I look forward to continuing to promote policies that reaffirm our mutual commitment to democratic and economic development.

"I am very pleased to be here today for AmCham's annual Hsieh Nien Fan. This is a special occasion for me, because it marks the 13th time that I have been invited to attend. But there's also another reason why today is a very special day. It's because tomorrow is April the 10th, and that marks the 36th anniversary of the date the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) took effect.

"At the moment, U.S.-Taiwan relations are indeed the best they have been in the 36 years since the TRA became effective. Everyone in Taiwan, military and civilians, was shocked back on December 16, 1978 when President Carter announced on TV that the

U.S. was breaking diplomatic relations with the Republic of China. But three months later, the U.S. Congress made significant amendments to the Carter administration's Taiwan Enabling Act. Congress not only changed the content of the Act, but also changed its name to the Taiwan Relations Act.

"As you all know, based on existing international law, an unrecognized country loses its status as a legal entity in the United States. It therefore cannot engage in any legal proceedings due to the lack of a judicial personality. But the TRA not only sees Taiwan as a foreign government for purposes of U.S. law, but also allows Taiwan to initiate and respond to judicial litigation. The TRA also allows the U.S. government to provide Taiwan with defensive weaponry. And the property rights attached to our embassy and Twin Oaks estate in Washington, DC also remained unaffected by the break in diplomatic relations or de-recognition.

"Since I took office nearly seven years ago, mutual trust between Taiwan and the United States at the highest levels of government has been restored. Taiwan military procurement from the U.S. has also exceeded U.S.\$ 18.3 billion, the highest it has been in any period over the past 20 years, and twice what it was during my predecessor's term of office. And in March of 2013, our countries resumed negotiations under the 1994 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) as we prepare to take a step-by-step "building block" approach in promoting further trade liberalization.

"Last year, Taiwan and the U.S. forged even closer cooperation in several areas. U.S. Secretary of Commerce statistics show that last year, Taiwan-U.S. trade in goods reached U.S.\$ 67.4 billion. That allowed Taiwan to surpass India and Saudi Arabia to become the United States' 10th largest trading partner. At the same time, the U.S. once again surpassed Japan to become Taiwan's second largest trading partner. Last month, Taiwan companies also flocked to the U.S. government's SelectUSA 2015 Investment Summit, and overall, the Taiwan contingent was the second largest group in attendance.

"In addition to our interaction in the economic and trade arenas, official contacts between Taiwan and the U.S. have also continued. In December of last year, President Obama signed the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014, agreeing to sell the ROC four Perry-class frigates. High-level U.S. officials also visited here, most notably U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, who came to Taiwan in April last year. She was the first U.S. Cabinet-level official to visit us in 14 years.

"This year, in February, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel stated that over the past few years, developments in Taiwan-U.S. relations have been productive. He also said that those developments were closely related to the improvement in cross-strait relations. He also expressed that the U.S. hopes to see the continued positive development of cross-strait relations.

"So ever since the Cold War began, this was the first time that the United States did not have to choose sides when handling cross-strait relations. Nor did mainland China or Taiwan have to face that kind of predicament. This highlights our efforts in the realm of cross-strait relations over the past few years, as both ROC-U.S. and cross-strait relations have become more harmonious. As this kind of interaction has transformed Taiwan's cross-strait and international relations, the vicious cycle of the past is gone, and we're moving ahead under the virtuous cycle of today.

"In truth, the Republic of China and the U.S. have a long and storied relationship.

Now, I would like to tell you two stories to illustrate our friendship.

"The first story I want to tell occurred at the very beginning of the 20th century. In 1901, one year after the so-called Boxer Rebellion, the Qing Empire and the United States signed the Boxer Protocol, which paid U.S.\$ 24.4 million to the U.S.—known as the Boxer Indemnity. In his State of the Union Address in 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt stated that part of the Boxer Indemnity should be returned to China. In 1924, an executive order by U.S. President Coolidge returned the other portions of the Boxer Indemnity. So by that time, the U.S. had returned about 95% of the Indemnity to the Republic of China, making a tremendous contribution to cultivating human talent. The Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program provided funds that helped many people who became the pillars of the Republic of China. And what the U.S. did also had an effect in Europe, where Holland used Boxer Indemnity funds to set up a China Research Program at Leiden University. That made Leiden University a strategic center for research on China, and fostered several generations of talented individuals. That soon became the norm, and the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and Japan all followed suit.

"The second story took place 75 years ago. This year is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and the Republic of China's victory in the War of Resistance against Japan. During the course of World War II, the U.S. government and citizens not only gave the Republic of China substantive assistance, but also proved to be staunch friends. That hard-fought War of Resistance between the Republic of China and Japanese forces lasted for eight long years. For the first four years, our soldiers fought virtually alone, without any assistance from outside sources. During that period, however, the U.S. provided indirect assistance. And the most inspiring example of that assistance came from the American Volunteer Group—the AVG—which was later absorbed by the Fourteenth Army Air Force in China. That unit became known far and wide by their nickname: The Flying Tigers. They came to represent Chinese-American cooperation. When the Flying Tigers had been in China for less than a year, they had already downed at least 200 Japanese war planes. That allowed the Chinese Air Force, which was on its last legs, to slowly recover its fighting capabilities. So in November of 1943, at the Battle of Changde in Hunan Province, the U.S. Fourteenth Army Air Force in China joined forces with our own air force to form the Chinese-American Composite Wing. Working together, they brought down 25 Japanese planes, with another 14 planes listed as possibly shot down, and 19 additional Japanese planes damaged. The Japanese Air Force didn't dare return to challenge them again. And just when the forces defending Changde were in dire straits, the composite air forces air-dropped ammunition, rice, and pork for those ground troops. They also dispatched operatives to the battlefields who filed hourly intelligence reports to General Claire Lee Chennault. That allowed the General to direct the Flying Tigers to attack Japanese forces that mounted offensives, and also leverage victories by bombing defeated Japanese troops even as they retreated.

"So this year, we will be commemorating the 70th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan with various activities. We have decided to invite General Chennault's granddaughter, and descendants



of General James Doolittle, who was famous for his bombing raid on Tokyo. We want to invite those descendants to participate in some activities, and also take advantage of this face-to-face meeting to thank their forbearers for their contributions to the Republic of China.

