

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PEARLIE EVANS DID MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I delivered the following remarks on behalf of my father, former Congressman William (Bill) Clay, at the funeral of Pearlle Evans on Saturday, November 26, 2016, in St. Louis, Missouri.

My friendship with Pearlle spans more than 50 years. During that time we worked together, laughed together, cried together, and raised a lot of hell together.

I first met Pearlle Evans in the early 1960s when a close political associate, Arthur Kennedy, introduced us. He and I had just helped A.J. Cervantes get elected. The new mayor asked me to recommend someone to fill the position of Commissioner of Social Services.

I invited Pearlle to lunch and offered her the position. She was honored but turned down the offer—telling me of her deep devotion in helping residents at the Fellowship Center and Plymouth House. Without any success, I mentioned that her salary would have been twice that at Fellowship Center and help many more people like those at the Plymouth House. Then, I took her to lunch twice and once to dinner before she agreed.

Finally, a well-fed Pearlle Evans accepted the offer and performed exceptionally well in the position.

Her background in social work, dealing with grassroots, ghetto residents, allowed her to develop a realistic grasp of the problems faced by low-income, unemployed, poverty stricken individuals. She provided the compassion and know-how in closing the gap that kept many of them from resolving their woes.

Having disdain and contempt for all kinds of discrimination and segregation, her agenda was about identifying injustice and reshaping our society until it adjusted to accommodate the needs of its underprivileged.

When my first District Director left, I asked Pearlle to run my congressional district office. But this time I knew better than to invite her to lunch or dinner. She accepted and made an ideal District Director for the next 28 years.

Perhaps, more than anyone else other than my wife Carol, Pearlle was able to successfully put up with me and all my audaciousness, my insolence, my sarcasm and my bluster. Her simple response of “ohhhhhhh, Congressman” more often than not was the perfect tonic to calm a rough or chaotic situation. She was by my side through good times and bad. Her advice and counsel was usually sound.

Pearlle was also a pioneer in politics who developed a new strategy for advancing the cause of civil rights and enhancing opportunities. She ushered in the concept that it was time to stop begging for what was ours by citizenship and to start demanding rights that were ours by birth. She played a key role in our developing the political apparatus capable of delivering lopsided margins in electing candidates. She had the unique ability to attract and surround us with people of wisdom, vision, integrity and commitment to racial equality.

She joined a cadre of other outstanding women like Gwen Giles, Ruth Porter, Deverne Calloway, Marian Oldham and many others that enabled our group to convince many to overcome their political apathy and to reject disgraceful absentee elected officials pretending to represent our interests.

I owe a great deal of my political success to committed and dedicated women like Pearlle. In my elections to Congress, women managed all of my campaigns: Doris Moore, Gwen Giles, Gwen Reed and Pearlle Evans each served as campaign managers in all 16 of them.

Pearlle, Virginia Cook, and Gwen Reed also played a key role in electing my son Lacy Clay to Congress.

Pearlle journeyed through a career that forced the political system to change the face of our politics and to provide us with people who truly voiced our legitimate concerns.

She was always on the picket lines, at the sit-ins, in the marches for school equality, wherever the protests against injustice were being waged. She was there to give active support in campaigns that changed the landscape of bigoted policies and replaced them with opportunities for minorities in St. Louis.

Very few lived their life with the enthusiasm, the commitment, the determination, the gusto of Pearlle. She lived every day with the intent of giving back to the community and enhancing the lives of those denied the benefits of humane treatment. In touching their lives, it was a testament to her endearing respect for each individual's humanity.

Carol and I join with you in acknowledging that she was an uncommon lady with a phenomenal effect on those of us who were graced by her presence. She was something special, something beautiful, something precious.

Although Pearlle would tell us not to shed tears for her but rather for a world that is suffering the ravages of war, disease, hunger and racism—still, without ignoring her request not to shed tears for her passing, we are obligated to shed tears for future generations that will never experience the sight of her doing battle with the giants of society who have profited from exploiting those unable to fight back. We mourn for those who will never bear witness to her unyielding fight against bureaucratic bigots in fighting for racial justice.

Yes, Pearlle, when remembering you, what you stood for, how much of your mission is yet unfulfilled, our tears are justified. We cry today because we will have no more tomorrows with you. But we thank God for all the yesterdays we spent with you.

We remember all of the good you have done, all of the people you have helped, all of the causes you have championed. We take comfort in the fact that our community, our state and our nation are better as a result of your having been here.

We have witnessed in you a towering, incredible, noble, dedicated defender of what's right—so we say in all sincerity—so long, our courageous sister in the struggle for equal justice—so long!

HONORING RICHARD COOPER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Richard Cooper, Chief Executive Officer of Mendo Lake Credit Union, who is retiring after forty years of service to credit union members.

Richard Cooper was born in Bend, Oregon, and raised in Alaska where he began his long career at Credit Union One in Anchorage. He continued his work in southern California until 2008 when he moved to Mendocino County and became the President and Chief Executive Officer at Mendo Lake Credit Union.

Under Mr. Cooper's leadership, Mendo Lake Credit Union has thrived as a business and flourished as an award-winning community partner. Renowned for his civic service, Mr. Cooper was recognized as the Credit Union Times “Rock Star of the Year” in 2016. During his tenure at Mendo Lake Credit Union, it was recognized with “Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award” from the Credit Union National Association in 2014; a “Trailblazer Award for Serving the Underserved” by the Credit Union Times in 2015; and as a “California Small Business Volunteer Program of the Year” by the Governor's Office in 2012.

In addition to his many contributions to these credit unions, Mr. Cooper has dedicated countless hours as an active board member of the Economic Development and Finance Corporation of Mendocino County, the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, the Mendocino College Foundation, the Ukiah Senior Center Endowment Fund, and the Ukiah Valley Medical Center Community Advisory Council.

Richard Cooper's career is one of dedicated service and the highest level of civic engagement. Please join me in congratulating him on his retirement and expressing our deep appreciation for his outstanding contributions to the residents of Mendocino County.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF MR. STEPHEN MANSTER

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bowling Green Town Manager Stephen Manster on the occasion of his retirement from public service. Throughout his forty-year career, he worked in both local and regional levels of government.

Mr. Manster was hired by the Town Council as Town Manager on January 3, 2006. Before coming to Bowling Green, he served for nineteen years as the Executive Director of the Rappahannock Area Development Commission (RADCO). During this time he was able

• 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.

to work with the Town and Caroline County extensively, leading to a seamless transition into the Town Manager position.

Stephen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Pennsylvania State University and a Degree of Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. He has also completed extensive graduate work in the Master of Public Administration program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mr. Manster's commitment to public service demonstrates a rare sense of dedication to duty, and I am pleased to recognize this special occasion. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the career of Mr. Stephen Manster.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAMERON D. CLARKE, 2017 RHODES SCHOLAR

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize Cameron D. Clarke, a Howard University senior majoring in biology and community health, who was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for 2017. Mr. Clarke lives in Richmond, Virginia and is the fourth student from Howard University to have received this honor.

While attending Howard University, Mr. Clarke engaged in research at the University's W. Montague Cobb Research Laboratory, which maintains a national repository for African-American skeletal remains. Mr. Clarke also participated in research at Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia through a Howard University-National Science Foundation grant. As an Amgen Scholar, he conducted research at the National Institutes of Health's Center for Cancer Research. Mr. Clarke is a certified emergency medical technician (EMT) and is the lead author on five out of six publications. He is co-president of Howard University's chapter of the Peer Health Exchange and a news editor of The Hilltop, the Howard University student newspaper. Currently, Mr. Clarke is among our own here on Capitol Hill as he is an intern for the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. Clarke is one of 32 men and women selected from U.S. postsecondary institutions who competed with over 800 applicants to receive this award to study at the University of Oxford in England. With his Rhodes scholarship, Mr. Clarke intends to further his studies by pursuing a Master of Science degree with an emphasis in primary health care. Ultimately, Mr. Clarke wants to attend medical school and work in public health policy and clinical research.

