

of our underserved Latino community. Bi-National Health Alliance of Napa County strives to improve the quality of life, promote positive physical and mental health, provide opportunities to access resources in a culturally sensitive environment, and encourage empowerment and growth.

Ten years ago, Catalina Chavez-Tapia and Queen of the Valley Medical Center founded the Napa County Bi-National Health Week Task Force, which transitioned into a year-round effort: the Bi-National Health Alliance of Napa County. By increasing awareness of risk factors affecting health and providing information on available health services and resources, the Bi-National Health Alliance of Napa County brings together existing community resources to empower local Latinos to live healthier lifestyles.

The Bi-National Health Alliance of Napa County also organizes a number of events to encourage the Latino community to become more engaged locally. This includes the Napa Valley Latina Women's Conference, which is held to empower Latina women to engage in their community through cultural, mental health, and educational workshops along with free health screenings, educational information, and follow-up care. Since the conference's inception, over 1,120 professional and newly immigrated, low-income, and disenfranchised Latina women have attended and been provided a forum to identify and address the cultural barriers to the advancement of Latina women locally.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we recognize the Bi-National Health Alliance of Napa County's dedication to the best ideals of public service as they host their 11th Annual Napa Valley Latina Women's Conference on May 14th, 2015. On behalf of a grateful community, we honor and thank the Bi-National Health Alliance of Napa County for their many years of service, and hope for many more.

**HONORING FAATIN KHALEELAH MUHAMMAD**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Faatin Khaleelah Muhammad.

Faatin Khaleelah Muhammad is the 17 year old daughter of James and Latonya Muhammad and is a member of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church located in Natchez, Mississippi.

Faatin has managed to maintain a 3.5 GPA for 4 years, at Jefferson County High School and throughout her life, excelled in school and sports: she has been a member of the Jefferson County High School Track team since 2012; she has received multiple plaques, ribbons, and metals for her performances; and she has served 2 years as a high school cheerleader. Faatin is currently president of FCCLA where she completed many community services and projects. She is also a member of FBLA, TSA, TATU and the Senior Transition Program. She has been in the Jefferson County High School Marching Band since the 9th grade.

Upon graduation, Faatin will attend Alcorn State University located in Lorman, Mis-

issippi. She will major in Animal Science with hopes to become an Animal doctor in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Faatin Khaleelah Muhammad, as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

**TRIBUTE TO RALPH WIRTZ**

**HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2015*

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ralph Wirtz in recognition of his many contributions to Michigan's 4th District as the editor of the Midland Daily News.

Ralph Wirtz dedicated over forty years of his life to the Midland Daily News starting as a sports writer and, because of his outstanding journalistic abilities, accepted increased responsibility until his appointment as managing editor in 1989.

Ralph did not originally plan on a career in journalism but discovered a passion for sports writing while serving in the United States Navy in the 1970's. He has won numerous awards over the course of his career, including Agriculture Communicator of the Year in 1998, first place in editorial writing by the Associated Press in 2008, the 2008 Journalist of the Year award by the Press Association Society of America and the Midland Community Voices Rosemary Byers Award in 2009. Ralph has been the person that the community has turned to whenever they needed a trusted voice for their news and information.

Ralph Wirtz has set the standard for journalistic excellence in Michigan and his tireless work on behalf of his community is worthy of recognition from this Congress. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Ralph Wirtz in gratitude for his forty years of service to the Midland Daily News and the Midland Community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, I missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #221.

**IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2015*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week, which was first established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962. National Police Week was initially created to coincide with the National Peace Officer Memorial Day established by President Kennedy in the same

year. This week, we give special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

I want to express my personal gratitude for the hard work and dedication that law enforcement officers selflessly give to their communities all over the country. I also wish to thank the family members of those officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and protection of others. They deserve our nation's highest respect and admiration.

On behalf of the residents in the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I want to thank every officer in the Balch Springs, Cedar Hill, Dallas, Desoto, Duncanville, Glenn Heights, Grand Prairie, Hutchins, Lancaster, Mesquite, Ovilla and Wilmer Police Departments. I am thankful for the leadership of our capable police chiefs and sheriffs, who are working hard to implement major reforms within their departments to decrease the instances of police related violence. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship.

Now more than ever, there is a great need to build trust in our communities between police and the people that they pledge to serve and protect. I understand that what we ask of our police officers is a dangerous, difficult, and sometimes thankless job. Far too frequently, the actions of a few individuals overshadow the dedication and service of the hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers who perform their duty with the utmost courtesy and integrity. I am thankful for their courage, their professionalism, and their daily sacrifice to protect and serve our communities across the country.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAC THORNBERRY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be submitted during consideration of H.R. 1735:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, May 1, 2015.*

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, which contains substantial matter that falls within the Rule X legislative jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I appreciate the cooperation that allowed us to work out mutually agreeable text on numerous matters prior to your markup.

Based on that cooperation and our associated understandings, the Foreign Affairs Committee will not seek a sequential referral or object to floor consideration of the bill text approved at your Committee markup. This decision in no way diminishes or alters