"For the Republic of China, from the beginning of the last century and up into the 1930s, 1940s, and even all the historical periods I didn't mention here today, there has been one constant: Our history, the history of the Republic of China, has been intimately linked with that of the United States. So my fondest hope is that we can build on the foundation of friendship that we've forged over more than a century, continue our cooperation, and strengthen our relationship. And that we can continue to make progress—in politics and economics, and in terms of our social, educational, and cultural interaction. As partners in progress, we can create a more beautiful future, and continue to write the history of tomorrow."

#### HONORING MELVIN LEE LOPER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mr. Melvin Lee Loper, who was born on March 16, 1920 in Finkbine, Mississippi, which is no longer on the map. It was a logging camp for the loggers which was his father's occupation. His parents, the late Marshall and Mamie Loper, later moved to Raymond, Mississippi where they worked as sharecroppers. His only sibling was a younger brother, Otis Loper, who is now deceased.

In those days, rural schools did not go further than 8th grade. He lived with a cousin in Jackson, Mississippi to attend high school, and graduated from Lanier High School in 1939. He entered Tougaloo College but was drafted in the United States Army in World War II. He served for four years with a tour of duty in Europe. He returned to Tougaloo College and completed his studies in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

In 1973, he received a Master's Degree in Administration from Jackson College, after many years of attending summer school and taking classes on Saturdays. That was the way of life to further your education back in the day.

He began his teaching career in Smith county; later Sumner Hill High School and Jackson Public Schools. After thirty-three years of teaching he retired in 1985. He continued teaching several years after retirement because Mathematics teachers were always in demand.

He has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church for 55 years. He served as: Sunday School teacher, a Member of the Boy Scout Committee, and attended Wednesday night Bible Study faithfully until his recent illness. He has been in the choir for fifty years, and served as Church Treasurer for thirty-three years.

He was an original member of the Jackson Tougaloo Alumni Club, organized by the late Mrs. Thelma Sanders forty-four years ago. He was serving as President when the club sponsored the Broadway play, "Ain't Misbehavin'"

which was a great success. He worked for years with the committee sponsoring the Ebony Fashion Show. He is a loyal supporter of Tougaloo College with his funds and presence, when able.

He is married to Gwendolyn Nero Loper and they have three children: Rodney, Larry and Gerrilyn; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

His secret to longevity is hard work, attending to your business, being an avid sports fan, and marrying a good cook.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Lee Loper.

#### AFTER PARIS AND COPENHAGEN: RESPONDING TO THE RISING TIDE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I chaired a Congressional hearing where we welcomed as witnesses Ambassador Ronald Lauder, the President of the World Jewish Congress; Mr. Roger Cukierman, President of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France; and Mr. Dan Asmussen, Chairperson of the Danish Jewish Community.

In 1982, during my first term in Congress, I traveled with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) to Moscow and Leningrad to meet Jewish refuseniks in their homes and to engage Soviet leaders.

Mark Levin invited me to be on that trip and has been a friend and mentor ever since.

For hours on end, Mark and I, and a delegation that included Sam Gejdenson, heard stories of Soviet physical and mental abuse, systemic harassment, gulags and psychiatric prisons and an array of seemingly wanton brutal acts of anti-Semitism.

To apply for an exit visa—a universally recognized human right, which on paper at least, the Soviet Union had acceded to—was to invite the cruelty and wrath of the KGB and other small minded, morally-stunted communist thugs.

To courageously seek freedom rendered you ineligible for employment in Lenin's farcical "workers paradise."

The Soviet system, militantly atheistic and morally incoherent, wouldn't let you leave, but didn't want you to stay either—a bizarre paradox.

To a new 27 year old Congressman, it was bewildering and deeply troubling—why do they hate Jews? Why the anti-Semitic obsession?

I have now chaired nine hearings on combating anti-Semitism. Never in modern times however, has the need to defend Jews everywhere been greater. My next hearings will be on the explosion of anti-Semitic hate on the college campus and Jewish community security.

For the first time since the Holocaust, the physical security of Jewish communities in Europe has become a top-level concern. The hearing I held last month examined the horrifying state of affairs facing Jewish communities in Europe at this time.

At a Congressional hearing I chaired in 2002, Dr. Shimon Samuels of the Wiesenthal

Center in Paris testified that, "The Holocaust for 30 years after the war acted as a protective teflon against blatant anti-Semitic expression (especially in Europe). That teflon has eroded, and what was considered distasteful and politically incorrect is becoming simply an opinion. But cocktail chatter at fine English dinners can end as Molotov cocktails against synagogues."

That's exactly where we are now, thirteen years later—what was anti-Semitic "cocktail chatter" then has led us now to two people shot and killed at a synagogue and a Jewish cultural center in Copenhagen, and four killed in a terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris.

These are only the most recent outrages in a terrifying increase in extreme anti-Semitic violence—let's not forget the May 2014 murder of four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, and the March 2012 murder of three Jewish children and a rabbi at a Jewish school in the French city of Toulouse.

Each of these four attacks was perpetrated by a killer with links to the jihadist movement. For too long, far too government officials, many of them mired in what Natan Sharansky summarized as the application of double standards and demonization of Israel, have reacted weakly to this danger.

Meanwhile, the threat has grown exponentially. Today, at least 3,000 and perhaps more than 5,000 EU citizens, have left to join ISIS in Syria, Iraq and other conflict zones. This is the recent estimate of Europol, the EU's joint criminal intelligence body. It would be criminally irresponsible not to take this number as a warning of much worse to come, and to make every effort to prepare accordingly.

In 2002, in response to what appeared to be a sudden, frightening spike in anti-Semitism in several countries, including here in the United States, I first proposed the idea for a conference on combating anti-Semitism under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Convinced we had escalating crisis on our hands, I teamed with several OSCE partners to push for action and reform. Many of the people and NGOs present in this room played leading roles. Those efforts directly led to the creation of the OSCE's Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism, which has been filled by Rabbi Andy Baker since 2009. Rabbi Baker has done outstanding work. Dogged and energetic, he has been the driver behind everything the OSCE has accomplished in fighting anti-Semitism in recent years.

My efforts with partners to put anti-Semitism on the OSCE agenda also led to important OSCE conferences on combating anti-Semitism in Vienna, Berlin, Cordoba, Bucharest—and last fall in Berlin. In each of these, participating states have made solemn, tangible commitments to put our words into action. In some countries, progress has indeed been made—institutions to fight anti-Semitism have been created, and they have done excellent work.

But it has not been enough to reverse the new anti-Semitism in Europe, and failed miserably to anticipate and prevent the arrival of jihadist anti-Semitism in Europe.

That is why I convened the hearing, to review, re-commit, and re-energize efforts to stop the evil anti-Semitic violence that is threatening the Jewish communities of Europe.