"We are extremely proud of Mr. Clarke's accomplishments," said Dr. Wayne Frederick, President of Howard University. "Mr. Clarke's academic pursuits will lead to solutions in the broader society that are needed ever more so today. Cameron is the epitome of Howard University's gift of solutions to the world." His achievements demonstrate what a person committed to excellence in truth and service can obtain when provided the opportunity. He exemplifies the best of Howard University and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating

Mr. Cameron D. Clarke for his impressive academic achievements and being selected as one of America's Rhodes Scholarship winners. It is with honor that I call attention to this outstanding young man's achievements. May he continue to obtain the success for which he works hard and may he always find purpose and fulfillment in his efforts.

HONORING ESTHER LOUISE HILL  
ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Esther Louise Hill. She celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, December 4th, 2016.

Esther Louise Hill was born in Montgomery City, Missouri on December 4, 1916 to Roy and Emma Patterson. She has lived in Jonesburg, Missouri most of her life. Esther married Richard Hill, who is now deceased. She graduated from a three-year program in 1938 from Missouri Baptist Hospital School of Nursing as a registered nurse.

Her work experiences were in various divisions of healthcare: hospitals, industry, and public health. Esther started her career as a private duty nurse and after a year decided to join the Barnes Hospital Nursing Staff. Before World War II started, Esther moved to Dallas, Texas. She utilized her nursing degree by working at a substation with North American Aviation during the war. After the end of the war, Esther moved back to Missouri and joined the staff at a local nursing home, Katy Jane, located in Warrenton, Missouri. Unfortunately, during her time at Katy Jane, there was a devastating fire which had a profound effect on Esther. Esther started working as a public health nurse through the state of Missouri, first in Warren County and then moving to Montgomery County. She was moved by the loss of life at Katy Jane and realized commonsense steps could have prevented that tragedy.

Eventually, Esther obtained the position of Institutional Advisory Nurse, covering fifteen counties along the Missouri River. In this position, Esther taught nursing home caregivers the details of Missouri state law and procedures that should be part of nursing home care. The Institutional Advisory Nurse position led to a role with the Missouri Department of Health Licensure Program for Nursing Homes. With this position, she taught, investigated and inspected nursing home facilities, and enforced licensure laws. Esther worked for the Visiting Nurse Association for a few years but eventually returned to the Missouri Department of Health. She ended her nursing career with the Missouri Department of Health. Esther appreciates the opportunity she was given to have a career that came full circle; from her days at the Katy Jane Nursing Home where lack of structure allowed for a tragedy, to being involved with the adoption of solutions to protect the most vulnerable. In addition to her successful career in nursing, Esther also taught at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Esther has been a lifelong member of the Jonesburg United Methodist Church and

during her time there has enjoyed participating in the Methodist Women organization. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, collecting antiques, cooking, and canning produce from her garden. She also has a passion for hybridized lilies and has even won prizes for them. Esther enjoys a good card game and has been a member of the Canasta Card Club for 50 years.

Please join me in recognizing Esther Louise Hill on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

IN HONOR OF BULLOCK COUNTY,  
ALABAMA UPON THE 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bullock County, Alabama which today is celebrating 150 years as a county.

What is now Bullock County was first inhabited by Creek Indians who moved westward from Georgia and began cultivating the rich, spring-filled land. After the bitter Creek War, American settlers brought schools, churches, and mercantile life to complement the thriving agriculture, and the town of Union Springs was born.

After the Civil War, portions of Macon, Montgomery, Barbour and Pike Counties were brought together to form Bullock County, after Confederate Colonel E.C. Bullock. The late 1800s and early 1900s were prosperous for Bullock County, as railroad connections and industrialization made the county seat of Union Springs an important hub for Alabama and the South.

That history can still be seen in Bullock County today. The National Register of Historic Places, lists 47 homes and businesses that have been preserved as standing monuments to the past.

One hundred and fifty years after its founding, Bullock County is home to fine, hard-working people that I am proud to represent in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge Bullock County's sesquicentennial anniversary and celebrate this special date with all those who call Bullock County home.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT JAY  
SPECK

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, today to recognize and honor Jay Speck who is retiring after forty years of service to our community as an educator and administrator with the Solano County Office of Education.

Mr. Speck began his career in education as a special education teacher at the elementary and secondary levels and has since worked with Solano County as a program manager, principal, director of special education, and assistant superintendent of human resources.

Mr. Speck has served as an outstanding educator and leader in our community and demonstrates a unique and experienced understanding of our community's needs. He was sworn in for his first term as County Superintendent on January 3, 2011 and was re-elected and sworn in for his second term on January 5, 2015. Mr. Speck is known for his fair-mindedness and his strong belief in the potential of each individual student to learn and develop academically.

During his career, Mr. Speck pursued training in interest-based problem solving and collective bargaining to enhance his skills as a trusted leader, highly skilled problem-solver, and ardent collaborator. Mr. Speck has a solid educational foundation with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis and holds teaching credentials from both California State University, Los Angeles and California State University, Sacramento. Mr. Speck has represented Solano County public schools as a member of many organizations including the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, the Association of California School Administrators and the Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Jay Speck has served our community with admirable leadership and dedication for forty years. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

HONORING JIM HARRIS OF  
WAUSAU, WI FOR HIS SERVICE  
TO OTHERS

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Jim Harris of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional service to others.

Mr. Harris worked for more than 30 years in education. First, as a teacher in the Wisconsin Indian Teacher Corps, where he taught children of the Ho Chunk Tribe, and later as one of the first male kindergarten teachers in Wisconsin. Along his journey in education, Mr. Harris also spent two decades as a school administrator and an activist for public health.

During his many years of service in education, Mr. Harris got to know the children of Hmong Refugees who fled war in their home country to seek a better life in Wisconsin. Our state has a vibrant Hmong community that Mr. Harris has grown close to. He founded We Help War Victims, a nonprofit organization, with his wife, Marty, also a public school educator. Founded over 30 years ago, We Help War Victims has been working with refugee families in the Wausau, Wisconsin area, providing dozens of Lao schools with their first libraries, and helping families receive access to medical care.

Since 2006, his organization has been working with villagers in Laos to destroy land mines, bombs, rockets, mortars, and other unexploded ordnance. Mr. Harris' example directly inspired me to fight for this cause in Congress and his advice has directly affected the focus of my efforts. Countless farmers and families across Laos live in safer communities

because of Mr. Harris' work and my community in Wisconsin has been strengthened by the work he and his wife do through We Help War Victims.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to congratulate Mr. Harris on his accomplishments and work on behalf of others. His selfless demeanor in which he answers the call to serve in our district is truly valued.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT 1ST  
CLASS JOHN MIMS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant 1st Class John Mims of the 82nd Airborne Division, a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor who passed away on Sunday, November 27, 2016. Sergeant Mims was a true American hero and our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family as they mourn the loss of this great man.

When his country needed him the most, it was John Mims who answered the call to serve our great nation. After losing his father when he was young, Mims lied about his age in order to join the Army. At the age of 15, Mims served for nearly a year before the Army discovered his true age and discharged him. However, a few short years later Mims re-enlisted in the Army and headed out to the Philippines to begin his training.

After a year in the Philippines, Mims fought alongside his brothers in arms in the Battle of Bataan which culminated in the surrender of 75,000 allied soldiers. The men were then forced to march 65 miles, without food or water, to a prisoner-of-war camp in the Tarlac Province in what became known as the Bataan Death March. One of the greatest atrocities of the entire war, the men suffered beatings, endured torture, and witnessed unimaginable horrors as he faced what can only be described as a living hell. In total more than 10,000 men died during the trek.

