

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEBBIE AND DONALD JOHNSON

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the countless contributions of Debbie and Donald Johnson and the mark they have made on their community in Santa Paula, California. For a quarter of a century, Debbie and Donald have tirelessly served the City of Santa Paula and its residents by chronicling the community's news and happenings.

Santa Paula residents since 1979, Debbie and Donald Johnson founded the twice-weekly Santa Paula Times in 1993, following the closure of the 105-year-old Santa Paula Daily Chronicle, of which Donald was the publisher and Debbie was the office manager. Together they published the Santa Paula Times for 25 years, never missing an issue.

The numerous accolades they have received over the years are a testament to their civic virtue. Debbie and Donald Johnson have been honored as the 2015 Citizens of the Year by the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce; the 2015 Jesse Victoria Business of the Year Award by the Latino Town Hall; and the 1994 and 2009 Business of the Year Award; as well as the 1991 Good Practices Award by the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Donald is a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the United States Army from 1968 to 1970. For his distinguished service, he received the Bronze Star, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Donald continued his public service by serving two terms on the Santa Paula City Council and was appointed as mayor twice.

Debbie Johnson was president of the Downtown Merchants Association, which staged the annual Hot Summer Jazz and Art. Both Donald and Debbie are co-founders of the Citizens Patrol and founding directors of the Santa Paula Police and Fire Foundations, and Debbie has been a leading force for the annual Moonlight at the Ranch fundraiser that benefits public safety organizations in the region.

Debbie and Donald Johnson strongly support many charitable activities in Santa Paula and have been lauded for their steadfast commitment to organizations including the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce, the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Paula, the Santa Paula Optimist Club, and the Santa Paula Education Foundation.

For these reasons, it is my honor to recognize Debbie and Donald Johnson for their dedicated efforts in serving the Santa Paula community and embodying a level of civic engagement and participation to which we should all aspire. I thank Donald and Debbie

for establishing the Santa Paula Times, a local journalistic institution that will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING MIKE LOVE OF THE BEACH BOYS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Love, a founding member of The Beach Boys, one of the most popular rock groups in history. Love has spent an extraordinary fifty-five years and counting as the group's lead singer and one of its principal lyricists, with thirteen Gold albums, fifty-five Top 100 singles, and four number-one hits. He has received an Ella Award for his songwriting and, as a member of The Beach Boys, is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the California Hall of Fame, the Vocal Group Hall of Fame and he has received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Beach Boys, from their California roots to their international fame, are a unique American story, one of overnight success, age-defying longevity, musical genius and spirituality. Mike Love is the only band member to be part of it each and every step of the way. It's an American story of how a sheet metal apprentice became the quintessential front man for one of America's most successful rock bands, singing in more than 5,600 concerts in twenty-six countries.

Love wrote the lyrics for pop classics such as "Good Vibrations," "California Girls," "Surfin' USA," and "Kokomo." Mike's partnership with his cousin Brian Wilson has few equals in American pop music, though Mike has carved out a legacy of his own. He co-wrote the lyrics to eleven of the twelve original Beach Boys songs that were Top 10 hits while providing the lead vocals on ten of them. The band's unprecedented durability also provides a glimpse into America's changing cultural mores over the past half century.

Mike's latest solo album, "Unleash the Love," was released in November 2017 with his hope that "if we all can unleash whatever love inside of us, we can collectively make this world better." His memoir, *Good Vibrations: My Life as a Beach Boy*, released in 2016 and is a New York Times bestseller.

A husband, a father, and an avid environmentalist, Love's life is as rich and layered as The Beach Boys' harmonies themselves. Love has been married to his wife, Jacquelyne Piesen, since 1994 and has eight children: Brian Love, Ambha Love, Michael Love, Jr., Melinda Love, Summer Love, Christian Love, Teresa Love and Hayleigh Love.

COMMENDING NORTH JERSEY MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the mayors of Sussex and Warren Counties, who convened last month for my Fifth District Mayors Summit. I'm proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these leaders to save taxpayer dollars, invest in critical infrastructure, improve rural broadband connectivity, and provide law enforcement and firefighters with the resources they need to protect our communities.

In North Jersey, we are paying far too much in taxes and getting far too little in return. My District pays some of the highest taxes in the nation, yet we receive only 33 cents back for every dollar we send to Washington. Compare that rate to that of the "Moocher States" including Mississippi, whose citizens receive \$4.38 back for every dollar they send to D.C. These states are giving themselves relief and sticking New Jersey with the bill.

We must continue working hard at the local level to stop New Jersey from becoming America's piggy bank. With the new challenges created by the recently passed Tax Hike Bill, we have to be more creative than ever in bringing federal dollars to the District and fighting for federal grants to boost our return on investment. Our mayors have already seen record successes in earning grants that support our cops, firefighters, and towns. For example, in Wantage Township, the Fire Department received \$102,000 in federal funds for safety and operations through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program—the first AFG grant awarded to Wantage in thirteen years.

In Belvidere, the town received more than \$1 million in federal excess equipment programs—more than \$857 per family—through which the Police Department and Department of Public Works received equipment. That equipment included fifteen workstation computers, a network server, trucks, trailers, and six generators that can function as an electric power plant and provide electricity to the Fire Department, Police Department, and two storm shelters in the event of a major storm. Our work together is about fighting for North Jersey and helping our residents reduce their tax burden.

I am leaving no stone unturned in clawing back federal resources for New Jersey and hope that by shining a light on these public servants, our mayors can build on their success, and save more money for their towns and taxpayers. There is nothing partisan about this; it's just good for New Jersey.

This year, I am thankful for the fourteen mayors and leaders who attended our summit, rolled up their sleeves, and put in the week-end hours to help strengthen their towns:

• 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.

Hackettstown Mayor Maria DiGiovanni
 Andover Borough Mayor John Morgan
 Andover Township Mayor Janis McGovern
 Allamuchy Mayor Keith DeTombour
 Mansfield Township Mayor Joseph Watters
 Washington Borough Mayor Dave Higgins
 Hope Mayor Timothy McDonough
 Newton Mayor Wayne Levante
 Independence Mayor Robert Giordano
 Allamuchy Deputy Mayor Elliott Koppel
 Hackettstown Councilman Matt Engellau
 Hackettstown Councilman Jerry DiMaio
 Hackettstown Councilman James Lambo
 Hackettstown Councilman Scott Sheldon
 I thank them for their service. I am lucky to partner with this bipartisan group for the good of the Fifth District.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
 PHILIP JOHN CARRIGAN, JR.

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER
 OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Philip Carrigan, a dear friend and extraordinary community leader, for his dedicated service to Lake County as a lifelong advocate and volunteer.

It is hard to find a community organization or charity in Lake County not touched by Phil's tireless activity. He worked closely with the Waukegan Township-based transitional housing programs for people experiencing homelessness at Eddie Washington Center House and Staben House. He was also particularly dedicated to his regular Friday shift at the PADS Lake County homeless shelter, and one year even threw his birthday party there rather than miss a week.

Phil was an active volunteer with local prison reform groups, the John Howard Society and Prisoner Visitation and Support, and worked with the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism to help former inmates reintegrate into and succeed in society after serving their time.

In 2005, Phil was elected as a trustee of the College of Lake County Board, where he served two six-year terms. CLC board Chairman Richard Anderson described Phil as, "a dedicated supporter of CLC's students, a strong advocate for the Waukegan community and a person of extreme integrity."

The Faith Food Pantry in Zion, the Lake County Community Action Project, the CEASE FIRE Advisory Council, the Lake County NAACP board, and many other organizations benefited from Phil's activism as well.

Professionally, Dr. Carrigan began his career as a pharmacist in Boston. He later moved to Lake County in 1974 to begin work with Abbott Laboratories, where he worked for 30 years, primarily in pharmaceutical research and development. In recognition of his important contributions to the field, Dr. Carrigan was inducted into the Volwiler Society at the company.

Phil will be remembered for his big heart and sage wisdom, and as a friend and supporter of all those in the Lake County community. He will be missed by the many people whose lives were touched by his service.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Phil's wife Mary Clare Jakes; daughter Erin Carrigan; and the many other family, friends,

and colleagues who were changed by his life and now mourn his loss.