We need to learn more about what must be done to ensure community security—how the communities see the threats they face, what they are doing about them, what the European governments are doing about them—and how everyone can and must do more.

We also need to learn how the U.S. Government can be more effective especially in light of World Jewish Congress President Lauder's all important question: "where is the United States?" Ambassador Lauder testified: "once again, like the 1930s, European Jews live in fear . . . In my travels to all of these communities, I am asked the same question around Europe and the world: 'where is the United States? Why isn't the United States leading the world in this crisis?'"

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION  
AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST  
FLORIDA'S JUDY BENTON

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Judy Benton upon being awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's Mrs. Grace Glenwood Higginson Lifetime Achievement Award. Mrs. Benton has dedicated her life to serving others, and I am proud to honor her service and commitment to the Northwest Florida community and to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Mrs. Benton found her lifelong calling and demonstrated her dedication to others when she first joined the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in 1968, serving as a caseworker and Layette Items Contributor at Barstow and then Quantico. In 2003, Mrs. Benton joined the Pensacola office. Throughout her distinguished career, Mrs. Benton has proven to be an indispensable member of the team with an unwavering support for our Nation's Sailors, Marines, and their families.

Since Mrs. Benton has been with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, she has left an indelible mark on both the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the individuals she has served. From handling over 2,000 cases as a Certified Society Caseworker to completing 18,000 service hours completed, Mrs. Benton has never wavered in her compassion and commitment to others. However, Mrs. Benton always goes above and beyond to serve those who protect and defend our Nation. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast in 2004, Mrs. Benton volunteered for three straight weeks, including weekends, to help impacted families recover, and she also helped facilitate emergency travel for a former service member to quickly reach his sister and provide a kidney transplant needed to save her life.

Mrs. Benton's immense dedication and selflessness has not gone unnoticed, and prior to receiving the Mrs. Grace Glenwood Higginson Lifetime Achievement Award, she received the Presidential Points of Light Lifetime Volunteer Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Mrs. Judy Benton and thank her for her service to the people of Northwest Florida and to the countless Sailors and Marines that she has

assisted during her long tenure at the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. My wife Vicki and I wish her and her husband, Rod; children, Deborah, Angie, Perian, and Robert; grandchildren, Matthew, Jessie, and Ben, and the entire Benton family all the best.

HONORING PAUL TORGENSEN

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Paul Torgersen of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on March 29, 2015, and to pay tribute to his tremendous legacy at Virginia Tech.

Paul was born on October 13, 1931 in Staten Island, New York. In 1953, he graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with a B.S. in industrial engineering, and went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1956 and 1959, respectively. Paul joined the faculty of Oklahoma State University in 1959, and served until 1966 first as an assistant professor and later as an associate professor.

In 1967, Paul began his long and distinguished career at Virginia Tech. He served as professor and head of the Department of Engineering from 1967 through 1970, Dean of Engineering from 1970 through 1990, President of the research park from 1990 through 1994, and President of the University from 1994 through 2000.

While serving as President, Paul helped grow Virginia Tech's influence in the nation in both academics and athletics. Under his leadership, U.S. News & World Report ranked its engineering and business colleges among nation's top 50. Furthermore, the university's endowment nearly doubled.

Importantly, even while serving in senior leadership posts, Paul never forgot his roots, teaching at least one course each year for 58 years (which began before he arrived at Virginia Tech). Accordingly, Paul referred to himself as "a professor who is also serving as President."

Paul's numerous professional accomplishments include his appointment to the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council. He also authored several books, and served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Engineering Education*, the *Journal of Industrial Engineering*, and *AIIE Transactions*. Additionally, Paul served on the Virginia Governor's Task Force on Science and Technology, received the 1992 Virginia Engineering Educator of the Year Award, and was a Fellow in the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Outside of his professional success, Paul was an avid tennis player. At 55, he was ranked 8th in the nation in doubles for his age group by the United States Tennis Association. He was even able to spend a week at Wimbledon at Centre Court, courtesy of Tech engineering alumni.

Paul is predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Dorothea Torgersen. He is survived by two daughters Karen Torgersen (Mike Boyd), of Blacksburg, VA, Janis Torgersen, of Oxford, NC; and a son James Torgersen (Lynda), of

Claytor Lake, VA; six grandchildren, Lindsay Nalevanko, Bryan Reisch, Erin Reisch, Michael Reisch, Paul Torgersen, Samantha McElwee; and two great-grandchildren, Isabelle and Collin Nalevanko.

Paul's impact on Virginia Tech is immeasurable. I have no doubt his legacy will continue on in the work of the many people he taught, mentored, and influenced throughout his lifetime. My thoughts and prayers go out to Paul's family and loved ones.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG  
AMERICANS FINANCIAL LIT-  
ERACY ACT

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to re-introduce the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. Financial literacy is critical to ensuring future financial responsibility. A recent report entitled "Money Matters on Campus", conducted by Higher One and EVERFI, highlights that the state of financial literacy among young adults is not improving. Only seventeen states require some form of high school financial training, even though studies show students who receive financial literacy are considerably more fiscally responsible. Such students are more accountable with credit, more financially cautious and more averse to incurring debt. When students participated in a purely financial knowledge-based survey, only 12% answered correctly about what things to consider if one has too many credit cards.

Young adults are consistently exhibiting deficient understanding of financial literacy and how to plan for future economic goals. Just over half of the students in the survey knew the formula for calculating net worth; while only 12% knew the general rule for how many months financial planners recommend to have set aside in case of an emergency.

Young adults consistently exhibit deficient understanding of financial literacy and how to plan for future economic goals. Last year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development released a global report of financial literacy which ranked the United States in the middle of eighteen countries surveyed.

I believe America should be leading the world with the best-educated students who will drive our economic innovation and success, so please join me in cosponsoring the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. This act:

Establishes a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to develop and implement financial literacy programs for young people ages eight to twenty-four;

Incentivizes the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education, local educational agencies, non-profit organizations, and financial institutions to develop programs aimed at young Americans in different phases of their life;

Ensures the development of evidence-based instructional material that is geared towards targeted groups and addresses unique life situations, including bankruptcy, foreclosure, student loans, credit card misuse; and

Conducts ongoing assessment and accountability of the program over the short- and long-

term to ensure that grant money achieves the greatest impact.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act.

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#### EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Marriott Town Square for providing exceptional service to visitors of my home town. It recently received top honors from the Marriott brand, and earned a ranking as the top full-service Marriott hotel in Texas, third in the United States, and fifth among Marriott's 358 hotels all around the world for overall guest satisfaction. What an accomplishment.

