

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the Obama Administration’s goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation. The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County’s HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients’ visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS. We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center who work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends, relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 30, 2015, I was absent from the House because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record my vote on the first vote of the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on Roll Call 644.

TRIBUTE TO CARIBOU COFFEE AND EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caribou Coffee and Einstein Bros. Bagels for the opening of their new coffee and bagel shop in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Founded in 1992, Caribou Coffee is the second largest company-operated premium coffeehouse in the United States with more than 272 company owned stores. Caribou Coffee provides high quality, handcrafted beverages and food options. Einstein Bros. Bagels is part of the Einstein Noah Restaurant Group, Inc. family, and is a neighborhood bagel shop that’s always cooking up new, innovative ways to serve its customers with more than 600 locations in 40 states.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this new business and their staff for the services they provide to the West Des Moines community. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Caribou Coffee and Einstein Bros. Bagels for their new location. I wish them and their staff nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING STEVE GABEL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steve Gabel on being selected for induction into the Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Currently, Mr. Gabel owns Magnum Feedyard, a 22,500-head feedlot in Wiggins, Colorado. He also manages Gabel Cattle, his family-owned cow-calf business. In addition, he is currently a member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and president of the Colorado Livestock Association. He previously served for fifteen years as chairman of the Colorado Beef Council.

Mr. Gabel also understands the importance of giving back to his community. He prides himself on volunteering as a Weld County Livestock volunteer judging coach, where he mentors youth on the importance of agriculture. Mr. Gabel has shown true leadership in his industry and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr. Gabel pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Steve Gabel for his accomplishments.

HONORING MAYOR JIM HAGGERTON OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jim Haggerton, Mayor of Tukwila, Washington, on his retirement.

There have been few greater champions for the City of Tukwila than Jim Haggerton. For over four decades, Jim has dedicated himself to bettering his community in many ways. After concluding his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, Jim and his wife, Carol, purchased their home in the McMicken Heights neighborhood in 1972. There, they raised their two children, Terri and Care.

Despite the rigors of a hectic schedule with a young family and a burgeoning career, Jim found time to devote to his city. He served nine years on Tukwila’s Planning Commission, helping to guide the city through a period of tremendous growth. He built on this service when he was elected to serve as a

Councilmember; a position that he held for thirteen years. Then, in 2007, he was elected as Tukwila’s Mayor.

As Mayor, Jim led the successful effort to develop and implement the city’s first Strategic Plan, which was notable for its creation of the award-winning Community Connectors program. He also led the negotiations for dozens of major development and public infrastructure projects that have benefited the entire region. These include Jim’s efforts to bring transit options to Tukwila, including light and heavy rail. Expanded transit access has accompanied and supported the development of commercial projects that attract commerce from surrounding communities.

In addition to his work at City Hall, Jim has been a tireless advocate for Tukwila in a long list of regional organizations. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Washington Cities, Sound Cities Association, and the Cascade Water Alliance. He also served as the President of the Southcenter Rotary Club and is a member of the American Legion Post 235 in Tukwila.

As Jim passes the baton following his decades of service, he leaves the city on strong footing. Tukwila today has a AA rating from Standard and Poors, despite the challenges posed by the recession and ongoing recovery. Engagement with the community has never been stronger, either. This past year, Tukwila was recognized for its efforts to engage the city’s diverse communities in the update of Tukwila’s Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Jim Haggerton for his years of service and his tremendous impact on the City of Tukwila and King County.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARKS’ ACT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, sixty years ago today, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Through a simple act of civil disobedience, she inspired a movement, gained worldwide acclaim, and secured a place in American history.

However, on that cold morning in Montgomery, Mrs. Parks was not creating a legacy—she simply saw a wrong and wanted to right it. She showed us that any person can make a difference if they have the strength of their convictions. By simply sitting down on the bus, she turned an ordinary act into something extraordinary, and inspired thousands in Montgomery—and later across America—to do the same.

But Mrs. Parks is more than just a figure to be revered—she is an example to be upheld. And on days like today, we must ask ourselves whether we honor her with our actions as well as our words.

Because of the work of Mrs. Parks and her contemporaries, our nation is an undeniably different place than it was sixty years ago. Jim Crow is no longer the law of the South. Segregation is no longer legally mandated. An African-American is President and the Congressional Black Caucus counts 43 members.

But there are still too many wrongs that need righting. The current African-American unemployment rate, 9.2%, is twice that of white workers, 4.4%. During the first half of this year, black Americans killed by the police were more than twice as likely to be unarmed as white Americans killed by police. Black children are suspended and expelled from school at three times the rate of white children. Black churches—a longtime refuge for our community—are still the target of violent extremists.

In the face of such injustice, we must be compelled—as Rosa Parks and countless others were in their time—to act.

We know that this will not be an easy fight. We know we must prepare for great sacrifice. There will be violence visited upon us—like the shooting of Black Lives Matter protesters in Minneapolis this past week.

But the price we pay will bring about change—painfully slow at times—that we can pass on to the next generation. We are seeing this in places like South Carolina, where Walter Scott's killer is facing trial. We are seeing it in Chicago, where the police chief is out and Laquan McDonald's killer is being prosecuted. We are seeing it at the U.S. Department of Justice where troubling police practices are receiving deserved scrutiny. We are even seeing it here in Congress, where bipartisan reforms are underway that will address some of the racial disparities in our criminal justice system.

I am humbled to have worked with Mrs. Parks for more than 20 years, and I am fortunate to have been her friend for many more. Today, as we honor the actions that brought her global recognition, I hope we do so in kind—with actions worthy of her memory.

SUPPORTING AID FOR MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES IN UKRAINE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the people of Ukraine, and to highlight the need for additional aid to address post-traumatic stress among the most vulnerable populations. Today, we mark the 24th anniversary of Ukraine's referendum on the Act of Declaration of Independence. That vote was supported by 92% of Ukraine's citizens, and was a monumental event that made the Soviet era history. Now, in 2015, Ukraine and its people are under threat, and the U.S. must do more to support the people of Ukraine during this critical time.

In August, I traveled to Kyiv, which is a magnificent city in a beautiful country. Before my visit, I met with some of the leaders of the Ukrainian community in my district to learn what they had been hearing from friends and relatives in Ukraine and what their concerns were. While in Ukraine, I spoke with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko. I also met the Secretary of the National Security Defense Council Oleksandr Valentynovych as well as several nongovernment organizations and members of civil society.

Through these discussions, it became clear to me that we must do more to address the trauma and stress that is caused by the ongo-

ing attacks from Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine. This year, through USAID, the United States is providing \$71 million in aid for economic recovery, humanitarian coordination and logistics, nutrition, sanitation and water, and shelter. This funding has gone to support emergency needs in Ukraine, especially for the protection of refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims. While the United States has been and will continue to be a critical ally to the Ukrainian people, more needs to be done.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre there are an estimated 1.4 million internally displaced persons, most from Eastern Ukraine, and 12.6 percent are children. The long term effect of the violence in Eastern Ukraine, especially on mental health for displaced children, can be devastating. I am proud to be working with researchers from Yale University in my district, as well as nongovernmental organizations on the ground in Ukraine to find ways to support and expand training for mental health professionals in Ukraine. As one Ukrainian doctor who participated in a Yale training session last year put it: "The effects of this violence, if left untreated, are like landmines that will cause damage in our country for decades to come."

That is why I am calling upon Congress to support the people of Ukraine, particularly those forced from their communities, with professional mental health training and support services in Ukraine. We must do everything in our power to ensure that the most vulnerable Ukrainians are not forgotten.