Following the war, Mims continued his service in the Army, returning to Japan from 1952 to 1954 as sergeant in charge of the Tokyo Quartermaster Depot. After he retired in 1963, he returned home where he worked in a rug factory and a curtain company. Living in Aberdeen, North Carolina, he became an advocate for other veterans and was a constant presence at ceremonies remembering his fallen comrades. His work in the community made certain that the memories of those lost were not forgotten, and it is that legacy which we celebrate today. While we may have lost this great man, his legacy will live on and we will never forget the sacrifices made by Sergeant Mims or any of those who fought to protect our freedoms against unimaginable dangers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sergeant 1st Class John Mims for his service to God and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, due to other commitments, I missed the following roll call votes; had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call no. 594. I would have voted no.  
Roll call no. 595. I would have voted no.  
Roll call no. 596. I would have voted no.  
Roll call no. 597. I would have voted no.  
Roll call no. 598. I would have voted yes.  
Roll call no. 599. I would have voted no.  
Roll call no. 600. I would have voted no.

HONORING MR. JOHN SUTTER

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life and career of Mr. John Sutter, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District.

As an outdoor enthusiast and lifelong resident of Oakland, California, John's life has been dedicated to preserving and protecting the environment of California's Bay Area. Throughout his sixty years in public service, he has been involved in the conservation of over 35,000 acres of land.

John's career in public service began in 1954 when he became an Alameda County deputy district attorney. He stayed in this position until 1965, when he was appointed to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) by Governor Pat Brown.

John also served as a member of Oakland's City Council for over a decade from 1971–1982, twice holding the position of vice mayor.

In 1982, John was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve as a judge on the Alameda County Superior Court. He remained a judge for 14 years until his election in 1996 to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors.

Over John's illustrious career, he has been directly involved in a variety of community projects and organizations with special emphasis on preserving the natural environment of the Bay Area.

In the 1950s he was prominently involved in the protection of the San Pablo Reservoir and the foundation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline. In 1961, John was the leader in the campaign that preserved Oakland's Snow Park.

In addition to his elected and appointed positions, John was a founding board member of the Greenbelt Alliance; and he has served as a board member for the Alameda County Solid Waste Management Authority, Oakland Charter Revision Committee, Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission, Chabot Space and Science Center, Save the Bay, Alameda County Bar Association, California Democratic Council, Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal, and the Metropolitan YMCA.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I wish to congratulate Mr. John Sutter on a well-deserved retirement, and thank him for his many years of service to our community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2016, I was incorrectly recorded as voting "Nay" on H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016. I wish to reflect my intentions on roll call No. 591, as a "Yea" vote.

## HONORING JOHN D. PRIDNIA

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John D. Pridnia, loving husband, proud father and grandfather, and pillar of our community.

In search of a better life for his family, John moved to Northeast Michigan becoming a small business owner. Over the next 10 years, he became a successful businessman, passionate about building, developing, and creating new ideas, businesses, and adventures.

After raising his three children, he looked to a life of public service. He served two terms as a State Representative and two terms as a State Senator where he served as the Chairman of the Senate Health Policy Committee. Passionate about promoting business, encouraging tourism, and promoting conservation, John was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Upon retiring from the legislature, John married his wife of 19 years Lisa Dailey. Living in the small community of Port Austin, their family grew to include five beautiful grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In the close-knit community of Port Austin, John was passionate about beautifying and developing the harbor and waterfront, creating spaces the entire community could come together and enjoy, such as a thriving local farmer's market.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that the tradition of giving back to our communities is something that makes our nation unique, one that makes this country the greatest in the world and this was a spirit that John embodied throughout his entire career and life. More importantly, he has served as an example for future generations, instilling in them the importance of giving back to the communities and country who have given us all so much.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring John for his lifelong contributions to the 10th District of the great State of Michigan, our children, and the future of this country.

## IN HONOR OF SENATOR ANDREW MAYNARD UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank an outstanding public servant for his

many years of service to my home state of Connecticut. For ten years, Mr. Andrew Maynard has served as State Senator for the state's 18th Senate district, which includes Griswold, Groton, Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, North Stonington, Sterling and Voluntown. His retirement at the end of his term will conclude a distinguished career of public service that began at the local level many years ago as a borough warden in the Town of Stonington. Andy has been a powerful voice for southeastern Connecticut, earning the respect of both Democratic and Republican colleagues and serving as the Deputy Majority Leader for the Senate Democrats since 2011.

Andy currently serves as chair of the Transportation Committee, and a member of the Internship and Program Review & Investigation Committees. He also served as chair of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and a member of the Environment Committee. Andy's unwavering advocacy for our region's natural resources and tourist attractions brought to life the long-delayed Thames River Heritage Park and secured millions of dollars for expansion at the Mystic Seaport, our nation's leading maritime museum. Andy understood the integral role of tourism, not only within the state, but within our region. It was this understanding that guided his leadership as he fought to secure the crucial funding need to dredge the Mystic River and spearhead the Connecticut Treasures program.

Our region will miss Andy's advocacy on the floor of the State Senate, but I am sure he will remain a strong and respected voice in his community. A true gentleman, Andy brought a thoughtful, civilized tone in his campaigns for office and his bipartisan camaraderie which characterized his style in office. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Andy for his tenure as an accomplished public servant, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

## ALL IS BRIGHT

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Armed Forces and Their Families on this Christmas and Holiday Season, with a poetic tribute by Albert Carey Caswell. Let us remember their selfless sacrifice, and give a prayer of thanks for those who are separated by death and distance this Christmas.

Silent Night

Holy Night

As a magnificent hero lays down their life all is Bright

As our Lord smiles at their light all is Calm All is Bright

Way up in heaven where your soul took flight! Round Yon Virgin Mother and Child

While, all in her tears your Mother so remembers your smile Holy Infant so tender and mild

As once all in your Mother's arms the while Now sleep in heavenly peace my child

As your war is over my Daughter, my Son

Silent Night

Holy Night

As your family and your loved ones so miss you this night Silent Night

But, your new battle has just begun

As an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my Daughter my Son All is Calm

All is Bright

And we will hear you on the wind

And we will sleep in Heavenly Peace

As we awake knowing you are watching over us as where you've been Until, we meet you once again in heaven where all is bright

And your Brothers and Sisters in Arms will live a good life

For you their best friend by remembering your light Silent Night

Holy Night

All is Calm

All is Bright

All because of The Men and Women of The Armed Forces, and Their Families who fight the fight

All is Bright

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Amen

## PROTECTING VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL CHOICE ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement in support of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016. I will be unable to submit my recorded vote but I fully support this legislation that ensures that veterans will not be unwittingly exploited by deceptive recruiters.

H.R. 5047 is a bipartisan bill that reinforces our commitment to the success of our service members, on and off the battlefield. The bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to supply all information regarding articulation agreements to service members who wish to use their VA education benefits. The bill will inform service members, in advance, if and how they can transfer credits and avoid unwittingly misusing their VA education benefits.

In 2010, Congress passed the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act which expanded educational benefits to include more service members and allows them to use their benefits to receive not only traditional degrees but also apprenticeships, vocational training certifications, and on-the-job training. This expansion was vital in providing access to a variety of educational platforms but some for-profit institutions focused on recruiting and scamming service members out of their benefits. H.R. 5047 provides education career counseling to make sure service members are informed of their options.

## RECOGNIZING ROB AUSTRIAN AND MONICA MOSIMANN

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rob Austrian and Monica Mosimann for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Fourth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the Fall of 2016.