In addition to these awards, the hotel also won a 2014 Excellence in Quality Award from Remington Hotels. These accolades are thanks in part to seven of the hotel's associates, who were honored for their exceptional service by receiving the 2014 Marriott Spirit to Serve Awards. Thousands of Marriott guests have expressed their satisfaction upon receiving the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square's exemplary customer service and hospitality.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square for being selected as an outstanding hotel.

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#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to add my voice in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah. The Holocaust claimed the lives of 11 million people, including six million Jews, and with each passing year it becomes increasingly important to keep alive the memory of those who perished. We must ensure that "never again" is a reality. It is also important that we remember those who fought back for humanity, such as the brave men and women who rose up against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto in 1943.

Seven decades later, the scourge of anti-Semitism still exists throughout the world. This is evidenced by the recent attacks against Jewish establishments and religious sites in Paris and Copenhagen, as well as anti-Semitic attacks inside the United States. A recent Anti-Defamation League survey found 24% of Western Europeans harbor anti-Semitic views. The survey also reported that anti-Semitic incidents in the United States rose 21 percent in 2014. Many of us have spoken out about this unacceptable situation for years, but we must reinforce our words with actions. There is no room for such bigotry and violent intolerance in today's society.

Let this day of remembrance, Yom HaShoah, strengthen our resolve to fight anti-Semitism worldwide. We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent, and we must continue to raise our voice against anti-Semitism, wherever it might arise. Sadly, every year there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors among us. We must take up their mantle, educate our youth, and tell their stories. Otherwise, there is a far greater risk of history repeating itself. Today, I remember the victims of the Holocaust, and I say "never again."

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Votes # 145, 146 and 147, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call # 145. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA. On Roll Call # 146. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA. On Roll Call # 147. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

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#### HONORING WILLIE HARRIS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

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

A Holmes County native, Willie Harris, who stands 6-foot-8 and spent a year playing basketball at Alcorn State University, was one of the first black stuntmen in Hollywood.

Harris landed in California while serving in the military. He and two others entered into the stunt business through acquaintances. Harris' story is perhaps the most bizarre; a friend introduced Harris to Calvin Brown. This was the first time Harris had heard of a stunt man. Not long after that, he was driving a friend to north Hollywood, got lost and stopped to ask for directions. Harris had no idea he had walked onto the set where the 1969 blockbuster "Bob & Carol, Ted & Alice" was being filmed. The person volunteering directions was actor Elliott Gould, who was poised for stardom.

Gould noticed Harris' tall stature and asked if he'd ever considered stunt work. Harris was open to the idea. Gould met with him the next day and gave him a letter of recommendation by producer Robert Altman to help him gain membership into the Screen Actors Guild.

He had the chance to personally thank Gould last October when they were brought together to film a documentary segment about the Black Stuntmen's Association.

Harris is now the president of the Black Stuntman's Association in Jackson, Mississippi. Harris is accompanied in the organization by two other Mississippians: Henry

Graddy and Dewitt Fondren. The group has been honored by former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Nevada legislature. The Smithsonian Institution is also planning to acknowledge the group through an exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing stuntman that has been instrumental in magnifying the strides of African Americans in film.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 154, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to an oversight, I voted incorrectly on H.R. 685, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015, on April 14, 2015. I had intended to vote yea on Roll Call vote 152, on passage of the Mortgage Choice Act of 2015.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE

### HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the United States Capitol Police. Congress is a very unique place that presents special challenges for a law enforcement agency, yet every day, the men and women of the Capitol Police work tirelessly to protect this institution. Their coordination, guidance, and support ensures that Members and Staff can fulfill the legislative responsibilities of Congress, all while securing the Capitol Hill campus so our constituents can visit and see first-hand how the legislative branch functions.

Specifically, I also want to note the excellent job done by the Capitol Police during the New Member Orientation program held last November for the incoming Members of Congress. The Orientation program is a significant effort that requires extensive coordination and communication, but the Capitol Police's work in providing security at the hotel and for all of the events was critical to the success and productivity of the week. I am very grateful for all they did to help with the program.

The officers and civilians within the force continually display professionalism and excellence in carrying out their duties, and I thank them for all their hard work.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT  
NORMA GARCIA FULLER

**HON. CARLOS CURBELO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller, an American patriot, who will be receiving the Living Hero Award. I have the immense privilege of representing so many courageous former service members and their families in Florida's 26th Congressional District, and Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller exemplifies the greatness of our military. Born and raised in Homestead, Florida, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller enlisted in the United States Army in 1989 and attended Fort Jackson, South Carolina for the majority of her training. Serving in several different roles in the United States Military, Master Sergeant Garcia Fuller was placed on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at United States Southern Command in March of 2010. During this assignment she held numerous positions such as Assistant to the Inspector General, Human Resources Sergeant for the Resources and Assessments Directorate, and Executive Assistant to the Senior Enlisted Leader, where she was promoted to Sergeant First Class. In April 2013, she was mobilized to Guantanamo Bay where she served as the Joint Personnel Center Noncommissioned Officer and the Manpower and Personnel Noncommissioned Officer, where she was promoted to her current rank of Master Sergeant for her service to our country. Brave men and women like Master Sergeant Norma Garcia Fuller protect and preserve the integrity of our nation and the freedom that we enjoy. I offer my sincerest recognition of her service to our community and our nation, and highest accolades for receiving the Living Hero Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL  
PROTECTIVE SERVICE REFORM  
ACT OF 2015

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to reform the Federal Protective Service. On the twentieth anniversary of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (Murrah Building) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, I believe it is long overdue to improve the Federal Protective Service (FPS). In the aftermath of the 1995 Murrah Building bombing, the Department of Justice (DOJ) assessed the vulnerability of Federal office buildings in the United States, particularly to acts of terrorism and other forms of violence. The DOJ report made several recommendations, including upgrading the Federal Protective Service (FPS) and bringing each Federal facility up to minimum standards suggested for its security level. When the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was attacked, it was after careful planning that focused on gaps in the federal building security at the site to allow the massive destruction and the loss of life that touched all Americans.

The DOJ report noted that the FPS has the experience and historical character to provide security services in Federal buildings for much of the Federal workforce. But, the report also noted that FPS has limited resources to determine building security requirements to address terrorist threats. FPS, according to the report, needs to re-establish its role and take the lead in emphasizing the need for security.