COMMON SENSE NUTRITION
 DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 772, the so-called "Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017," which would deprive American consumers of the full benefit of the Menu Labeling Rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration scheduled to go into effect on May 7, 2018.

The Menu Labeling Rule provides consumers with nutritional information on the foods they purchase which is critically needed given rates of obesity and diabetes at crisis levels across the country.

Mr. Speaker, more than two-thirds of adults and one-third of children are considered to be overweight or obese.

Additionally, on average, Americans consume roughly one-third of their calories, and nearly half of their total food spending, on food prepared outside the home.

For this reason, access to nutritional information at the point of sale is an important tool for consumers to make informed nutrition decisions.

Unfortunately, H.R. 772 will undo the important progress made to implement federal menu labeling standards and will lead to consumer and industry confusion.

Consumers deserve transparency and industry deserves certainty, and the bill will lead to less of both.

Specifically, I oppose the bill because it:

1. Increases consumer confusion and allows deceptive portion sizes;
2. Removes consumer's right to information regardless of the location of purchase;
3. Removes the American people and the FDA's ability to ensure compliance; and
4. Delays needed transparency and undoes years of work by the FDA.

Current law requires menu boards to display calorie information for foods in portions that people would realistically be expected to eat.

However, H.R. 772 would permit establishments to display misleading calorie counts, such as by listing a single sandwich as "4 servings."

H.R. 772 removes the requirement that menu labeling be available at all points of purchase.

In a business sells 51 percent of sales online, restaurants would not be required to provide nutritional information to the remaining 49 percent of consumers.

Consumers should not lose access to nutritional information based on where they decide to purchase their meal.

This bill removes the responsibility of businesses to certify they remain compliant with menu labeling requirements and shields establishments from any civil lawsuits for non-compliance.

This removes important tools to hold businesses accountable and ensure Americans receive the transparency they want and deserve when eating out.

Since 2010 when menu labeling requirements were placed into law FDA has worked extensively with stakeholders to enact the law in a manner that works for both consumers and businesses.

Most recently, in November 2017, FDA published additional guidance to help answer remaining questions related to compliance and ensure all covered establishments have the tools they need to comply.

H.R. 772, however, would require FDA to expend significant resources to revise the final menu labeling rule, leading to extensive delays and greater confusion given that many businesses have already begun implementation of the menu labeling requirements as they currently stand.

Under H.R. 772, changes to menu labeling requirements would make access to information on menu labels more difficult for consumers.

Americans must be able to know what is in their food to make healthy choices.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the final rule enacted by the Food and Drug Administration.

It was the result of a deliberate multi-year process that included input from officials in the food industry, government and public health.

This bill is unnecessary as the FDA's recent guidance already addresses the bill's concern.

Chain food service establishments have had years to prepare for compliance with the requirements.

Many of these establishments have already changed their menus in anticipation of the May 5, 2018 deadlines.

The May 7, 2018 deadline is actually the third extension of previous deadlines, dating back to December 1, 2016.

Consumers must be able to have all available information to make informed, healthy choices for themselves and their families.

I urge all Members to vote against this ill-advised and anti-consumer measure.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
 OF MR. THOMAS COREY

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I dedicate my time today to a man, who as a resident of Jupiter, Florida, I am honored to represent in Congress. His name is Mr. Thomas Corey, a decorated Vietnam hero who proudly served our country as a combat infantryman.

During the 1968 Tet Offensive, he received an enemy round in the neck that hit his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed and a quadriplegic for life. But this did not stop him from dedicating his life and work to our veterans, and our country.

Since then, he has done extraordinary work: he has served on many Advisory Boards with local governments, and with the VA Medical Centers in West Palm Beach and Miami, the VA Research Foundation of Palm Beaches, VSIN 8 Management Assistance Council, Friends of Veterans Board, Friends of Fisher House Board, as President of the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative, and as the founding president of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Palm Beach County Chapter.

Mr. Corey has even returned to Vietnam 16 times since 1994, representing the Vietnam Veterans of America's Veterans Initiative program dedicated to recovery efforts for our Vietnam Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action, as well as to studies on the health effects of Agent Orange. In that capacity, he met with top Vietnamese and Laos leaders, leaders and members of the Veterans Association of Vietnam, U.S. Ambassadors, and the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in Vietnam and Laos. For these extraordinary efforts, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace prize. He was also the first recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Commendation Medal, the VV A's highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community.

He is also a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1st Cavalry Association and the National Association of Uniformed Services.

To this day, Mr. Corey is still fighting for his fellow veterans, serving as Ombudsman and Program Specialist with the Director's Office at the West Palm Beach VA. I can't think of anyone who has given more for his comrades, and for his country, than Mr. Thomas Corey, and I could not be prouder to represent him in Congress.

EL GÜERO CANELO WINS JAMES
BEARD AWARD

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Daniel Contreras, the owner of the famed El Güero Canelo restaurant for receiving a James Beard Award for his world-famous Sonoran hot dog. El Güero Canelo won this prestigious award in a special category called "American Classics," which honors restaurants that are "cherished for quality food that reflects the character of the community." I cannot think of a better choice that reflects the cuisine and culture of Tucson.

Contreras' restaurant, El Güero Canelo, is emblematic of the merging of Mexican and American culture that makes Tucson so special. The restaurant has a storied history in the region and is representative of how one immigrant from Mexico with hard work, dedication, and drive can achieve the American Dream.

Born in Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, Contreras experienced the trials of economic hardship, spending his days playing baseball while dreaming of a professional career. Like so many before him, Contreras left his native Mexico for Tucson, Arizona in search of a better life and lured by the promise of the American Dream. He worked long hours as a dishwasher in local restaurants until he decided to take a risk and open up a hot dog stand in 1993, which became the birthplace of the legendary El Güero Canelo. From that tiny hot dog stand, his business has grown to include three restaurants in Tucson and one in Phoenix.

In addition to his immeasurable contributions to the gastronomy of Tucson, Contreras is an upstanding member of the community, dedicated to serving others. He is an active

member of his church and frequently visits state prisons to speak with incarcerated individuals on how to prevent alcoholism.

Contreras' story demonstrates the power of the American Dream and the persistent, entrepreneurial spirit of our immigrant community. Thank you Daniel Contreras for your contributions to Tucson, and I look forward to enjoying a James Beard award-winning Sonoran hot dog.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE BLACK
COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2018

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, during the State of the Union speech last week, many of us did not applaud the President as he assumed responsibility for the lowest rate of Black unemployment ever recorded. The simple truth is that while Black unemployment reached its lowest level in decades, the rate has been in steady decline for the last seven years, a credit to the Obama Administration President Trump so often maligns.

It is also true that while gains have been made, the Black unemployment rates fall short of that for White workers. The President has failed to acknowledge that just in the last month, Black unemployment jumped nearly a full percentage point, from 6.8 percent to 7.7 percent, and continues to be nearly double that of White workers.

If Black unemployment figures were the overall national figures, the country would be facing or nearly facing an economic recession. Yet, this Administration's policies continue to take aim at too many of us, especially African Americans and other communities of color.

Black unemployment has consistently been about double that of white employment. Sadly, other statistics mirror what amounts to a persistent racial wealth divide:

90 percent of White households live above the poverty line compared to 75 of Black households;

71 percent of White households are homeowners compared to 41 percent of Black households; and

In 2016, white families had a median net worth of \$171,000, compared with \$17,600 for Black families.

There is no doubt the persistent wealth disparity is rooted in federal policies that build and preserve the racial wealth divide since the institution of slavery. The Social Security Act of 1935 provides just one example. The Act's passage laid the groundwork to aid the elderly after the Great Depression. Yet, the Act excluded about one-third of all American workers, including farmworkers and domestic workers—who were predominately people of color. For African Americans, the cost of exclusion from the Social Security Act of 1935 resulted in a loss of benefits totaling \$143.2 billion in 2016 dollars.

Similarly, federal housing policies from 1934 to 1968, which sought to make homeownership accessible to more families, shut out black families from homeownership through the practice of redlining.