The work of this young man and woman has been exemplary, and I know they will

have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and both learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity, and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

Rob plans to continue pursuing his degree at the end of his internship, and I have recently hired Monica as a Staff Assistant in my D.C. office. I wish them both the best as they pursue their respective career paths. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Rob Austrian and Monica Mosimann for their service the last several months to the people of Colorado's 4th district.

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HONORING CITY OF REFUGE UCC

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Refuge UCC upon its 25th anniversary for its legacy of promoting community building, inclusion, and faith in the Bay Area.

First established in San Francisco, the City of Refuge was founded in 1991 by a group of primarily gay and lesbian Christians with the goal of establishing a church that did not adhere to the exclusion of people based on gender or sexual orientation. Three years later in 1994, the City of Refuge joined the United Church of Christ (UCC) and became incorporated with over 5,000 churches worldwide working to uphold the denomination's commitment to social justice.

Founder and Senior Pastor Reverend Dr. Yvette A. Flunder has been nationally recognized for her work to promote the inclusion of gay and lesbian parishioners and to minister to their specific needs. In response to the AIDS epidemic, Rev. Dr. Flunder established the Ark of Refuge, a non-profit organization that provided direct services to homeless and low-income individuals, and also created the Hazard-Ashley House and Walker House in Oakland as a means to provide housing services, education, and training for people affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2000, she created the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a network of more than 100 primarily African American churches around the world that work to promote "radical inclusivity", whereby the ministry is open to all without prejudice or discrimination.

In 2013 the City of Refuge UCC relocated to Oakland. Through the hard work and dedication of the ministry, staff, and congregation, community members and in particular women, immigrants, and those who identify as LGBTQ, have found a safe space for self-expression, belonging, and religious participation. Through the Church's various ministries, this community provides support for those needing help addressing substance abuse, homelessness, HIV/AIDS treatment, and environmental justice.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the City of Refuge UCC on this important milestone, and thank the community for the many valuable services that they provide to those in need. I wish the congregation continued success in upholding its commitment to social justice and

expanding the radical inclusivity that has come to be the City of Refuge's hallmark.

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RECOGNIZING ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION DAY

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as the co-Chairman of the Congressional Romania Caucus and as the former President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly, I congratulate Romania on its Great Union Day. Romania is celebrating the anniversary of its unification on December 1, 1918.

Romania is a loyal U.S. and NATO ally. Romania and the United States work closely together to confront a host of global challenges, including through our joint efforts to bolster regional defense, halt nuclear proliferation, and increase energy security. With the signing of the U.S.-Romania Ballistic Missile Defense Agreement in September 2011, Romania established itself as a key strategic partner in NATO's emerging missile defense capabilities effort. The Missile Defense Interceptor site at Deveselu Air Base near the Bulgarian border, which became operational in May 2016, now provides missile defense protection to our allies in Europe and the Middle East.

Tragically, ongoing events in Ukraine are unsettling the region and testing the transatlantic alliance. As you know, Russia seeks to once again destabilize much of Eastern Europe and restore influence over territories lost following the collapse of the Soviet Union. That is why it is critically important for the United States, Romania, and other European allies to continue to work together to strengthen the transatlantic alliance and bolster regional security.

The strategic partnership between the United States and Romania has greatly advanced our common interests in promoting transatlantic and regional security and free market opportunities. Our partnership should continue to foster greater economic and cultural exchanges, trade and investment, and social contacts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Romania's Great Union Day.

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FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1555, the "Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015."

S. 1555 honors the brave Filipino soldiers who courageously fought for freedom in World War II by awarding the highest honor that this Congress can bestow.

More than 260,000 Filipino veterans, 18,000 of who are still alive today, who for decades

had to fight for benefits and recognition, will now receive the recognition they have earned and deserve.

These Filipino soldiers were instrumental to the United States efforts in the Pacific.

After the invasion of the Philippines by Japanese forces they retired to the Bataan Peninsula and continued to fight valiantly.

Among these brave soldiers is Dominador Soriano, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, who fought as a member of both the Philippine and United States Armies.

He was drafted into the Philippine Army in 1938 and then inducted into the U.S. Army in the Far East on September 1, 1941.

Under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur, Soriano commanded the Echo Company of the 83rd Infantry Regiment, keeping watch on Japanese ships moving through the Tanon Strait.

During the Japanese invasion he was shot and in July of 1944 was captured, beaten and then released, but could barely walk.

Soriano continued working with the resistance until the surrender of the Japanese on August 15, 1945.

Recently, the city of San Antonio honored Soriano and other Filipino veterans with a resolution that recognized their efforts during World War II and supported legislation to award these courageous men the Congressional Gold Medal.

The resolution is the first of its kind by any city in the United States, and I believe that it is time for Congress to follow suit.

These brave Filipino soldiers answered President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call to serve in World War II and they deserve the highest award that we can give, for there is no higher duty than putting one's life on the line for freedom and country.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1555 the "Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIA B. LOVE**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on December 2, 2016. A member of my immediate family experienced a medical crisis out of state, and I traveled to support him. As a result, I missed votes for the day.

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MR. ANTHONY XUEREB

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Mr. Anthony Xuereb.

Anthony was born in Malta, and he had always yearned to come to the United States to make a better life for himself. He came to this country in 1934 during the Great Depression and struggled mightily to survive the terrible economic and social conditions of the time. He

sought employment in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and had the pleasure to work on the USS *Missouri*. As he continued working and living in the United States, Anthony applied for U.S. citizenship and became a naturalized citizen in 1943.

During World War II, he applied for military service, but unfortunately he lost most of his hearing in his left ear due to a diving accident he suffered from, and was unable to serve. Anthony still wanted to contribute to the country in whatever way possible, so he volunteered for civilian duty as an Air Raid Warden and served in this position until the end of the war. Air Raid Wardens were vital in ensuring the safety of everyone in the neighborhood and he did not take his role lightly. He returned to Malta in 1948, met the love of his life, and returned to the United States to start their new life together.

Anthony's exemplary life of service was motivated and fueled by his love of God, family, and country. He was a humble man who lived on a modest income and was very proud of his service as an Air Raid Warden. The service these dedicated civilians provided was vital in keeping civilians safe. It is important we acknowledge people like Anthony, who dedicated their services to a nation in need during a time of war. In honor and memory of Anthony Xuereb and all who served, and continue to serve, our great nation, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his devotion to our country.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 4665, THE OUTDOOR RECREATION JOBS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ACT

**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4665, the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act, introduced by my friend from Virginia, Congressman BEYER. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation to highlight the importance of the outdoor recreation economy.

In Oregon, we know how important the outdoor industry is to our economy. Northwest Oregon businesses like Keen, Columbia Sportswear, and Nike have thrived and brought thousands of jobs to our communities. Surveys conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association in 2012 show that, in my home state, the industry contributes 141,000 direct jobs, \$4.0 billion in wages and salaries, and \$12.8 billion in consumer spending annually. Nationwide, outdoor recreation generates \$646 billion in consumer spending every year.

The climbers, hikers, hunters, and anglers who are passionate about the outdoors spend time and money in hotels, campgrounds, restaurants, and stores in nearby communities, providing an economic boost for local economies. They also purchase necessary attire, gear, and footwear from innovative businesses to help them reach the summit, catch fish, and enjoy our nation's natural treasures.

I am proud to support the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NATHANIEL JONES ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator, Superintendent Nathaniel Jones of the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township. Superintendent Jones is retiring after 43 years of exceptional service to students and the community. The people of the Fifth Congressional District of Indiana are forever grateful for Superintendent Jones' contributions and commitment to the students of the Pike Township School District and to our Hoosier community.