Unfortunately years later, many of the reforms that DOJ found necessary have not taken place. Since the bombing of the Murrah Building, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General have both issued numerous reports indicating where FPS needs to improve in order to prevent another tragedy and improve security in Federal buildings. The GAO has made very clear that FPS must increase its oversight of its contract guard force, improve screening practices, and be more nimble in responding to threats to Federal buildings.

The Federal Protective Service is a part of the frontline defense for thousands of Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS has approximately 1,300 employees, including approximately 1,000 Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or "inspectors" and 15,000 contract guards, also known as Protective Security Officers (PSOs). After the Oklahoma City bombings in 1995, FPS' authorized staffing level was 1,450. FPS maintained about the same level of staffing until it dropped to 1,100 in 2007. After concerns about the decrease and its effect on security, Congress, through the appropriations process, began mandating a minimum staffing level. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires 1,371 full-time-equivalent staff, including 1,007 law enforcement officers. Ultimately, this means that the FPS has fewer employees than it had in 1996, in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, while GSA has expanded its real estate holdings since 1996 by nearly 33%.

FPS spends about \$1.3 billion in executing its mission while delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases. FPS services include providing a visible uniformed presence in major Federal buildings; responding to criminal incidents and other emergencies; installing and monitoring security devices and systems; investigating criminal incidents; conducting physical security assessments; coordinating a comprehensive program for occupants' emergency plans; presenting formal crime prevention and security awareness programs; and providing police emergency and special security services during natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and major civil disturbances, including man-made disasters, such as bomb explosions and riots.

As the Federal inventory of buildings has steadily increased over the last 30 years, the quality and implementation of security standards have varied greatly. The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has unfortunately found that security in Federal buildings is not uniform and is often set by non-security personnel employed by tenant agencies through a Building Security Committee for

each individual public building. This approach to security makes it difficult to gauge properly the actual risk at Federal facilities and then allocate FPS resources appropriately.

My bill, the FPS Reform Act of 2015, addresses some of the long standing issues identified by the original DOJ report in the aftermath of the bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Building and subsequent reports by the GAO. It creates a minimum level of training for Protective Service Officers (PSOs) while increasing the authority of PSOs to carry firearms and detain suspects accused of a felony. The bill also improves the training and procedures for federal agencies participating in the Building Security Committees to ensure that there are uniform and appropriate security standards for individual buildings occupied by federal agencies. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of DHS to study and report back to Congress on several areas of concern with respect to securing federal buildings including the level of personnel needed to secure federal buildings, the best model for funding FPS, the feasibility of federalizing FPS contract officers, and best practices in preventing explosives from entering Federal buildings.

Nearly 20 years after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building it is readily apparent that although FPS has made some strides in improving the protection of Federal buildings there is more progress that needs to be made. In my role as Ranking Member of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee and a former law enforcement official, I believe it is imperative that I do everything possible to protect the millions of federal workers and daily visitors, and to keep federal buildings safe. With increased oversight and additional legislative authority I believe the Federal Protective Service can thrive in its mission of protecting Federal Facilities, their occupants, and visitors by providing superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING W.C. GORDEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkably talented individual, W.C. Gorden, has brought tremendous honor to one of Mississippi's premier education institutions, Jackson State University (JSU). Coach Gorden's legacy at Jackson State remains unmatched, and he has truly cemented his place in college football history.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee and a graduate of Tennessee State University, Gorden came to Jackson State first as its head baseball coach in 1971, he then became interim head football coach in 1976 and then head football coach in 1977. From then on, he led the Tigers to eight conference championship titles in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in the fifteen years he coached. In 1982, Gorden had 21 players drafted to the NFL, ranking JSU among the top 5 colleges in the nation for NFL draft picks. Also, during his tenure, JSU was the

only school in the SWAC to defeat Coach Eddie Robinson's formidable Grambling University's teams. Under Coach Gorden, JSU won 28 straight SWAC football games, and his teams led the nation in attendance among 1-AA schools 11 of the 15 years he coached. By the end of his career, Gordens' teams won more than 70% of their games. But one of the most amazing victories for Gorden was having the highest SWAC graduation rate among football players in the entire state of Mississippi from 1980 to 1981.

Coach Gorden's feats have been honored and recognized by many; he was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994; the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1997; the College Hall of Fame in 2008; and the Black College Hall of Fame in 2015. Coach Gorden's legacy falls in line with Mississippi's tradition of athletic exceptionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing W.C. Gorden for his exceptional strides in college football and his passion for producing excellence in the state of Mississippi.

#### HONORING COLONEL BILL BADGER

### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Bill Badger, who passed away on March 11, 2015 at the age of seventy-eight.

Originally from South Dakota, Colonel Badger joined the National Guard as a high school junior and went on to enjoy a long, distinguished career as a United States Army pilot for thirty-seven years. A true patriot who served his country with honor and dignity, he served as Chief of the National Guard Bureau's Aviation Division at the Pentagon. Among his many professional accomplishments, he established the only two United States-based attack helicopter training sites: the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site in Pennsylvania and the Western Army Aviation Training Site in Marana, Arizona. Colonel Badger and his wife, Sallie, moved to Arizona in 1985 when Colonel Badger established the Marana site.

On the morning of January 8, 2011, Colonel Badger attended a Congress on your Corner event at a shopping center north of Tucson to meet then-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. That fateful morning a gunman opened fire on the innocent attendees, brutally murdering six and seriously wounding thirteen, including Colonel Badger and Congresswoman Giffords. As the gunman was reloading his weapon, Colonel Badger, who was injured and bleeding from the head, ran toward the gunman and put him into a chokehold until the authorities arrived, thus stopping the deadly rampage. But for the valiant actions of Colonel Badger, the toll of those killed and wounded would have been much higher. "I don't consider myself a hero," he would later say, "I did what anybody would do." Colonel Badger was a beloved friend to the January 8, 2011 survivors. After this devastating event, this humble hero focused his efforts on keeping guns out of the hands of people like the January 8, 2011 gunman so as to prevent future similar tragedies. Colonel Badger and his wife embarked on a

three-year journey across the country to promote his mission.

Colonel Badger was a hero to many long before he became one in the eyes of our nation on January 8, 2011. He was a caring and devoted husband to his wife, Sallie, a nurturing and loving father to his son, Christian, the beloved Scout master of Troop 007, a guide and counselor to numerous young people, many of whom attribute their current success to Colonel Badger's mentoring, and a friend to countless others, including the members of the Southern Arizona Jaguar Car Club, which he served as President for a time.