Unfortunately, the racial wealth gap shows no sign of letting up under the Trump Adminis-

tration. His economic policies offer dim prospects for African Americans and other communities of color.

The President's lopsided tax cut transferred massive amounts of wealth to those who are already wealthy at the expense of everyone else. The tax cuts add at least \$1.5 trillion to the national deficit, with likely offsets to earned benefits and social safety net programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP—programs many families depend on. The cuts rob the American people of resources that could put people to work building infrastructure, or be invested in public education, child care, and health care.

Trump's first year budget was equally alarming. Proposed cuts to the Minority Business Development Agency, Community Development Block Grants, and the Economic Development Administration, among countless others, will almost certainly diminish the ability of underserved communities to get ahead.

These are not the actions of an Administration interested in helping all Americans. It is time the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress start acting on behalf of all Americans, and not just a few. It is time to turn words, cheers, and applause into meaningful action and help ensure economic justice for all.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF
MERCIER ORCHARDS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mercier Orchards' 75th anniversary, which took place on January 19.

In 1943, Bill and Adele Mercier acted on their dream to own a homegrown apple orchard by purchasing a 27-acre plot of land in Fannin County. What began as an apple orchard, though, eventually grew to include a market, winery, restaurant, and wedding venue.

Four generations and 75 harvests later, Mercier Orchards has grown into one of Georgia's top destinations for our state's booming agritourism industry. Each year brings in over 600,000 visitors from across the country, and the company now ships its apples, fried pies, and other delicious treats to people around the world.

Mercier Orchards' continued success attests to the strength of this family-run business. By encouraging each other through the poor harvests, the Mercier family was able to persevere together, using their business to make a positive impact on northeast Georgia.

I congratulate Mercier Orchards on 75 fruitful years and wish the family the best as they continue to celebrate this milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RABBI
ISAIAH ZELDIN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Congressman TED

LIEU, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, and Congressman LEE ZELDIN to pay tribute to the visionary Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, who passed away at the age of 97.

Rabbi Zeldin was the founder and spiritual leader of Stephen Wise Temple.

Stephen Wise Temple is located on an 18-acre mountain between the San Fernando Valley and the Westside of Los Angeles. The Temple started in 1964 with just 35 families and grew into one of the largest Reform Jewish synagogues and schools in the world.

Rabbi Zeldin transformed Jewish education in Los Angeles as an advocate for building Jewish day schools in the Reform movement. Thousands of students have now been educated at the Temple's educational venues which came to include a pre-school, elementary school, high school, and religious school.

Rabbi Zeldin was known for speaking from his heart on the pulpit, usually without any notes. He was a champion for issues ranging from access to education, affordable housing, and support for the state of Israel. Rabbi Zeldin inspired in future generations a desire to care for others and set an example of inclusiveness by welcoming Jews of all denominations, as well as non-Jews to the synagogue.

The Los Angeles community mourns the loss of its Rabbi, leader, teacher, mentor, and friend. We give thanks for the incredible legacy he leaves behind and for his many contributions to our community and the Jewish People.

We send our sincerest condolences to Rabbi Zeldin's children, Joel and Karen, and Michael and Terry; his brother, Bernard; his grandchildren, Sivan and Igor, Sasha and Dustin, Oren and Noga, Gabe, and Noam; and his great-grandchildren, Eytan, Ilan, Alina, Liam, Stav, Evan and Ido.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call No. 60 (on the Motion to Concur in the House Amendment to Senate Amendment to H.R. 1892—Further Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018). Had I been present, I would have voted No.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1892, HONORING HOMETOWN HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I will vote no on H. Res. 727 because of my strong objections to the Republican majority's refusal to do Congress' work on time and their rejection of regular order for debate on critical national priorities.

H. Res. 727 makes in order H.R. 1892. This bill is entitled the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act, but in its current form this legislation has

nothing to do with recognizing our first responders. In fact, the version of H.R. 1892 the House will consider under H. Res. 727 denies our first responders the certainty they deserve by providing them just 43 days of federal funding.

Discord and delay is no way to run our government. Instead of playing political games, it is time that Republicans join Democrats to reach a bipartisan budget agreement that keeps our government open, protects our national security, and meets our commitments to hardworking families.

HONORING THE CITY OF BEDFORD FOR PROVIDING EARLY CANCER DETECTION SCREENING TO ITS FIREFIGHTERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary leadership of the City of Bedford for being the first city in the United States to provide early cancer detection blood testing to its fire department.

According to the International Association of Firefighters, cancer is now the leading cause of death among firefighters. During fire suppression and overhaul activities, firefighters may be exposed to smoke and other byproducts of combustion, many of which contain known carcinogens. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that firefighters have a 14 percent higher rate of cancer incidence as compared to the general population.

For departments across the country, these are more than just statistics; it is a reality that firefighters and their loved ones feel acutely. After experiencing firsthand the losses of both retired and active firefighters due to cancer, the City of Bedford took action. Earlier this year, the Bedford City Council—working with the Bedford Professional Firefighter's Association and Fire Chief Sean Patrick Fay—voted to provide early cancer detection blood testing to the fire department. With this test, Bedford firefighters have an advanced tool to help detect the possible presence of cancer in its beginning stages, giving them the best chance to fight the disease.

The firefighters of Bedford put themselves at tremendous risk day in and day out to ensure the safety of their community. I am profoundly encouraged by the implementation of the early cancer detection screening program and am certain that this is the first of many steps we can take to enhance protection for our firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the outstanding and proactive leadership of the City of Bedford and the brave men and women of the Bedford Fire Department.

HONORING SIMEON BOOKER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Simeon Booker, who passed away on December 10 at the age of 99.

Simeon Booker was a trailblazer for African Americans in journalism, becoming the first black reporter at The Washington Post before continuing his distinguished career as the Washington Bureau Chief of Jet and Ebony magazines.

Simeon's tireless dedication to uncovering the truth and seeking justice was pivotal to the civil rights movement. In 1955, Simeon traveled to Mississippi, and his story on the brutal murder of Emmett Till sent reverberations of shock, anger, and pain throughout the country. Later in the 1960s, Simeon's time with the Freedom Riders drew attention to the great dangers faced by civil rights activists and shined light on their hope and courage for change.

Throughout his life, Simeon fought hard to bring voice to narratives that might otherwise have been covered over and lost, and his words have galvanized change.

I have always looked to Simeon as a role model and leader in fighting for freedom and equality. I am deeply honored to have considered him a friend and to have learned from his compassion, bravery, and fierce love for others.

I offer my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Simeon Booker.

HONORING PETER MCINTOSH

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabun County's Peter McIntosh, a northeast Georgia photographer who has dedicated years to producing scenic snapshots of our mountain home.

Recently, the Georgia Council for the Arts selected three of McIntosh's photographs to hang in the state Capitol as part of its "Art of Georgia III: Celebrating Home" exhibit. The three photographs—"Chattahoochee Headwaters," "Tallulah Watershed Sunrise," and "Sunset—Blackrock Mountain State Park"—were selected as part of the exhibit's "North Georgia" category, which represents 76 of the state's counties.

This year will mark the third year that McIntosh's work has been selected for this honor. Like his previous photographs, this year's collection will take their place on the walls of the Gold Dome, magnifying our state's natural beauty and cultural traditions.

I stand with Governor Deal in congratulating Peter McIntosh on his work and look forward to seeing the next sights he captures.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
MICHELE K. LAMONTAGNE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Michele K. LaMontagne, who currently serves as Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Air National Guard and was recently promoted to Brigadier General.

Brig. Gen. LaMontagne began her military career as a student at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Right after graduation, she set in motion her interest in aircraft and munitions maintenance during an officer course at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. When she was being commissioned, she had to select the job she would eventually like to do. After speaking with officers about the opportunities to lead as many people as possible, they recommended maintenance.

Her assignments, over the last 24 years, have taken her to South Carolina, Republic of Korea, Nevada, Colorado and finally Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. At each of these bases, she served primarily in maintenance operations, eventually becoming a Maintenance Squadron Commander and a Wing Inspector General for the New Mexico Air National Guard.