Superintendent Jones is an Indianapolis native. He received his formal education from the Indianapolis Public School (IPS) system. After graduating high school Superintendent Jones went to Indiana University where he pursued his interest in education. Upon completion of his B.S. in Elementary Education, he returned to IPS where he taught elementary school as well as adult education classes for five years. He returned to IUPUI to earn his M.S. in Education as well as an Administrative Certificate. In 1978, Superintendent Jones was named Assistant Principal to John Strange Elementary School of the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, and shortly thereafter in 1980 he was named Principal of Delaware Trail Elementary, at age 27, making him one of the youngest principals in the state of Indiana. He served the Washington Township School system in a variety of positions over 25 years; he served Washington Township as Principal, Director of Elementary Education, and as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. His leadership proved truly transformational as every school he led as Principal attained state and national recognition for academic achievement. In 1982, he earned his Education Specialist Degree in School Administration from Indiana University, Bloomington and in 1994 his Superintendent Certification. In 2003, he became the first African American to accept the role of Superintendent for the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township and the first African American IPS graduate to be a Superintendent in the state of Indiana.

Superintendent Jones has been instrumental in creating positive change in each of the school systems he has served. Pike High School in particular has made monumental strides under Superintendent Jones' leadership. Pike High School has one of the most successful pre-collegiate programs in Indiana with over 85 percent of students attending post-secondary institutions upon graduating from high school and has a graduation rate of over 91 percent. In 2005, the Standard & Poor's ratings recognized Pike High School for significantly narrowing the Black-white and Hispanic-white achievement gaps. During Superintendent Jones' tenure the number of scholarships and grants received by Pike students has grown tremendously. Pike High School boasts the highest number of Gates Scholars in Indiana. Superintendent Jones also implemented the STEM Center and spearheaded major construction and renovation of many facilities, and earned over \$75 million in Federal Competitive Grants from

2005 through 2015. Superintendent Jones' tireless efforts to seek educational grants and funding opportunities helped in part to create the Youth CareerConnect program. This program offers work-based learning opportunities that teaches students marketable and useful STEM skills empowering students in future learning as well as career opportunities. Through the collaboration of Superintendent Jones' visionary leadership, the help of a supportive board, dedicated administrators, extraordinary teachers, and engaged parents, Pike Township schools have become a more positive learning environment where student achievement continues to soar.

Throughout his career Superintendent Jones has received numerous awards that recognize the accomplishments and contributions he has made to education in our community. From Indiana University he received two "Distinguished Alumni Awards". In 1996, he earned the Milken Award, which aims to grant funds to accomplished mid-career educators. He received the Achiever Award from the Center for Leadership, is a recipient of a Sagamore of the Wabash Award, has received a Congressional Salute, and he received two District of Distinction awards. He was selected as one of the 100 top administrators in North America by the "Executive Educator" and has received over 60 local, state, and national awards for his leadership and innovative approach to educating students, teachers, and the community. His award winning work is well regarded not only from these institutions but from his peers and fellow educators. He has been invited to conduct and participate in numerous conferences throughout the United States. In addition, he is a lifetime member of the NAACP and in 2011 he was featured in the "Education Executive Publication" as a Trendsetter, and in a Who's Who in "Black Indianapolis".

Superintendent Jones continues to serve the community through his roles on numerous boards. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for American Heart Association, he was the Chair for National Council on Educating Black Children Conference in 2015, and he was the Board Chairman for Conner Prairie in 2011. In 2008, he served on the Indianapolis Marion-County Public Library Board of Directors and the Teachers' Treasures Board of Directors. He was the coordinator for the Lilly Initiative supported by the Lilly Endowment in 2000 through 2003. He was on the State Advisory Committee on Textbook Adoption in 2001 through 2003.

I am proud to thank Superintendent Jones for his service in helping the students of Pike Township graduate from high school with the essential skills necessary to be confident, creative, productive, and prosperous in college, careers, and life. He has always put the needs of students first throughout his educational career and truly enriched the lives of so many. He takes great pride in addressing the individual needs of the children he serves. Superintendent Jones never overlooked the fact that his students come to him from a variety of backgrounds, possessing individual gifts, talents, challenges and dreams. On behalf of all Hoosiers and the nation, I'd like to congratulate Superintendent Nathaniel Jones on his success and wish him, his wife Cynthia, two children, and their families all the best as Superintendent Jones enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 594, YEA on Roll Call No. 595, YEA on Roll Call No. 596, YEA on Roll Call No. 597, and NAY on Roll Call No. 598.

## HONORING MR. DOUG SIDEN

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the invaluable service to our community from the leadership of Mr. Doug Siden, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the East Bay Park District Board of Directors.

Mr. Siden has served for the past 24 years on the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board. During his tenure, Mr. Siden recognized the importance that the East Bay Parks play in the lives of so many local residents, and has worked tirelessly to provide access and an enjoyable experience for visitors to all of the District's 66 locations.

As an EBRPD Board member, he worked diligently to help EBRPD pass Measures CC and WW to support and expand the system. At \$500 million, Measure WW was the largest bond measure ever awarded to a local district to acquire and develop new parks, and it helped the Park District meet the increasing demand to preserve open space for recreation and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Siden served for many years on the East Bay Economic Development Alliance's Executive Board, was a founding member and served as a chairperson of the Martin Luther King Freedom Center in Oakland, and led the fight to establish the Alameda County Creek and Watershed Symposium. Additionally, during his career he has served on the advisory committees of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Mr. Siden is also a longtime Rotarian and has served as a Baptist minister for over six decades. He directed a youth camp for Baptist Churches of the West for 20 years, and led the effort to establish year-round camps in Santa Cruz and near Lake Tahoe. He holds an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the American Baptist Seminary of the West for his leadership.

On a personal note, Doug has been a longtime friend and partner in the East Bay, and I greatly appreciate his leadership and counsel. I wish him well on this new chapter of his life.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Mr. Doug Siden on a well-deserved retirement. We honor his tireless support of open space, parks, and healthy recreation, and also for his vision of a more ideal world in which all can enjoy and benefit from these natural treasures.

## BEST OF LUCK TO TEXAS 02'S FOOTBALL TEAMS AT STATE SEMI-FINALS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sweet tea, BBQ, and football—these are just some of the things Texans love dearly. From high school football to college football, Texans will come out to every game no matter what the temperature and weather are. Our commitment to our football teams is so strong that preachers will find a way to mention the local team in their sermons and make sure you get home just in time to watch the game with friends and family.

Football is a very special part of the culture in Texas. From the stadiums to the food to the different student clubs that gather in the stadiums, football games unite Texans. The bands, the drill teams, the cheerleading teams, the students that form it all—they are an extraordinary group that make the culture and character of Texas so unique in the United States. More than just uniting families and friends, football allows our community to share in the joy of victory and the sadness of temporary defeat; it teaches our children to keep working hard for their goals both individually and with their teammates.

Although professional and college football receive the most national attention, high school football is just as important in Texas. I still remember going to my son's football games, from his start at pee-wee leagues to his career playing for my alma mater, Abilene Christian University. Those memories make me even more proud to say that two high schools in my district have met their goals and broken records this season.

Atascocita High School is fighting for a chance to compete in the state championship. Last year they had a record-setting playoff run, reaching the Region II-6A Division I final. This year, they raised the bar even higher. With the outstanding sportsmanship of their players, the football team of Atascocita High School has exceeded expectations. I know how proud the players, their parents, and their school must be. Ranking at Number 18 in the state, the Eagles have some of the most promising players on their team.

Quarterback Daveon Boyd, now a senior, has received four awards throughout his high school football career. He has surpassed the national average in number of yards, yards per game, touchdown passes, completion percentage, attempts, and interceptions. This season alone, he's had a 63 percent pass rate for 4,139 yards and 46 touchdowns.