On March 11, 2015, the citizens of Arizona lost a friend who placed the safety and well-being of others above his own and who truly represented the best traits of humanity, heroism and sacrifice and the spirit of service to others. The citizens of Arizona owe Colonel Badger an extraordinary debt of gratitude for his tremendous service to our country and state.

Dedicated to his family, Colonel Badger will be greatly missed by his beloved wife, Sallie Badger, and his son, Christian Badger.

#### HONORING DAVID ARMSTRONG WEST

### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of David Armstrong West of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on April 2, 2015 at the age of 81.

David was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where he spent much of his childhood. His father and grandfather both taught at the American University of Beirut, and his grandmother (who was born and raised in Damascus, Syria) also worked in Beirut.

In New York City in 1958, David married Lindsay Lattimore Butte, with whom I later worked while I was in the Virginia House of Delegates and she was with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. David attended Cornell University and studied ornithology, graduating in 1959 with a PhD.

David spent two years doing postdoctoral genetics research at Liverpool University in England before he began teaching in 1962 at Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) in Blacksburg. At Tech, David taught biology and genetics until he retired in 1998. He, Lindsay, and their family restored and lived in an 1840 brick house in town, and placed an historic and open space easement on their entire three-acre property in an effort to ensure it is preserved.

After he retired, David pursued interests in music, reading, travel, and the local mountains. Additionally, although we never went birding together, he and I shared an avid love for bird watching. David has written two books on 19th Century German naturalist Fritz Müller. The first is a biography entitled "A Naturalist in Brazil," and the second (recently completed) traces the development of Müller's ideas as well as his connections with other scientists such as Charles Darwin.

David is survived by his wife, Lindsay; sister, Elisabeth FitzHugh; brother, Allen; his son,

Peter and wife, Katherine Hood, of Brooklyn, New York; his son, Roger and wife, Deborah, of Silver Spring, Maryland; and his daughter, Susan West Marmagas and husband, William, of Blacksburg, Virginia. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Nicholas, Daniel and Tyler West and Anastasia and Elektra Marmagas.

David's contributions and his love for his family, neighbors, and community will long be remembered and cherished. My thoughts and prayers go out to David's family and loved ones. May God give them comfort during this time.

#### HONORING CAMBER CORPORATION

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Camber Corporation for twenty-five years of business, and for their service to the community of Huntsville, Alabama and to many other areas both in our great state and across the United States. I am pleased to recognize this company for its many accomplishments.

Camber Corporation, which is headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, was established on April 2, 1990 with just three employees, including the company founder, Walter Batson. Today it has grown to over thirty offices, with personnel in many other locations across America and around the world. Over the years, the company has done widely varied work for a number of organizations, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Courts, the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Center for Civil and Military Affairs.

I know that no matter the company, this level of success is possible only with the efforts of many skilled professionals working together to achieve the organization's goals, and Camber Corporation is the first to recognize that its staff of over 2,000 employees is its greatest asset. These staff members can claim expertise in many vital areas including Engineering, Software Development, Information Technology, Training, Modeling and Simulation, Acquisition Management and Decision Support, and Operations. Due in great part to the service of these dedicated workers, Camber Corporation's products and projects now support both government and commercial customers throughout the world.

Camber Corporation has been selected for numerous professional organization and Chamber of Commerce awards, including Best Places to Work in both Huntsville and Northern Virginia. I am honored to add my commendations to those already received. As an Alabamian and as an American, I am pleased to congratulate this company on the service it has rendered to the United States over the past 25 years, and on the contributions it has made to its home state of Alabama. I wish them many, many more years of success in the future.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE “INNOVATION PROTECTION ACT”

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Innovation Protection Act” responds to the single most important problem facing our patent system today—the diversion of patent fees. One of the most effective steps we can take in responding to abusive patent litigation is making sure poor quality patents are not issued to begin with. To do that we need to give our examiners the resources they need to review and analyze the hundreds of thousands of complex and interrelated patent applications they receive every year.

The current finding mechanism has failed the patent system. It did not prevent the diversion of nearly \$150 million in collected user fees in fiscal year 2013 due to the sequester. And this loss is on top of the estimated \$1 billion in fees diverted over the last two decades. In essence, there is a tax on innovation in this country, and this legislation would repeal it.

That is why I along with Representatives COLLINS, NADLER, FRANKS, LOFGREN, SENSENBRENNER, DEUTCH, ROHRBACHER, and JEFFRIES introduced today the “Innovation Protection Act.” This critical bill will ensure that the USPTO retains all of the user fees it collects.

Significant patent stakeholders, including the American Intellectual Property Law Association, BSA—The Software Alliance, the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, the Intellectual Property Owners Association, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—USA, among others, support the legislation.

This bill would create a permanent, reliable mechanism to protect the USPTO from the unpredictability of the annual appropriations cycle, which severely hinders USPTO’s ability to engage in the kind of multi-year, business-like planning that is needed to manage our patent system. It would eliminate the tax on innovation.

Therefore, a permanent funding mechanism is essential to encourage innovation and to ensure that our patent system remains the envy of the world.

## THANKING THE CAPITOL POLICE FOR SERVICE DURING NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in November of last year, the newly elected members of the House of Representatives came to Washington, D.C. for New Member Orientation. This weeklong event, organized by the Committee on House Administration, is designed to orient our new colleagues and their staffs to the various responsibilities they assume in the upcoming congress, as well as to educate the members and their staffs on the resources they have here to help them in their new roles. It is a comprehensive under-

taking, but fortunately safety was never a concern during the event due to the hard work and professionalism of the Capitol Police.

The Capitol Police did excellent work protecting our visitors, allowing them safe travel between destinations and providing a sense of security as they visited their new offices on Capitol Hill for the first time. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Capitol Police for their fine work in keeping our grounds secure and for their essential guidance, information and support.

## HONORING DUKE MEN’S BASKETBALL

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to rise today to congratulate the Duke men’s basketball team on winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship! I say this as a Member who, depending on the vagaries of redistricting, has represented the campus, but also as a proud on-leave faculty member and the father of two Duke alumni.

This Duke team’s combined talent, tenacity, and teamwork helped them to overcome a tough conference schedule and make one of the most memorable runs in recent NCAA tournament history. Both Duke and the University of Wisconsin Badgers deserve recognition for their excellent play in the tournament and throughout the year. But Duke’s thrilling victory over Wisconsin to clinch the national title was a fitting finish to an historic season that also saw its legendary head coach, Mike Krzyzewski, “Coach K”, notch his record 1,000th win.