In 2012, Brig. Gen. LaMontagne served as Director of Staff for the New Mexico Air National Guard, was promoted to Director of Support, Maintenance Group Commander and today serves as Chief of Staff. Her responsibilities include planning and executing employees during contingency and domestic operations in federal and state emergencies and developing positions and recommendations on issues, including mission requirements, placement of units and future missions.

Throughout her career, Brig. Gen. LaMontagne has received many awards and decorations including a Meritorious Service Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal, a National Defense Service Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. LaMontagne also works as a business coach at Rio Grande, a Berkshire Hathaway Company, and specializes in project management, people development, human resources management, distribution operations, IT Strategy, and many other challenging areas. In both of her careers, she insists that the people that depend on her drive her to do her best.

I would like to congratulate Brig. Gen. Michele K. LaMontagne, one of very few women who have been bestowed with the rank of Brigadier General, for her many years of service to our nation as a member of the Air Force and her continued commitment as a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Mon-

day, February 5. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call votes 51 and 52.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS FROM DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Protecting Independent Contractors from Discrimination Act to extend to independent contractors the same federal anti-discrimination protections enjoyed by employees. My bill would extend the antidiscrimination protections of the following statutes, which apply to employees, to independent contractors: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

In a Bureau of Labor Statistics 2005 analysis of the American workforce, approximately seven percent were considered independent contractors. That number has surely only grown in the 13 years since that analysis with the growth of the so-called "gig economy." These workers, who often do the same work as employees, have almost none of the protections guaranteed to employees, including health insurance, collective bargaining, retirement security and even antidiscrimination. My bill focuses only on the employment discrimination, such as discrimination based on race, age and gender, from which every worker is entitled to be free.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF REP. CARLOS TRUJILLO TO SERVE AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the appointment of my good friend, Florida State Representative Carlos Trujillo, to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Organization of the American States.

In the Florida Legislature, Carlos serves as the Chair of the Appropriations Committee and Alternating Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee where he executes his kind approach and strong leadership. I had the privilege to serve alongside Carlos in the Florida Legislature, and witnessed firsthand how his straightforward approach earned him respect from both sides of the aisle.

I was pleased to hear of his recent appointment by President Trump as Ambassador to the Organization of the American States. I can assure you that he will do well in advancing the American principles of freedom and pros-

perity on the global stage. His background in law and his natural talent for negotiating ensure that for him, success is inevitable.

Carlos is a family man, and his success is strongly supported by a strong, loving family consisting of his wife Carmen and his children Carlos Manuel, Isabella Alba, Juan Pablo, and Felipe Andres.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Florida State Representative, and my friend, Carlos Trujillo on his appointment to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of the American States.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EMILY ANNE STAPLES TUTTLE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emily Anne Staples Tuttle. Emily Anne passed away on January 13th at age 88. Born May 3, 1929, she is warmly remembered by her three children, Missy, Kathryn, and Gregory, four stepsons and 16 grandchildren and step-grandchildren as a beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Emily Anne's family and many friends will gather on February 12th, to celebrate her remarkable life and legacy.

Emily Anne was also a bold community leader who led by example. After a career in business, she became the first woman member of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party to be elected to the State Senate in 1976. As a legislator, she distinguished herself as a trailblazer for gender equality and a champion for underserved communities. Following her legislative service, she was elected as a Hennepin County Commissioner, served as a candidate for Lt. Governor in 1990. Later she served as an advisor to Governor Jesse Ventura. Throughout her career in public service, she demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence in all she did.

Her dedication to serving others continued long after her government service, and is defined by her drive to promote women, education, health care and the arts. Among the many institutions and organizations she helped to found and sustain were the first Minnesota Women's Political Caucus, the first Women's Institute for Social Change and the United Nations Association of Minnesota. She was active with numerous boards and organizations, including the University of Minnesota, the Guthrie Theater and Abbot Northwestern Hospital Foundation.

It was a pleasure to know and work with Emily Anne. I valued our friendship and was always grateful for the many kindnesses she showed me and my fellow women elected officials. She truly was one of a kind and will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the remarkable life of Emily Anne Staples Tuttle.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
EARL WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished athlete, educator, spiritual leader, and dear friend of longstanding, Reverend Earl Williams, Jr. A memorial service will be held in his honor on Thursday, February 7, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Disciples of Jesus Ministries located at 228 Augusta Avenue in Thomasville, Georgia.

Earl was born in Thomasville, Georgia in 1931, to the late Billy and Flossie Adams-Williams. A product of Thomas County School System, he graduated from Douglass High School in 1953 and went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from Fort Valley State University (then College) and a Master's Degree in Administration from Valdosta State University.

In 1953, he played baseball in the Negro National League with Jacksonville Eagles before signing a professional contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1955, and playing in both the Mid-Western and Pennsylvania Leagues. After retiring from baseball, he became the assistant baseball coach at Fort Valley State University and a scout for the Baltimore Orioles.

In addition to being an admired athlete, Earl was also an influential educator. In 1971, he served as a teacher and later as the assistant principal at Magnolia-Chappelle Middle School (then Magnolia Junior High School), before being promoted to the role of principal in 1972. After the closing of the campus in 1990, he transitioned to Central Middle School, where he served as the principal, until his retirement in 2000.

A trailblazer offirsts, Earl was the first African-American President of G.A.E. (Georgia Association of Educators) of Thomas County, the first African-American City Commissioner of Thomasville in 1982 (re-elected in 1984), the first African-American Mayor of Thomasville in 1986 (re-elected in 1988) and the first African-American Chairman of the Salvation Army. In addition to those milestones, when he served our nation honorably in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) at Camp Lejeune, he continued to play baseball and became the first African-American to play on a USMC Base traveling team. He was also the Grand Inspector General of the S.P. Jones Masonic Lodge No. 118 and a longtime member of the Albany Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Furthermore, he received numerous awards including G.A.E. Administrator of the Year; Salvation Army Man of the Year; an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Faith College; NAACP; inductions into the Thomasville-Thomas County Sports Hall of Fame, the Fort Valley State University Alumni Hall of Fame; a Distinguished Service Award from Thomasville/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and Outstanding Service Award which I had the pleasure of presenting to him.

Earl accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible

without the love and support of his late wife, Faye, his five children, his nine grandchildren, and the countless others who impacted his life over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in extending our gratitude for the life and legacy of Reverend Earl Williams, Jr. and our sincere condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time. I pray that we may all be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to his beloved family and to all those whose lives he touched through his kindness and generosity.

RECOGNIZING ARLETTE GOMEZ AND GISELLE TOVAR

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arlette Gomez and Giselle Tovar, two students at Johnson High School in my home of Gainesville. Recently, these two young women put on an event for local foster children in order to encourage foster children and families.

As members of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Club in their school, they wanted to take on a project that would allow them to help children in the Gainesville area. After researching the county's foster care system, these two students decided to work on a project that would prioritize foster children.

On January 20, Arlette and Giselle hosted "A Luau to Foster Joy" at Johnson High School, an event designed to cultivate friendships among the children in attendance. Additionally, the event helped raise awareness of the county's foster care system.

In Hall County, there are currently 270 children in foster care with only 60 families willing to welcome them into their homes. By hosting this event, Arlette and Giselle hope to inspire more families to open their doors to children in need.

Northeast Georgia is proud to have students like Arlette and Giselle, who aspire to make a difference in our corner of the world. I wish these two young women the best as they continue their studies and work to highlight the local foster care system.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2018

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I strongly commend Ranking Member LARSON and Chairman JOHNSON on their bipar-

tisan bill to dramatically improve the Social Security Representative Payee program. We have a responsibility to ensure that this system is strong and fair to protect our vulnerable citizens. In addition to the multiple improvements in oversight and quality, I want to thank Representatives LARSON and JOHNSON for including provisions to improve the Rep Payee program for foster youth for which I advocated.

Currently, when foster youth receive Social Security benefits because they are disabled or their parent is deceased, disabled, or retired, it is common practice for State child welfare agencies to take the children's benefits for state revenue rather than preserving these funds for the youth's current or future needs. We have very poor understanding of who serves as representative payees for foster youth and whether they conserve the funds for these youth. This bill requires long-overdue data coordination between the Social Security Administration and state foster care programs. Requiring this data coordination is critical to ensuring that we know who is serving in the important fiduciary role for foster youth. Right now, we have no clear understanding of the number of foster youth with representative payees, whether those payees are state agencies or family members, and whether the funds are conserved for foster youth or used to plug holes in state budgets.