But Boyd is not the only outstanding player in Atascocita High School. Samuel Cosmi, the offensive tackle, is a University of Houston pledge. Defensive tackles De'Marius Brooks and Kendrix Burford, along with defensive backs Justin Campbell, Alerick Soularie, and Travian Blaylock give the Eagles an edge in size and speed.

Another high school in my district, Klein Collins, won its first regional semi-finals at Baylor's McLane Stadium in the Division II Region II-6A playoffs. While all the players have done outstanding work, senior running back D'Anthony Doyle rushed 167 yards and got a

couple of touchdowns, making him the hardest working player that game. His teammate, Josh Powell, also earned the team two more scores. At the end of the game, the team's hard work left the team with a 54-16 victory over John Tyler. As a proud dad who beamed in the stands watching his son play, I know how thrilled their parents will be watching them play against Spring Westfield on December 2.

I am incredibly proud of the students of the Atascocita and Klein Collins High School football teams for their successes this season. It is great to see students in my district represent us so well with their hard work and talent. I look forward to their upcoming games and seeing them succeed and exceed expectations for years to come. Best of luck at State Semi-Finals.

And that's just the way it is.

## MERCHANT MARINE OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the bipartisan H.R. 2992, the "Merchant Marine of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act," introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS of Indiana.

I stand to recognize every service member who has dedicated his or her life to the protection of this nation and the world.

The Merchant Marines of World War II were vital in the collective effort to defeat the Axis powers.

Serving our military as a distributor, Merchant Marine fleets carry imports and exports during peacetime and become a naval auxiliary during wartime, delivering troops and needed war supplies and materials.

Many Merchant Marines have sacrificed their lives, perishing at the highest rate of casualties of any service members, sometimes as high as 1 in 24 in any given mission.

During World War II, a total of 1,554 ships were sunk by German U-boats, including 733 ships weighing over 1,000 gross tons.

One hundred forty Merchant Marines have been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Merchant Marine's highest honor, seven of whom were cadet graduates from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2992 which honors those civilians who answered the call to serve our nation in the United States Merchant Marines during World War II.

## GEORGIA DAY OF CODE

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, computer technology dominates our ever-evolving world. As we continue moving towards a society dependent on communicating through our technical devices, the need for qualified people in the STEM fields is rapidly growing.

Offering the opportunity for Georgia students to delve into computer programming will enhance industries across Georgia, our country, and the globe. Harnessing these skills benefits future generations, and will help build strong twenty-first century economies.

Georgia's Day of Code, during Computer Science Education week, is a great way to place coding in the public eye. We must continue to promote this important vocation, and engage in our communities to advance technology development.

The need for those in the technology field is vast and, in Georgia alone, employers post hundreds of IT-related jobs every day, which shows how promising the future is for professionals entering this field. Georgia's Day of Code encourages educators, parents, and policy makers to promote STEM-focused careers to students across the state. We must continue to advance and innovate in the technology sector, and what better way to do that than to invest in our next generation.

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COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
RAMONA NEILL

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Ramona (Johnnie) North Neill of Blackfoot, Idaho passed away at the age of 88 on December 4, 2016 at the Gables of Blackfoot Assisted Living and Memory Center. Mona was born September 6, 1928 and raised in Kirksville, Missouri to Oscar and Zelma Jewell North. She lived there until the age of six when the family moved to Blackfoot, and attended grade school, junior high, followed by graduating from high school in 1946.

In December 1949 she met the love of her life: James (Jimmy) K. Neill who was an Employee of Idaho Power Company and was part of the Mobile Line Crew that was upgrading the Electrical Power Grid in Blackfoot. Their relationship quickly blossomed and they were married on May 26, 1950 in Winnemucca, Nevada. From there, Jim and Mona lived primarily in Boise, Idaho until they moved permanently to Blackfoot, Idaho in the summer of 1956 where she lived at the family home on Riverton Road up to the time that her health forced her to move last year.

Mona enjoyed outdoors trips with her husband and children, attending every scout, school, sports activity of her sons and the grandchildren residing in Blackfoot as well as visiting or following the adventures of her two grandchildren in Washington state.

Mona is survived by her sons: David K. Neill (Marie Carter, deceased), Blackfoot, Kim O. Neill (Christi Ann), Bainbridge Island, Washington, and James Todd Neill (Melody Renee), Scottsdale, Arizona, her four grandchildren: Cassandra Lynnette Neill, San Diego, California, Thomas K. Neill (Laura), Boise, Idaho, James K. Neill (Emily), Washington, D.C. and Andrew Albert Neill, Washington, D.C.

She will be laid to rest at Dry Creek Cemetery in Boise, Idaho where she will be next to her late husband James K. Neill.

MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL  
THOMAS DONOHUE

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Master Sergeant Michael Thomas Donohue, in appreciation of his 30 years of meritorious service in the United States Army, Navy, Navy Reserve, and New York Army National Guard.

Throughout his military career, Master Sergeant Donohue has served with honor and distinction in numerous positions, from Aircraft Handler and Tank Mechanic, to Intelligence Analyst and Operations NCOIC, culminating with his service as a Senior Maintenance Supervisor for the 42nd CAB. His unwavering dedication to duty and unparalleled professionalism has consistently earned the respect of subordinates, peers, and superiors alike.

An innovative and relentless troubleshooter, his vast technical knowledge greatly aided in his Brigade's success while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08–09. His experience, gained from serving in two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, proved invaluable as he mentored junior non-commissioned officers and officers on a wide spectrum of operational and technical topics, increasing their readiness for deployment and ultimately, unit effectiveness. His long and illustrious career has been marked by humility and service, and reflects great credit upon himself, the New York Army National Guard, United States Army, and United States Navy.

MSG Donohue's deployments include Operation El Dorado Canyon (USN, 1986), Operation Ernest Will (USN, 1988), multiple natural disasters (1997–2012), Counter Drug operations (1998–2001), World Trade Center (2001), OIF (2008–2009), and OEF (2012–2013). He provided mentorship and leadership and skillfully groomed the next generation of leaders, which resulted in the Soldier and NCO Warrior of the Year competitions for the Aviation Brigade in 2009, 2010, and 2011 and New York State Soldier of the Year in 2011. His faithfulness through these times was and is a testimony for others to follow, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his devotion to our country.

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THE THIN BLUE LINE: OFFICER  
REGINALD GUTIERREZ

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our men and women in blue are the best we have. They are the thin blue line between good and evil. Each day these men and women head out into the field not knowing what they will face, not knowing if their day will be filled with routine traffic stops, or extreme dangers. Our peace officers face the unknown and stand up for the rest of us.

Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez was one of these men. Gutierrez was responding to a domestic violence call in Tacoma, Washington after a

woman approached animal control officers claiming her husband had locked her out of the house and taken her cell phone. Gutierrez and his partner entered the home. Shots rang out as he proceeded up the stairs to speak with the suspect. Two young children were held hostage inside the house, being used as human shields. His partner returned fire, taking the wife to safety. Gutierrez was shot multiple times, his life taken away by a vicious criminal.

Gutierrez gave his life to protect the young and innocent. As a veteran of the Department since 1999, 45-year-old Gutierrez was a model police officer. Each day he got up, put on the uniform and badge and dedicated himself to his profession and community. He is now the 132nd officer to die in the line of duty this year alone. At least eight of these deaths occurred while responding to reports of domestic disturbance and violence.

Hundreds of individuals came to honor Gutierrez as he made his way from the hospital to the medical examiner's office. The hospital was surrounded by fellow officers standing in support of their fallen brother. The King County Sheriff's Department ordered all Deputies to wear mourning bands in honor of the fallen peace officer.