The Duke Blue Devils have a long history of success in men’s basketball, and I am proud that this year’s team was able to add a fifth national men’s basketball title to its collection. Congratulations to the players, staff, and coaches, who will be remembered as one of the greatest Duke teams of all time. Blue Devil fans everywhere are proud of your remarkable season, the latest chapter in our storied basketball tradition!

## INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL PRO- TECTIVE SERVICE PARITY ACT OF 2015

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to offer law enforcement retirement to Federal Protective Service (FPS) law enforcement officers. This bill provides retirement parity to FPS law enforcement officers with all other law enforcement officers within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The lack of law enforcement retirement for FPS law enforcement officers has hurt morale and has contributed to a high rate of attrition of FPS law enforcement officers when compared to attrition rates of other law enforcement agencies within DHS. By providing these

enhanced retirement provisions to new hires within the Federal Protective Service, and crediting the service of current FPS law enforcement officers after enactment of the bill with the new provisions, we can begin to strengthen the morale and resolve of the Federal Protective Service.

FPS is responsible for delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases across the country. The Federal Protective Service is part of the frontline defense for these Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS law enforcement officers are authorized to carry firearms and empowered to make arrests related to the protection of buildings, grounds, and property owned by the Federal government and persons on the property. Like other law enforcement officers within DHS, FPS officers receive the same training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and often risk their lives in protection of the nearly 1 million Federal employees and visitors to Federal buildings.

As a former law enforcement officer I have a deep appreciation for their service and the sacrifices that FPS law enforcement officers make on a regular basis. By providing this retirement provision I believe it will help the Federal Protective Service thrive in its mission of protecting Federal facilities, their occupants, and visitors with superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

## HONORING ERNIE PYLE

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest Hoosiers history has seen, who gave his life 70 years ago.

Ernie Pyle, a Hoosier journalist, became a household name as he told of the everyday lives—the trials and tribulations, the honor and dignity—of our soldiers in WWII.

Through his Pulitzer Prize winning column, Ernie Pyle brought the hard realities of war into the homes of families worldwide.

And he was an advocate for the common soldier—the guys he rightfully argued wars can’t be won without.

Generations of young journalists—especially those who’ve studied in his shadow at the Indiana University School of Journalism—have greatly benefited from his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, we should all be grateful for the sacrifice and service of great men like Ernest Taylor Pyle.

## IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP VICTOR L. POWELL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God,

Bishop Victor L. Powell, who will celebrate his 25th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Rhema Word Cathedral. An anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Rhema Word Cathedral in Albany, Georgia.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Bishop Powell was born to be a leader. He served our nation honorably in the United States Marine Corps for nine years. He completed Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School and Defense Mapping School, and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Bishop Powell also is a certified trainer with the Georgia Department of Corrections and has trained hundreds of law enforcement officers for the State of Georgia.

Since 1990, Bishop Powell has led Rhema Word Cathedral, formerly known as Williams Spring Baptist Church. His God-given vision has taken the church to greater heights than ever before. Bishop Powell pastors one church in two locations—one in downtown Albany and one in Dawson, Georgia. He also founded Stand Up Again, Inc., a subsidiary of Rhema Word Cathedral and outreach ministry that serves local, regional, and even international communities, including Ghana, Guatemala, and Haiti. The Stand Up Again television broadcast reaches people throughout the region on a weekly basis.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Bishop Powell serves as pastor to other pastors all over the world through Covenant Network Ministries. He is also the President and CEO of VLP, Inc., which provides training and motivational speaking to corporations and agencies.

In October 2002, Bishop Powell was consecrated to the office of Bishop by Archbishop Earl Paulk of the International Charismatic Communion of Churches in Decatur, Georgia. Bishop Powell has served on the College of Bishops for the International Charismatic Communion of Churches; the Foundation Board for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital; and Stop the Violence Project. He has also served on the Executive Board of Directors for the Albany Chamber of Commerce; Capitol City Bank; Albany-Dougherty Governmental Study Commission; and Lily Pad of Albany.

Using Bishop Powell as a vessel, God has reached into the hearts of many so that Rhema Word Cathedral has welcomed thousands of souls to this prolific ministry. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, his ministry has stretched across the globe. As one of the premier preachers of our generation, Bishop Powell is well-known and sought after for his anointed, sound and understandable proclamation of God's Word. He is motivated by his love for people, his love for preaching, and his belief that no one is beyond God's reach. On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Bishop Powell's sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Bishop Victor L. Powell for twenty-five wonderful years of changing Southwest Georgia for the better, over thirty remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

IN HONOR OF SAN BERNARDINO  
POLICE OFFICER GABRIEL GARCIA

### HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor San Bernardino Police Officer Gabriel Garcia for his outstanding service to the community and for his dedication to the San Bernardino Police Department.

Officer Garcia joined the police force in March 2008 and has since served as a Patrol Officer. His work throughout the years has been described as exemplary by colleagues on account of his extreme professionalism and compassionate nature. Among Officer Garcia's many accomplishments include his highly commended involvement in the San Bernardino Graffiti Task Force. Throughout his tenure, he has received widespread commendation for his assistance with various crimes such as armed robberies and car theft.

At about 2 a.m. on August 22, 2014, Officer Garcia was shot in the head and critically injured while showing his young officer trainee how to conduct a pedestrian check in San Bernardino. Officer Garcia's injuries were so severe that he spent several months hospitalized in critical condition. Due to his life-threatening brain injuries, Officer Garcia was put in a medically induced coma, which he later emerged from in September.

Now, after a triumphant recovery, Officer Garcia is back at the side of his loving family. His recovery is currently being aided by his father, retired San Bernardino Police Captain Ron Garcia, and his mother, Lydia Garcia. They provide full care and support for their son as he takes part in a day therapy program.

Officer Garcia is a testament to the sacrifices that our public safety officials make in order to protect and serve our communities. He is a reminder to all of us that every day, men and women in law enforcement put themselves in harm's way to maintain order throughout the United States. His perseverance through this traumatic event is inspirational, and I wish him a continued recovery.

For his heroic contributions to the community, and for his many other achievements, I would like to honor Officer Garcia and his family.

### HONORING CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Callaway High School that is located at 601 Beasley Road in Jackson, Mississippi. Callaway is one of seven high schools in the Jackson Public School District, the largest school district in the state of Mississippi.

Built in 1966, Callaway was named after the late Robert M. Callaway, a Lafayette County native. He began his career teaching Choctaw Indians in the mountains of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Before assuming duties as prin-

cipal of Liberty Grove School, later H. V. Watkins Elementary in Jackson, he taught at Darling in Quitman County and Pochontas in Hinds County. He was principal at Watkins from 1936–1956.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Callaway High School.