Just last month, the Social Security Advisory Board recommended improving the Representative Payee Program related to foster youth. The Board pointed out that state foster care agencies routinely are assigned automatically as the payee without any analysis if there is a better choice available. The Board highlighted that there can be an inherent conflict of interest in designating a state entity as payee given that the interests of foster care programs may conflict with the interests of the foster youth. The data required by this bill will help Social Security better focus on payee determination for foster youth to ensure that the payee will act in the best interest of the child. Further, it will provide data to help us understand how often state agencies are serving in this capacity and how they are using these funds. To advance this understanding, the bill requires a GAO study on minor beneficiaries in foster care and their representative payees.

In addition, this bill protects foster youth from overpayment errors made by the state. Under current law, if an overpayment occurs and the state foster care agency is the beneficiary, the foster youth is responsible for repaying the overpayment. This bill includes a protection so that if a state agency is the representative payee and an overpayment is made, the state and not the foster youth is responsible for the overpayment the state received.

These improvements are critical to improving the representative payee program for vulnerable foster youth. I am grateful to Ranking Member LARSON and Chairman JOHNSON for working to strengthen the Representative Payee program to protect vulnerable citizens and for including these significant protections and transparency provisions to support foster youth.

TRIBUTE TO MARK ABERNATHY

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mark Abernathy, an incredible individual, close friend and trusted confidant, and to celebrate his life and service to our community in California's Central Valley, the great state of California, and our country. Mark will be missed by so many that have been influenced by his political acumen, his unparalleled wit, and his spirit and passion for his neighbors and community. He passed away on January 27, 2018, and I know that our community joins me in mourning this loss.

Mark was born and raised in the Land of Lincoln, appropriate given that the principles of Abraham Lincoln was a seminal influence that would eventually shape much of Mark's patriotism and worldview. From a young age, Mark learned the value of hard work and perseverance while growing up on the family farm with his sister Jill, his brother Mike, and his cousins, growing corn and raising hogs. During that time, he developed an adoration for baseball—and especially the St. Louis Cardinals—that would remain with him for the rest of his life. Mark attended Western Illinois University and paid his tuition fees by literally “singing for his supper” as a guitar player and singer for the “The Rising Sons,” a country western band that he was a member of all throughout college. He graduated with degrees in agriculture and biology and felt a call to serve his country shortly after, joining the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and serving as a Captain and electronic warfare officer from 1968 to 1972.

The Air Force eventually brought Mark to California, where he first uncovered a natural talent for campaigning and an interest in local politics. While stationed at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, he served as Chair of the Fairlake Young Republicans Club, where he met Cathy Swajian, who would become the love of his life and inseparable partner while raising two daughters and becoming a fixture in Republican politics.

Bakersfield welcomed the Abernathys when they moved in 1981, and Mark became involved in state and local politics through when he founded his political consulting firm, Western Pacific Research, which would grow to influence and create some of the most effective Young Republican groups and elect many elected officials on the local, state, and national levels through grassroots political campaigns. Mark was the type of person who never gave up—whether that meant working all throughout the night to finalize and execute campaign messaging or strategy, or just walking door to door to register voters and share his passion for community engagement. He adhered, and he made sure his campaigns adhered, to the values and principles enshrined in our Constitution and our nation's founding documents. Yet his great emphasis toward civic responsibility was only surpassed by his devotion to his faith and to his family, never missing a softball game or the opportunity to take his beloved daughters, Margaret and Madeline, to a baseball game. He was a

man of exceptional character and talent, and his unparalleled 97 percent candidate victory record serves as a simple testament to the success he had in mastering his craft.

Perhaps most telling of Mark's legacy are the many currently-serving elected officials whom he worked with and helped to shape, myself included. Many of my closest friends and colleagues in the Central Valley—as well as former Governor Schwarzenegger during the gubernatorial recall campaign—worked with and listened to Mark in order to win their campaigns and serve the community and country that has given so much to us all. Mark always stressed the importance of involving our youth in politics and bringing a sense of passion to all that one does. Mark's political talent made him incredible, but his devotion to God and ability to inspire faith in others is what made him exceptional. He never gave up hope that goodness and God's will would prevail with hard work and belief.

The city of Bakersfield, Kern County and the State of California have lost a brilliant mind and an integral citizen of the community, and Judy and I have lost a treasured friend. His passing was a shock to those who knew him, and we will miss his advice, humor, tenacity and character for years to come. But he will be remembered as a leader who inspired generations of Republicans to fight for their principles and beliefs and to remain bold in strengthening the ties among faith, family and community. On behalf of the House and the 23rd Congressional District of California, we remember the remarkable life of Mark Abernathy and extend our most heartfelt condolences to his wife, Cathy, and daughters, Margaret and Madeline.

HONORING EDWIN HAWKINS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Edwin Hawkins, who passed away on January 15th at the age of 74.

An Oakland native, Edwin was a four-time Grammy winner and gospel music trailblazer, whose work inspired generations and helped shape the contemporary Gospel music industry.

His crossover hit, “Oh Happy Day”, was featured in the hit movie “Sister Act 2”, reached No. 4 on the Billboard pop chart and No. 2 on the R&B pop chart. And in 2007, he was voted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame.

Edwin was truly a man before his time. He was compassionate, caring, and never wavered from his faith.

I have known Ed for many years and he was a source of inspiration for me personally. He always spoke words of encouragement and like so many others, I am deeply grateful for his love and kindness, which brought me peace and joy over the years.

I offer my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Edwin Hawkins.

CONGRATULATING JIM WOODS ON RETIRING FROM HIS ROLE OF PLATTSBURGH HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Woods on retiring from his role as Plattsburgh Highway Superintendent.

For the past 30 years, Jim has been a dedicated member and leader of the Plattsburgh Highway Department. Jim joined the department on January 4, 1988, and served as the Deputy Highway Superintendent for four years before becoming the Highway Superintendent in 2011. As Superintendent, Jim oversaw the year-round maintenance of over 90 miles of road, working to ensure safe travel for North Country residents.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank Jim for his three decades of hard work and dedication to his community, and wish him all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE SERGEANT (SGT) DONNIE LEO FORD LEVENS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Sergeant (Sgt) Donnie Leo Ford Levens who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2006, during Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt Levens was killed when two CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters crashed into the Gulf of Aden near Ras Siyyan, northern Djibouti, while on a training mission in the Godoria Range area.

Sgt Levens of Long Beach, MS, was assigned to the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Air Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, New River, N.C. He was deployed to Djibouti as part of the U.S.-led Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, a counterterrorism force. Sgt Levens was an Aircraft Ordnance Technician.

Sgt Levens's mother Margaret and brother Matt honored Sgt Levens by completing their studies at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in 2006. Margaret Levens said Donnie's courage inspired her to go back to school and earn a degree. President George W. Bush delivered the commencement address at the graduation ceremony held in Biloxi. President Bush praised Sgt Levens for his service and sacrifice.

Sgt Levens will be remembered for his courage and determination to keep America safe.

REMEMBERING JOHN GADSDEN
THORNHILL

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, it's been said that while every man must die, not every man gets to live. That choice that we all have in running to embrace life and all of its possibilities is tragically a choice that many people don't make. This was never the case for John G. His life was marked by the way that he fully lived it. He didn't just sip life, or feel it at its edges, he drank it with gusto.

It's for that infectious smile of his that he'll be missed. It's for his enthusiasm of people, places, and circumstance that he'll be missed. It's for the high notes his voice would hit as he became more and more and more enthused in conversation, teasing, and even an occasional heckling that was well deserved.

His love of the community showed in many ways. In a traditional sense, it was seen in his membership of things like the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club where he won the Service Above Self Award in 1982–1983. His love of what makes our community special was marked by his membership in things like the South Carolina Waterfowl Association. His love of the hunt was evidenced by awards like the Award of Honor from Ducks Unlimited in 1979.