The needless murder of our officers is absolutely unacceptable. These men and women work tirelessly, day in and day out trying to make a difference. It is time to put an end to the needless murder of our peace officers. Congress must stand up for those who work to protect the rest of us. The men and women behind the badge are some of America's best.

Officer Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez's life may be gone, but his memory serves as a reminder of all those who gave their lives for the thin blue line.

And that's just the way it is.

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COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS  
DAY 2016

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.



While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

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 that 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.

There is a pressing need to raise awareness and engage in education within the African American community where HIV infections have been and continue to rise.

The incidence of HIV has decreased for the majority population, while it has grown nearly unchecked among African Americans.

This must change—decisions regarding funding for agencies charged with infectious disease education and minority health must be supported.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES B. RENACCI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 599.

OVERTIME PAY FOR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6302, “The Overtime Pay For Secret Service Agents Act”.

This important legislation will provide an increase in premium pay for United States Secret Service agents performing protective services.

H.R. 6302 will raise the cap on overtime compensation for U.S. Secret Service agents tasked with the responsibility for protecting the president, vice president and major presidential and vice presidential candidates during campaigns.

Under current law, an executive branch employee’s premium pay, including overtime combined with basic pay cannot exceed the maximum rate of basic pay for a GS–15 or Level V executive schedule, whichever is greater.

The maximum rate for a GS–15 employee in the Washington, D.C., area is set at \$160,300 in 2016, while the pay rate for Level V is set at \$150,200 adjusted for the current cost of living.

H.R. 6302 will increase the pay rate cap by nearly \$35,000.

The H.R. 6302 will also apply to agents responsible for protecting candidates’ spouses, former presidents, their spouses and children, high profile foreign visitors, as well as other government officials.

More than 1,000 agents have exceeded the overtime pay limit this year and can greatly benefit from the prospective adjustments.

Some by as much as \$60,000, according to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

For these reasons I support H.R. 6302.

IN HONOR OF BEAUREGARD WINNING AHSAA CLASS 5A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TITLE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Beaugard High School for winning their first ever Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 5A football state title.

The Hornets sealed their victory by beating Wenonah 33–13 on December 1st at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn.

Not only was this Beaugard’s first state title, but also Lee County’s first ever state champion!

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Beaugard High School, Coach Braun, the players and all the Hornets fans on this exciting achievement. Go Hornets!

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN O’DAY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Kathleen O’Day.

Kathleen passed away on November 28, leaving three brothers, nieces, nephews, cousins and many dear friends. She resided in Arlington, Virginia, but was born and raised in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. Her loved ones gathered in Worcester today to honor her life and pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman.

Kathleen had a distinguished legal career. After graduating from Assumption College and Boston College School of Law with honors, Kathleen began working in the legal division of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in 1978. She served in the Board’s legal division for decades and became a well-known expert in international banking and trade negotiations.

Those who knew her best will miss her warmth, wit, and generosity. Scott Alvarez, the Fed’s General Counsel, remarked, “Kathleen was a dedicated employee, serving nearly 40 years in the Board’s Legal Division. She was a kind, brilliant, generous, witty, and wonderfully warm friend to all of us, and we will all miss her tremendously.”

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen touched the lives of so many around her, and had a profound impact on all of us through her work with the Federal Reserve.

I deeply admire Kathleen’s life-long commitment to public service, and extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends she leaves behind. We will all miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Kathleen O’Day, and recognizing the important contributions she has made to our country.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 34, TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6392, SYSTEMIC RISK DESIGNATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 30, 2016*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act. It is vital that we ensure that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have the resources they need to continue to advance biomedical and mental health research, and improve access to innovative treatments for some of the most debilitating illnesses.

The additional \$4.8 billion authorized for the NIH to improve biomedical research and treatment innovations is commendable, particularly the \$1.8 billion for the Vice President’s Cancer Moonshot, in line with the President’s budget request, that will advance critical life-saving research. I fully support the Cancer Moonshot’s mission to speed up the advancement of other treatments that will help individuals and families who are fighting diseases or disorders. As a Cancer survivor, I know all too well the value of these investments and how many lives can be saved as a result.

Additionally, the allocation of \$1 billion to step up federal efforts combating the growing opioid and heroin epidemic is a positive step towards better treatment of addicted individuals. Every day, families across California and the nation are torn apart by a loved one or neighbor abusing opioids. Hopefully our Republican colleagues consider this the first of many steps to advance meaningful policies designed to erode the strong grip these drugs have on so many Americans.

Unfortunately, key aspects of this legislation fall short and are clearly designed to benefit Big Pharma over American consumers, patients, and doctors. I am deeply troubled by the Majority's decision to drastically reduce new NIH funding in the legislation compared to H.R. 6, stifling new research and vital progress. Additionally, it is disappointing that an amendment I authored, which would have helped to improve doctor-patient communication around the diagnosis and treatment of severe or chronic illnesses, was not included in this legislation. This oversight shows the lack of understanding of the importance of communication between patients and doctors in a patient's treatment and recovery.

IN HONOR OF PIEDMONT WINNING  
AHSAA CLASS 3A HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL TITLE

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Piedmont High School for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 3A football state title for the second year in a row.

The Bulldogs sealed their victory by beating Mobile Christian 22-12 on December 1st at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Piedmont High School, Coach Steve Smith, the players and all the Bulldogs fans on this exciting achievement for the second year in a row. Go Bulldogs!

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state that I was not able to be on the House floor for roll call vote 600—Adoption of the Conference Report to Accompany S. 2943—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 taken on December 2, 2016. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted aye.

Congress has a duty to ensure our military has every resource necessary to fight and defeat the threats that exist in the world today. The National Defense Authorization Act provides America's uniformed men and women with the tools and support they need and deserve. It gives our troops a much needed pay raise and ensures that promises made to them are kept. This strong defense bill will strengthen our national security and help bring our military into the 21st century.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country, and for our military and first responders who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 2943, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2016*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed by a 375-34 vote on Friday. I commend Chairman THORBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH and the committee staff who worked many long nights on the FY17 NDAA. I worked with Mr. SMITH and members of the committee, particularly Readiness Chairman ROB WITTMAN, to include a number of provisions and funding levels that will address certain readiness shortfalls and continue to support the Asia-Pacific Rebalance.

This conference agreement, along with the House report passed in May, includes a number of provisions that are particularly important for the people of Guam. Over the past few months of negotiations, we were able to secure the provision that authorizes the payment of claims to the survivors of the occupation of Guam during World War II and the heirs of those who were killed during the occupation. During World War II, Guam was the only U.S. civilian population occupied by Japan, and during this time our people were subjected to rape, torture, assault, murder, and other inhumane atrocities. The provision does not add to federal spending and utilizes mandatory federal spending provided only to the Government of Guam for taxes paid by federal personnel stationed on Guam. This is an important step towards recognizing the men, women, and children who endured injustice yet remained and remain loyal and patriotic Americans, and its inclusion this year is a hard fought victory for the people of Guam. I look forward to working with the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, the Trump Administration and stakeholders on Guam to ensure that the war claims program is implemented in a fair, transparent and equitable manner. I will work to ensure the process is as clear to the people of Guam as possible so that we can truly bring closure to this matter.

We also successfully repealed the remaining restrictions on civilian infrastructure projects related to water and wastewater, as well as the construction of a cultural artifact repository, and authorized \$67.5 million for these investments. This bill also authorizes military infrastructure projects, including full funding for six military construction projects for housing, munitions, and power infrastructure development. These projects total nearly \$250 million and demonstrate further the continued commitment of the U.S. government to the Guam build-up and the realignment of Marines.