### CONGRATULATING HONDA MANUFACTURING OF INDIANA

### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, located in my district in Greensburg, Indiana, reached a significant milestone by celebrating the production of its 1 millionth vehicle on April 8, 2015.

Honda began manufacturing Civic Sedans at the plant in October of 2008 and is the sole U.S. plant producing these vehicles. While most of the production is slated for the U.S. market, the Indiana facility exports to a number of locations around the world. The facility's annual production capacity is currently 250,000 vehicles.

Honda, a Japanese company, exemplifies how strong trade ties can benefit Indiana's economy. Honda purchases parts and materials from 49 suppliers from around the state of Indiana and has spent more than \$16 billion with suppliers in North America since 2008. Additionally, since Honda opened its doors, it has had a strong presence in Greensburg and the surrounding communities, providing thousands of jobs to Hoosiers.

Please join me in congratulating Honda and the more than 2,000 associates at the facility for this major manufacturing achievement.

### INSTRUMENTAL LEADERSHIP

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of Alvin Community College's (ACC) outstanding faculty members, Dr. Lynda Vern and Ms. Karen Downey, who were recently named recipients of the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award during the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference in Boston. This award recognizes outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff.

Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are among more than 60 recipients to be recognized from the great State of Texas. The award recognizes exemplary faculty and staff for their contributions and leadership. Dr. Vern has worked at ACC for almost 40 years and teaches developmental education students while directing ACC's Learning Lab. Ms. Downey has worked with the college for 30 years and teaches in the Court Reporting program. Community colleges play a critical role in shaping and developing the workforce needed to keep our economy strong. The leadership of Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are instrumental in maintaining excellence in education for our community.



On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey for receiving the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAMIR SALIBA

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in order to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Samir Saliba on his remarkable 51 years as a full-time faculty member at the College. He has had many titles and jobs in his 51 years at Emory, but from my time as a student I fondly remember him as 'Dean Saliba.'

More importantly, I recall the positive influence Dean Saliba had on me. I am confident he has similarly impacted countless people he came across over the years, whether in Virginia or wherever he has been.

Dean Saliba's influence at Emory and Henry, of course, is immeasurable, as he established the Political Science Department and implemented additional, remarkable visions as chair of the Division of Social Sciences, Dean of Faculty, advisor for the pre-law program, and director of the Center for International Studies. I commend him on these accomplishments, and on his numerous awards and accolades, including the 2014 William and Martha DeFriece Award.

Dean Saliba will soon be taking a well-deserved sabbatical, following his decades of hard work instructing young people and improving the Emory brand not just across the Commonwealth, but across the country. It is my hope that he enjoys this time, and returns refreshed to work on a memoir of his years at Emory and Henry.

I am honored to officially congratulate Dr. Saliba, pay tribute to his legacy, and thank him for all he has done for the Emory and Henry family.

TRIBUTE TO THE ATHLETES OF SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extremely talented Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have achieved the consensus recognition as the Number 1-ranked and National Champion girls' basket-

ball team in the United States of America, and won the Pennsylvania State Championship (PIAA Class AA), Philadelphia City Championship (PIAA District 12), and the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship.

The Lady Saints put on a dominant performance in their state championship game against the Seton-LaSalle Rebels of Pittsburgh, with a commanding victory of 79-34 to become Pennsylvania State Champions. Not only did they finish their unprecedented season a perfect 30-0, but they've also been recognized as the "Team of the Year" by the Philadelphia Inquirer for the Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

These talented young women were mentored throughout the season by former head coach Letty Santarelli, who was a star-player at Immaculata University, and were led by Head Coach Andrea Peterson. Following this remarkable season, Coach Peterson has been named the Top High School Girls' Basketball Coach in the United States, winning the Naismith National Coach of the Year Award.

I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating this team on an outstanding season.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
REVEREND JAMES R. EDWARDS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the people of Southwest Georgia, the Reverend James R. Edwards. Rev. Edwards is retiring after pastoring the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, Georgia for almost twenty years. His friends, family, and church community will honor him at a celebration event on Saturday, April 18, 2015 in Camilla, Georgia.

An Arkansas native, Rev. Edwards began his ministry at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, where he earned degrees in Business Administration and Christian Education.

From there, Rev. Edwards was drafted into the United States Marine Corps and began his active duty career on November 17, 1969 in Parris Island, South Carolina. He served our nation honorably for over thirty years both within the United States and overseas. He was promoted from private to warrant officer, and retired on May 31, 2000 with the rank of Major. He is decorated with the Navy Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Following his calling, Rev. Edwards dedicated a significant portion of his time to ministry while in the Marines and afterward. He was ordained a deacon at Christian Valley

Missionary Baptist Church in North Chicago, Illinois in 1978. From November 1980 to June 1982, he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher at Marshall Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Midway Park, North Carolina. He then served as deacon and president of brotherhood for Second Missionary Baptist Church in Oceanside, California. While at the City of Refuge Christian Church in Waipahu, Hawaii, he accepted his calling into the ministry, preaching his initial sermon on Thanksgiving Day in 1985. He was ordained at the Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in Hawkinsville, Georgia in April 1989.

Rev. Edwards served as associate pastor at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Dale, South Carolina and Grace Christian Church in Kaneohe, Hawaii. He served as pastor at Camp Smith Chapel in Honolulu, Hawaii, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Plainview, Texas, and Summerhill Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, Georgia.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and able leader when Rev. Edwards arrived in Albany, Georgia in September 1995. Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Edwards has served on numerous community boards, and as chairman of Faith Community Outreach and the Putney District Union; vice president of the Second District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; president of the Mitchell County Ministerial Alliance and Baconton Community Group of Churches; chaplain at the Jimmy Autry State Prison; and CEO of the Southwest Georgia Community House of Hope. And even still, while being the lead member in all of these ministries and organizations, he was also a member of the NAACP, National Naval Officers Association, Montford Point Marine Association, American Red Cross, Southern Leadership Conference, Blacks in Government, and Leadership Albany.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Edwards is a man of integrity who exudes the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, his spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious. Under his leadership, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of light in our community, serving as a voice for the voiceless and guide for the lost by spreading the ministry and the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Along with his extensive church community, Rev. Edwards is surrounded by the love and support of his family—his wife, Ethel Louise Sheffield, and their five children, sixteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Reverend James R. Edwards for more than thirty years of dedicated service to our nation, twenty wonderful years of changing South Georgia for the better, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.