The bottom line of both the traditional, and the anything-but-traditional, that marked John G was that he loved Charleston, the Lowcountry, and the people that make it special. At times that would mean him regaling us with side-splitting stories out at Halidon Hill, other times it meant he'd be charging through the woods and waters of the Lowcountry. He would intersperse these pleasures with his passion for bringing great food to others and what he created in Charleston Bay Gourmet.

I remember getting a dinner from him over at the Mt. Pleasant Farmers Market, and watching him at work there at the food trailer fit with what Dr. Martin Luther King said years ago on passion in the work at hand. He cared, and it showed.

John will be missed. I wish him the greatest of hunting in the great delta we will all one day see. He touched my life, just as he touched those of all who were lucky enough to spend time with him. So, accordingly, I ask that we observe a moment of silence in his honor.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BROWN

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memorial to an Alaskan who dedicated his life to his business and making his customers feel as though they were in their own living room having a meal with friends. On January 13, 2018, Alaska lost one of its hardest working, most dedicated and adventurous fathers, Mr. George Brown.

George embodied the "Greatest Generation" that came to Alaska in the years fol-

lowing World War II. He valued hard work, personal relationships, and personal responsibility. He and his wife, Peggy founded the Lucky Wishbone diner in Anchorage, Alaska in 1955, the same year McDonalds was founded but in a much different environment, serving the best burgers, shakes and especially fried chicken you could find anywhere. Sorry Kentucky, the Colonel had nothing on Mr. Brown.

George kept the very spirit of the Greatest Generation alive up until his passing by ensuring that generations of Alaskans had simple, handcrafted diner food that was unsurpassed by any other restaurant. He also pioneered the "smoking ban" in Anchorage by banning smoking in the restaurant in 1991. George and Peggy's place was home to so many of us. His smile and his infectious spirit could light up a room and his sense of humor warmed the restaurant where he was a fixture for over 60 years.

George was more than a restaurateur, he was my friend. As a frequent patron of the Lucky Wishbone, I can speak to his service to customers and how he always cared for his employees as though they were immediately family. He treated his staff like they were his daughters and sons which meant everyone made you feel at home when you visited the Lucky Wishbone.

George, Peggy and the Lucky Wishbone will live in infamy in our hearts and souls. I hope that George's sister Elaine, daughter Pat, son Corky, and his grandchildren can take comfort in the bond they have with George and the legacy of the Lucky Wishbone. I also hope the precious memories of George will bring them comfort, and that they will come to find, in the lovely words of Hugh Robert Orr:

"They are not dead who live in lives they leave behind. In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again, and shall live through the years eternal life, and shall grow each day more beautiful, as time declares their good, forgets the rest, and proves their immortality."

Please join me in expressing heartfelt appreciation for George and sympathies for his Alaskan family.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT (SGT) ROBERT SHANE PUGH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Robert Shane Pugh who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on March 2, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Pugh was a combat medic with the Mississippi Army National Guard's 155th Brigade Combat Team. He was mortally wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Iskandariyah, Iraq also wounding Sergeant First Class Ellis Martin. SGT Pugh posthumously received the Silver Star, the third-highest decoration for valor in combat, as well

as the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Pugh's Silver Star citation states, "Although in extreme pain, Sergeant Pugh directed treatment instructions to the members of his platoon for both himself and Sergeant First Class Martin. He remained calm and continued to give instructions until the medical evacuation helicopter arrived. Sergeant Pugh passed away on route to the hospital; however his courage and disregard for his own welfare resulted in saving the life of a fellow comrade who was severely wounded."

SGT Pugh was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, headquartered in McComb, Mississippi. He enlisted in the Army in 1999 because he wanted to be a combat medic. In the civilian world, SGT Pugh was a licensed paramedic and worked as a phlebotomist for United Blood Services in Meridian.

SGT Pugh's mother, Wilma Allen, said her son was her pride and joy. "I am very proud of him. He was happy, outstanding, and outgoing. He would do anything for anybody," said his mother.

In a fitting tribute to this brave and caring soldier, the National Guard Readiness Center in Morton has been named in his honor. SGT Pugh is survived by his parents, Glen and Wilma Pugh, his stepfather, Gary Allen, and his siblings Tiffany Johnson, April Pearson, Jennifer Reed, Brad Allen, and Dale Allen.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY U.S. MARSHAL RICHARD "KIRK" BOWDEN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Memphis native Richard K. "Kirk" Bowden, a deputy U.S. marshal who protected some of the most important Civil Rights pioneers of the 1960s. Mr. Bowden was one of a small group who protected James Meredith when he travelled off campus after integrating the University of Mississippi in 1962. Bowden later guarded Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 1963 March on Washington at which he delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech.

Mr. Bowden died January 20 at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was 82.

Mr. Bowden was a graduate of Douglass High School in Memphis and attended what is now LeMoyne-Owen College before joining the U.S. Air Force criminal investigations division from 1954 to 1958. He served as an officer with the Washington, D.C., Police Department before joining the Marshals Service, from which he retired in 1987. He later returned on contract until 2017.

I met Mr. Bowden several times through the years at Douglass alumni events and appreciated his professionalism and commitment to the Douglass Red Devils.

I wish to pay my respects to Mr. Bowden and thank his family for his long and dedicated service to his community, his country and Douglass High.

TRIBUTE TO JIM BALAMACI

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memorial to an Alaskan who dedicated his life to the athletes, families, and Special Olympics Alaska. On February 1, 2018, Alaska lost a one-of-a-kind person, Mr. Jim Balamaci.

Many executive directors and presidents of non-profit organizations do a lot of good work. They encourage others to provide financial support to their cause, uplift the recipients of their work, and contribute greatly to their communities. Jim however, was much more than just another head of a non-profit organization who did good work for the cause. Jim lived, breathed, and was Special Olympics Alaska. His beloved organization was everything to him, and he fostered an infectious feeling in others to conduct themselves with the same faith, loyalty, and honest approach as he had. Mr. Speaker, I have a hard time knowing that Special Olympics and Alaska have lost this great man. Jim Balamaci "is" Special Olympics Alaska and it will never be the same without him.

Jim absolutely loved his colleagues and those he served. His presence was a blessing. The best part is that they loved and respected him even more in return.

Aside from talking to Jim on a regular basis about a wide variety of topics, I had the distinct pleasure of golfing with him every year to benefit Special Olympics Alaska. For eight to ten hours (depending on how I played), I had the rare fortune of being able to admire Jim's passion for "his" athletes. During that time, Jim allowed me to bask in his world where everything was righteous, good, and just plain fun despite any challenges.

It's nice to hear about people's memories and friendship with Jim. I'm proud to call Jim my dear friend too. As you know, it is extremely difficult for a Member of Congress to call someone a true friend. Jim embodied the word. He comforted me when my dear wife Lu died, he gave me advice to help my grandson, and I could always count on him to be there for me and my family.

Mr. Speaker, the sudden loss of Jim was like a hard punch by Mike Tyson to my gut. His loss hurts all of us. I take comfort in knowing that the Lord called Jim home because he needed another great soul in heaven to help him counter everything that is bad.

To all of the athletes, coaches, family members, sponsors, volunteers, staff, the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Alaska, and to Jim's family—I share your grief and your loss today as we remember Jim. I do take comfort in Jim's legacy, his friendship, and the privilege of knowing a truly great man for he has not left us behind but walks beside us now. Thank God for Jim.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (PFC) STEPHEN PHILLIP BALDWIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Private First Class (PFC) Stephen Phillip Baldwin who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on May 9, 2005. PFC Baldwin was killed in an explosion, while he was conducting combat operations in Nasser Wa Salaam, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

During his military service, he received the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment, and Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon. He was also awarded the Rifle Marksman badge.

PFC Baldwin was born on May 7, 1986, in Saltillo, MS. He earned his Eagle Scout badge before graduating from high school in 2004 and leaving for boot camp. He was 19 years old at the time of his death.

PFC Baldwin is survived by his parents, Danny and Stephanie Baldwin.

The sacrifice of this brave Marine will always be remembered.

CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2018, Crain's Chicago Business published an op-ed, "The looming crisis in health care" by Sara McElmurry, a nonresident fellow for immigration at Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The piece highlights the effect that cancellation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and failure to extend Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) would have on Midwesterners' access to home care. I urge my colleagues to read this op-ed and consider the human consequences of anti-immigrant policies.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following:

[From Crain's Chicago Business, Feb. 6, 2018]

THE LOOMING CRISIS IN HEALTH CARE

(By Sara McElmurry)

When the White House unveiled a hard-line plan last week to choke off immigration, it issued a threat to a crucial pipeline of Midwestern workers: home health care aides.

In the crosshairs is a region that's graying at a rapid clip yet stubbornly conflicted about immigrants—a region where foreign-born workers punch well above their weight. Immigrants are currently 24 percent of the nation's home health aides. And while they make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, more immigrants are in their prime working age and have a higher rate of job participa-

tion compared to their native-born peers, representing 17 percent of the overall workforce, according to a new report by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Examining the mushrooming demand in one industry—home health—illustrates the crisis to come. Analysts expect 1.1 million of these jobs to come online by 2026 as America's population of seniors rises to 71.5 million by 2030. Chicago, Columbus, Minneapolis and Cleveland are already four of the top five metropolitan areas with the highest employment levels for the occupation. But in a region that has lost nearly a quarter of its native-born working-age population since 2000, where will the Midwest find new workers to meet the demand?

Home health aides log long, physically demanding hours taking care of people who cannot care for themselves and helping families who need extra hands to care for loved ones. They bathe and feed ailing clients, check vitals, monitor medications, and change bedpans and bedsheets. These jobs are certainly not glamorous and decidedly hard to fill, given the physically—and emotionally—challenging duties.

While many home health aides complete on-the-job training and hold professional certificates, the positions often require only a high school degree and no previous work experience, making them an accessible entry point into the U.S. labor force for immigrants and refugees.

Yet these so-called "low-skilled" workers will prove difficult to replace if the pipeline of immigrants suddenly slows. Home health aides earn a mean \$23,840 annually in Illinois. Improved pay and benefits should be top of employers' to-do lists but may prove futile in attracting aging U.S.-born workers, particularly Midwesterners, who are closing in on retirement themselves.

Yet the U.S. immigration system is increasingly hostile to the foreign-born talent needed to fill the gaps. The fast-approaching end to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals on March 5, coupled with the Trump administration's cancellation of many Temporary Protected Status programs, could hit health care hard. One in five DACA recipients is employed in health care, and many TPS holders—especially among the 50,000 Haitians who received TPS after an earthquake leveled the island in 2010—work in home health care.

Moving forward, many would-be home health aides will not meet the lofty criteria of the points-based immigration systems being championed by the White House. And if the administration is successful in implementing its plans to curb family-based immigration, end the "diversity" visa lottery and dismantle other elements of our immigration system as outlined in last week's State of the Union address, the pool of foreign-born health workers will be further compromised.

In recent years, the Midwest has led the charge to bring more immigrant workers into health care. Local nonprofits like Chicago's Institute del Progreso Latino have pioneered immigrant-friendly pipeline programs that provide language skills and certifications for in-demand health care careers. Several Midwestern states, including Illinois, have made higher education more accessible for immigrants by offering in-state tuition rates at public institutions. Missouri and Minnesota have created licenses and policies that help more qualified immigrants enter tough-to-fill health care jobs.

These innovative local programs are ripe to be scaled nationally. But instead, the federal government's immigration crackdown threatens their success by pushing out current work-authorized immigrants and limiting the channels for new workers to enter the country to replace them.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
MASTER SERGEANT (MSG)
COATER BERNARD DEBOSE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Master Sergeant (MSG) Coater Bernard DeBose. MSG DeBose gave his life while in service to our great nation on August 19, 2012, during Operation Enduring Freedom. MSG DeBose died in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, of wounds he received from small arms fire while conducting security force assistance operations. MSG DeBose was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 351st Infantry Regiment, 158th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. MSG DeBose was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart medals.

According to the Associated Press, MSG DeBose, a State Line, Mississippi native, joined the Alabama National Guard in May 1983. He transferred to the Army Reserves in 2008. He was deployed in April 2004 to Afghanistan, where he served as a communications specialist. It was his job to train Afghan police in the Kandahar region.

There have been many memorials posted in MSG DeBose's honor on Legacy.com, including one that appeared on September 1, 2012 from Master Sergeant (MSG) Maranda McCorvey. "As I sign this guest book, no words can explain the loss of a true soldier," MSG McCorvey said. "He was a leader, mentor, motivator, and trainer to many lives in and out of the uniform."

Rebecca Lewis of Moss Point wrote, "May God continue to watch over you and your family at this time," Mrs. Lewis said. "Deacon DeBose will certainly be missed by all of us including his Greater First Baptist Church in Escatawpa, Mississippi, under the leadership of Richard Young. Deacon DeBose was a great man and touched many hearts."

Christopher DeBose, MSG DeBose's son, wrote about the pain of losing his father in August 30, 2012. "I pray that there is a military up in heaven," Christopher said. "I know Master Sergeant DeBose would be in charge of something. No matter what it is, I'm sure God will trust you with any task because he knows you will get it done."

Caronica DeBose-Jackson, MSG DeBose's daughter, paid tribute to her father in a September 6, 2012 post. "I hear your voice telling me to keep moving and live life to the fullest," Caronica said. "I will go on because that's what you would want. I will honor your life and legacy forever."

MSG DeBose is survived by his wife, Juanita, his three sons, Latravis DeBose, Christopher DeBose, and Broderick DeBose; and two daughters, Caronica DeBose-Jackson, and Nekeshia Raybon.

MSG DeBose demonstrated the qualities of an American hero. His 27 years of military service will always be remembered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FALLEN
MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
FIRST SERGEANT (1SG) SEVERIN
W. SUMMERS III

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army First Sergeant (1SG) Severin W. Summers who died while defending our great nation on August 2, 2009, during Operation Enduring Freedom. 1SG Summers died from injuries he suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device in Qole Gerdar, Afghanistan. Capt. Ronald G. Luce Jr. and Sgt. 1st Class Alejandro Granado III were also killed. 1SG Summers was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi.

1SG Summers, a native of Benton, Mississippi, graduated from Christian Life Academy in 1984 and attended Louisiana State University. He enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard in 1989.

1SG Summers awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Armed Forces Medal. He also earned the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, the Scuba Diver Badge, the Military Free Fall Badge and the Ranger and Special Forces tabs.

1SG Summers is survived by his wife, Tammy; his three daughters, Jessica, Shelby and Sarah; and his parents, Severin and Charlene Summers.

1SG Summers will always be remembered for his courage and bravery. He sacrificed his life to protect to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY
SPECIALIST (SPC) LARRY
KENYATTA BROWN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) Larry Kenyatta Brown who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation April 5, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SPC Brown was mortally wounded during a combat mission to liberate the Iraqi city of Karbala. SPC Brown was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 414 Infantry Regiment, Fort Riley, Kansas.

SPC Brown, a Jackson native, attended Bailey Magnet High School where he was a track and basketball athlete. His high school principal, Dorothy Terry, said SPC Brown was a serious young man who was kind. Terry said SPC Brown also had a great sense of humor.

During the funeral held at Blacks Chapel Baptist Church, Brigadier General Frank Helmick described SPC Brown's devotion to our nation. "Larry Brown displayed the intensive fortitude to fight and complete the mission even though it meant giving his life for our country."

Hundreds of people came to the funeral including twenty-nine soldiers from Fort Riley. Ten soldiers from Fort Polk, Louisiana carried Brown's coffin.

SPC Brown's bravery and courage in service to our nation will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MA-
RINE STAFF SERGEANT (SSGT)
JASON AARON ROGERS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Jason Aaron Rogers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on April 7, 2011. SSgt Rogers was killed in Northern Helmand Province, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was clearing a path for wounded marines in a live mine field during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

SSgt Rogers was born on April 9, 1982, in Jackson, MS. He graduated from Brandon High School in 2000. Shortly after September 11, 2001, SSgt Rogers joined the Marine Corps, where he served eight years. He was deployed on six overseas assignments, five of which were combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was 28 years old at the time of his death.