At the same time, this build-up must continue to reflect the 2011 Four Pillars agreement that commits the Navy to being a responsible community partner. Because of local concerns raised about land returns and how that will be calculated and tracked, we hold the Navy accountable to its "Net Negative" commitment by including in this bill a reporting requirement on past, current, and future Navy land usage on Guam. It is important that we

have a mutual understanding about what lands will be returned to ensure that the Navy's commitment to hold no more land than it already has is upheld.

There are other challenges associated with the Guam build-up that are addressed this year. The Senate Judiciary Committee majority objected to the House-passed provision that would address workforce challenges affecting the health care and construction industries by providing flexibility to U.S. Customs and Immigration Services as it evaluates H-2B visa renewal applications. These industries directly support the military mission on Guam and having an inadequate workforce on island could negatively impact our national security. However, in order to gather additional data and continue to build the argument in order to address the situation in the coming year, there is a reporting requirement that asks the Navy to document the mission specific impacts of a reduced workforce associated with increased denials of these applications. I am deeply disappointed that this tailored provision was not ultimately included in the Conference Report but I will work with the Department of Defense to address this matter in next year's defense bill or any other appropriate legislation next year. Immediately, I will work with USCIS to see if any additional emergency authorities exist to find a temporary solution to the matter so that we do not hold up military construction projects. We must find a more permanent solution to the repeated denials of H-2B labor on Guam so we can have a stable and consistent workforce to meet construction timelines and provide critical health care to the military and residents of Guam.

Additionally, ballooning cost estimates and associated scheduling delays because of Navy requirements for clearance of munitions and explosives of concern have disrupted numerous projects and need to be addressed. While the Navy has demonstrated a commitment to finding a balance that assures public safety while eliminating unnecessary, burdensome, and duplicative requirements, there is more that needs to be done. Early next spring, I expect the Navy to brief us on steps they are taking to mitigate redundancies and find acceptable efficiencies and we will continue to track this issue closely.

Additionally, this bill mandates a review of distinguished Asian American and Pacific Islander war heroes who may have been unjustly overlooked in consideration of the Medal of Honor. I especially want to thank Ranking Member SMITH for his leadership on issues important to Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and working to get that provision included in the Conference report. This review was first conducted for AAPIs who served during World War II, but did not include those who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Similar reviews have been conducted for African, Jewish, and Hispanic Americans and I believe that it is prudent to also conduct a comprehensive review for AAPIs who may have faced similar discrimination. It's important we appropriately recognize those who have given so much in support of our freedoms.

There are numerous provisions in this year's NDAA which help develop or restate our national security priorities in the Asia-Pacific region. We included several provisions which aim to help continue to build our relationship with Taiwan, including requiring a feasibility report on replenishment stops for Taiwanese

midshipmen during their annual exercise in the Pacific as well as encouraging the U.S. and Taiwan to work together to engage in senior military leader exchanges. These will help build our bilateral relationship and provide opportunities for mutual exchange of information and training. This relationship will continue to be a critical asset for U.S. engagement in the region. We also seek to clarify and document aerial and maritime freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea. This requirement tasks the Navy and Air Force with reporting quarterly on important details pertaining to individual operations which are meant to challenge claims to disputed islands in the region and ensure freedom of navigation for all vessels and aircraft. Additionally, this report expresses a Sense of Congress in support of trilateral cooperation between the United States, Japan, and South Korea. Japan and South Korea are important American allies in the region and have taken steps to rebuild their bilateral relationship, which the U.S. must continue to encourage and foster. As we continue a unified approach to countering nuclear proliferation in North Korea, as well as deterring and destroying threats emanating from the unstable regime, there are opportunities to leverage the Guam National Guard in defense of the homeland. Building on discussions I have had with senior Army leaders, the bill report encourages the Department of the Army and the National Guard Bureau to ensure that there are resources made available in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget to integrate the Guam Army National Guard into the security force mission for the THAAD deployed to Guam. Not only does this mission fit perfectly into the Total Force integration for which the Army has been an advocate, it contributes to Active and Reserve Component readiness, and enables the National Guard to utilize their capabilities for the homeland defense mission.

The bill also continues to promote invasive specific prevention and management and regional biosecurity issues and complements appropriations legislation for the Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which require briefing on the Regional Biosecurity Plan on recommendations that will minimize the harmful ecological, social, cultural, and economic impacts of invasive species. This will encourage the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to make progress on implementation of high priority proposals contained within the Plan.

Finally, this bill provides critical funding for a number of Department of Defense programs that are important to Guam, the Asia-Pacific rebalance, and our broader national security interests. We provide critical funding to the Long Range Strike Bomber program and additional funding to keep the fielding of the MQ-4 program on track. There is also \$15 million in additional funding for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program.

Though there needs to be greater allocation of resources for critical programs such as the National Guard State Partnership Program and the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, we were able to protect the President's Budget Request. However, these programs and their significant return on investment merit greater funding contributions.

IN HONOR OF THE ORIGINAL  
CALDWELL GOSPEL SINGERS OF  
SEALE, ALABAMA

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the Original Gospel Singers of Seale, Alabama.

For over 40 years, this family has been spreading the gospel through their musical talents. What started as a duet in 1965, grew to be on television for their first debut on the "Home with Rozell Show" on WRBL in 1969.

The group has traveled to several states and participated in many benefit programs to give back to their community. In 2014, the Russell County Commission dedicated a portion of roadway from Highway 169 South to Uchee Road as the "Original Caldwell Gospel Singers" Road.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing four decades of music by this special group.

RECOGNIZING MARS, INCORPORATED AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS WACO, TEXAS PRODUCTION FACILITY

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mars, Incorporated and the 40th Anniversary of its Waco, Texas production facility.

As a family-owned business since its founding in 1911, Mars has been a leading example of corporate responsibility practices that benefit the communities in which it operates. Guided by five core principles—Quality, Responsibility, Mutuality, Efficiency, and Freedom—Mars has had a positive social and economic impact on many communities within the Seventeenth Congressional District of Texas.

Since 1976, when Mars opened the doors of its facility in Waco the company has provided sustainable economic growth for our community. As such, the Waco facility currently em-

ployes over 550 full time associates, providing reliable jobs for many citizens in the District. The facility is responsible for producing both Mars Chocolate and Wrigley products, including Snickers, Skittles Candies, and Starburst Fruit Chews. In October, Mars announced its intent to combine its Chocolate and Wrigley segments to create Mars Wrigley Confectionery, which will help the company continue to deliver value to customers around the world.

In addition to its commitment to producing high quality products for its consumers, the Waco facility has sought to create an environment that is mutually beneficial to the local community. For example, the Waco facility promotes sustainability and environmental efficiency through the use of a Wetlands Wastewater Treatment Facility, saving three to five million gallons of water each year. The facility also uses locally sourced peanuts in its Snickers bars, and it sponsors the annual Waco Wild West Century Bike Tour to raise money for the American Red Cross. In recognition of its outstanding commitment to diversity and unity in the workplace, the Waco facility recently received the Model of Unity Award from the Community Race Relations Coalition.

On behalf of the Seventeenth Congressional District and the State of Texas, I am pleased to celebrate this important milestone with Mars' Waco facility, and I thank Mars for its continued dedication to our community.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country, and for our military and first responders who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 7

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition  
Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the competitive impact of the AT&T-Time Warner transaction.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation  
in Europe

To receive a briefing on Baltic security after the Warsaw NATO summit.

CHOB-340

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, four years later.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation  
and Merchant Marine Infrastructure,  
Safety and Security

To hold hearings to examine assessing the security of our critical surface transportation infrastructure.

SR-253

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

DECEMBER 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on State Department and  
USAID Management, International Operations,  
and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine State Department and United States Agency for International Development management challenges and opportunities for the next administration.

SD-419