SSgt Rogers' mother, Jenny Smith, recently said, "I'm extremely proud. He was proud to serve our country. He had a calling to offer his life for friends and family. He loved America. Every year, we hold the Annual Running for Jason 5K Run/Walk in Brandon to honor his service."

Mayor Tim Coulter of Brandon, Mississippi said, "We are saddened by the death of one of our hometown heroes, Jason Rogers, a brave man of character. He will be missed by our city and our hearts and prayers are with his family at this time."

Brandon Winfield, a childhood friend of SSgt Rogers said, "The loss of Jason Rogers is going to make this world an emptier and lonelier and colder place. I could write a War and Peace sized story of the kind of person he was. Some people have it; the room just seemed to be dizzier and brighter with him in it."

SSgt Rogers is survived by wife Angela Rita Marie Rogers. He is also survived by his parents, Jennifer and William Smith, and Liz and Tracy Aaron Rogers.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MA-
RINE FIRST LIEUTENANT (1STLT)
WILLIAM JAMES DONNELLY, IV

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Marine First Lieutenant (1stLt) William James Donnelly, IV who gave his life while in service to our nation on November 25, 2010, during Operation Enduring Freedom. 1stLt Donnelly was killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. This was 1stLt Donnelly's first combat deployment. 1stLt Donnelly was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

According to the Associated Press, 1stLt Donnelly, of Picayune, Mississippi, always wanted to join the U.S. Marine Corps. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in June 2003 and served as an Assault Amphibious Vehicle (SSV) crewmember in the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Gulfport, Mississippi. He transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Midshipman to attend the officer training program at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in King's Point, New York where he served as a Midshipman Regimental Commander. 1stLt Donnelly was commissioned as a 2ndLt in the United States Marine Corps after graduating in June 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering. After TBS, he was designated an infantry officer in October 2009 and served as a rifle platoon commander assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Kilo Company, 2nd Platoon, Camp Pendleton, California. 1stLt Donnelly married his wife, Linsey, on September 11, 2010. He deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan 15 days later.

1stLt Donnelly's family learned of his death on Thanksgiving Day 2010. Melissa Donnelly-Weed, 1stLt Donnelly's sister, posted on her Facebook page that day. "Always be thankful for family," Melissa said. "I will always be thankful and grateful I had a wonderful brother. He gave his life today for his country doing what he loved—being a Marine. I will miss him forever. I love you, Will!" William J. Donnelly, III, 1stLt Donnelly's father, said his son would not have any regrets even though the loss is extremely hard to bear. "Will was doing what he loved to do and what he always wanted to do," Mr. Donnelly said. "I am sure if we could talk to him now, he would say he had no regrets."

In a release issued by Camp Pendleton, officials said that they had lost a member of their own family. "The Marines and sailors of the 1st Marine Division mourn the loss of 1stLt Donnelly," the release read. "Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family."

After learning of 1stLt Donnelly's death, Picayune Mayor Ed Pinero said it is always hard to lose a hero and on behalf of the city, they extended their heartfelt condolences to the family. "1stLt Donnelly's sacrifice and that of all the men and women who fall in combat protecting our country's freedom should never be forgotten," Mayor Pinero said. Additionally,

Mayor Pinero announced that 1stLt Donnelly's name would be inscribed on a monument in front of the old city hall in Picayune to ensure the town's war heroes are never forgotten.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, December 14th at the United States Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland. Internment was held at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Friends of 1stLt Donnelly held a memorial service in Picayune at the same hour of the service at Arlington.

1stLt Donnelly is survived by his parents, William Donnelly, III and Vicki Donnelly; his two sisters, Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Melissa Donnelly-Weed and Rebecca Donnelly; his wife, Linsey Becker-Donnelly; and his nephew Christian Weed.

1stLt Donnelly was awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

1stLt Donnelly's service and sacrifice to defend America will always be remembered.

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 Thursday, February 8, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

5 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.

SVC-217

FEBRUARY 13

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine the United States Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019.

SD-608

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine improving animal health, focusing on reauthoriza-

tion of Food and Drug Administration Animal Drug User Fees.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense's role in protecting democratic elections.

SR-222

FEBRUARY 14

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Simons, of Virginia, Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, and Rohit Chopra, of New York, each to be a Federal Trade Commissioner.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 2825, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security, S. 2221, to repeal the multi-State plan program, S. 2296, to increase access to agency guidance documents, S. 2113, to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for design and construction services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, S. 2349, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish an interagency working group to study Federal efforts to collect data on sexual violence and to make recommendations on the harmonization of such efforts, S. 2178, to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to make open recommendations of Inspectors General publicly available, S. 2014, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, H.R. 2229, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, S. 931, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4910 Brighton Boulevard in Denver, Colorado, as the "George Sakato Post Office", S. 2040, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 621 Kansas Avenue in Atchison, Kansas, as the "Amelia Earhart Post Office Building", H.R. 294, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the "Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building", H.R. 452, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the "Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office", H.R. 1207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the "Tilden Veterans Post Office", H.R. 1208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9155 Schaefer Road, Converse, Texas, as the "Converse Veterans Post Office Building", H.R. 1858, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Pennsylvania, as the "Staff Sergeant Ryan

Scott Ostrom Post Office", H.R. 1988, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1730 18th Street in Bakersfield, California, as the "Merle Haggard Post Office Building", H.R. 2254, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2635 Napa Street in Vallejo, California, as the "Janet Capello Post Office Building", H.R. 2302, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 259 Nassau Street, Suite 2 in Princeton, New Jersey, as the "Dr. John F. Nash, Jr. Post Office", H.R. 2464, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office", H.R. 2672, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Carter Street in Fairview, Illinois, as the "Sgt. Douglas J. Riney Post Office", H.R. 2815, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, as the "Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Post Office", H.R. 2873, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 Glenside Avenue in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, as the "Staff Sergeant Peter Taub Post Office Building", H.R. 3109, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1114 North 2nd Street in Chillicothe, Illinois, as the "Sr. Chief Ryan Owens Post Office Building", H.R. 3369, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 North Main Street in Spring Lake, North Carolina, as the "Howard B. Pate, Jr. Post Office", H.R. 3638, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Kings Road in Jacksonville, Florida, as the "Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building", H.R. 3655, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Main Street in Belmar, New Jersey, as the "Dr. Walter S. McAfee Post Office Building", H.R. 3821, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, as the "Zach T. Addington Post Office", H.R. 3893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Mathe Avenue in Interlachen, Florida, as the "Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Post Office", H.R. 4042, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, as the "Borinqueneers Post Office Building", H.R. 4285, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 Bridgeton Pike in Mullica Hill, New Jersey, as the "James C. 'Billy' Johnson Post Office Building", an original bill entitled, "GAO Financial Audit Mandates Revision Act of 2018", an original bill entitled, "Bridge Contract Transparency and Account-

ability Act of 2018", and the nominations of Jeff Tien Han Pon, of Virginia, to be Director, and Michael Rigas, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Personnel Management.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the current readiness of United States forces.

SR-222

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

SD-430

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native Americans and the 2020 Census.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine military and civilian personnel programs and military family readiness.

SR-232A

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 400, to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 966, to establish a program to accurately document vehicles that were significant in the history of the United States, S. 1160, to include Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County, and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County, Illinois, to the Lincoln National Heritage Area, S. 1260 and H.R. 2615, bills to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, S. 1335, to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, S. 1446 and H.R. 1135, bills to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program, S. 1472, to reauthorize the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, S. 1573, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage on Federal land along the trail known as the "American Discovery Trail", S. 1602, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a

study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, S. 1645, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland, S. 1646, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of President Station in Baltimore, Maryland, S. 1692, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 1956 and H.R. 2897, bills to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, S. 2102, to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, S. 2213 and H.R. 4300, bills to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, S. 2225, to reauthorize the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, S. 2238, to amend the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Canalway Act of 1996 to repeal the funding limitation, H.R. 1397, to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, and H.R. 1500, to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park".

SD-366

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, and Hannibal Ware, of the Virgin Islands, to be Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the state of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on pending rules, cryptocurrency regulation, and cross-border agreements.

SR-328A

FEBRUARY 28

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of State and redesign plans.

SD-419