

been recognized for his efforts to this end. Some of the numerous awards bestowed upon him include the University of Florida Faculty Superior Accomplishment Award and the CALS Teacher of the Year. He has also been recognized by Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who Among American Teachers, and has received an honorary membership in Alpha Gamma Rho, of which I am a proud member.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Cheek's legacy will be remembered for generations to come, not just by students at the University of Florida but also throughout the Nation where his work has been recognized. He dedicated his career to educating students not just about agriculture, but also character, and he will be fondly remembered by all who know him. Jimmy Cheek will be missed in the classrooms in Gainesville and around the State, but he leaves behind an institution that will continue to flourish because of his hard work. He and his family are in my thoughts as they move into the next chapter of his life.

HONORING NORTHERN STATE
UNIVERSITY COACH DON MEYER

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, recently, Don Meyer, head men's basketball coach at Northern State University in Aberdeen, from my State of South Dakota, coached his 903rd career victory. This accomplishment sets the national record for wins by a men's collegiate basketball coach.

Mr. Meyer started his coaching career in 1972 at Hamline University in Minnesota, turning an unsuccessful program into a championship contender. Moving to Lipscomb University in Tennessee, Mr. Meyer created a national powerhouse during his 24 years there—winning an NAIA national title in 1986 and averaging more than 32 wins per season over his final 10 years at the school.

Coming to Northern State in 1999, Mr. Meyer built another highly-successful program. His teams have won over 20 games each of the past 7 seasons, and reached the postseason 4 of the past 5 years.

Over this long career, Mr. Meyer has become nationally known as a teacher of both young men and other coaches. Thousands of coaches from all over the Nation have honed their craft at the Don Meyer Coaches Academy. His instructional books and DVDs have been used by college programs such as Duke and NBA teams such as the Utah Jazz. Of Mr. Meyer, Pat Summitt, the legendary University of Tennessee women's basketball coach, recently told Sports Illustrated, "(Meyer) is one of the most respected clinicians in the country. You can't sit there and not learn and be inspired."

Another inspiration that Mr. Meyer provides stems from the journey he finds himself on today. On September 5, 2008, while leading his team to a preseason retreat, Mr. Meyer was involved in a life-threatening auto accident. At the accident site, his players' quick thinking and poise saved Mr. Meyer's life. Team captain Kyle Schwan told Sports Illus-

trated about the accident, "It's a testament to Coach. In essence, he saved his own life because of the way he taught us."

His recovery has included eight surgeries, the amputation of part of his left leg, and intense pain. Adding to the medical challenge was the discovery of liver and intestine cancer during his emergency surgeries. But through it all, Mr. Meyer has maintained his drive and character, coaching games from the sidelines in a wheelchair. This season, he again has Northern State in championship contention, and remains a sought-after motivational speaker on basketball, coaching, and life itself.

Madam Speaker, it is with enduring pride and respect that I rise today in recognition of Don Meyer and his record-breaking achievement. This achievement is not only measured in the many victories achieved, but in the lives touched. Don Meyer has proven himself worthy to be counted among the best coaches our Nation has produced.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LANCE CORPORAL JESSIE
CASSADA OF HENDERSONVILLE,
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of LCpl Jessie Adam Cassada of Hendersonville, NC. Cassada, only 19 years of age, was killed in combat during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan on the sixth of January, 2009. Lance Corporal Cassada gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country. He demonstrated patriotism and true courage beyond his years.

Since childhood, Jessie Cassada wanted to follow the example set by his stepfather and stepbrother to become a Marine. He joined the United States Marine Corps after graduating from East Henderson High School in 2007. He was deployed to Afghanistan from Camp Lejune for a 6- to 7-month tour of duty in November 2008 with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. Official accounts said he was supporting combat operations in the Helmand province prior to his death.

Cassada's awards include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He leaves behind his mother, Patricia Cassada, and stepfather, Carroll London, as well as two sisters. I offer my sincere condolences to them and the rest of his family and friends. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at to the passing of LCpl Jessie Cassada, as well as never-ending gratitude for the servicemen and women who sacrifice so much to protect our Nation and ensure our freedom. The short life of LCpl Jessie Cassada serves as an inspiration for us all of true patriotism, dedication and courage.

HONORING MARY ANN RIOJAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California Mr. NUNES to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas upon being honored by ABC's reality show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Ms. Riojas and family were surprised by Ty Pennington and crew on January 8, 2009 at their home in central Fresno located on East Robinson, Fresno, CA, at the heart of the Central Valley.

Ms. Riojas was born without legs and only one fully developed arm. As a child, Mary Ann was placed in foster care and grew up in an unstable household and poverty. Even though Mary Ann was no stranger to adversity her challenges continued after expanding her family with four children. In financial distress she turned to public assistance to keep her family afloat.

Regardless of Mary Ann's disabilities and financial struggles she continued to live life to the fullest. Her vibrant determination led her to become the first in her family to earn a college degree when she graduated in 2002 from San Joaquin Valley College with an associate degree in Business Administration. She also obtained a drivers license in 2002 which gave her the ability to drive a special hand-controlled vehicle.

Determined to excel, Mary Ann not only became an employee of Easter Seals but also served as a State and national Ambassador. She has traveled all over the country with the Easter Seals program, spreading her joy and enthusiasm for life. Mary Ann eventually switched jobs and decided to help others in her community and that is when she began working for the Fresno Housing Authority as a counselor to other families who are struggling with life's adversities.

Mary Ann does not see herself as a person with disabilities. Mary Ann is a strong woman who has raise four children Nichole 18, Victoria 17, Angel 15, and Jessie 14, and she continues to inspire others on a daily basis. The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition will forever change her life and make her home a better and more user friendly place for her to enjoy with her children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Ann Riojas. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Riojas and her family many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify that I was absent for votes on January 9, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall Vote No. 7: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions the Paycheck Fairness Act—"yea."

Rollcall Vote No. 8: On Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act—"nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 9: On Passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009—"nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 10: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process—"yea."

HAL ELLIS JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Hal Ellis, Jr. Mr. Ellis contributed immeasurably to the development and economic growth of the 9th Congressional District. He was a devoted community leader, creative and innovative entrepreneur, and a great source of support and encouragement to those who knew him. Our community said goodbye to Hal on January 6, 2009, after a courageous five-year battle with metastatic melanoma.

Hal Ellis was born on August 4, 1931 to Harold and Bertha Ellis in Portland, Oregon. However, his family moved to Oakland, California just two years later in 1933. For this reason, and as a result of the endless dedication and compassion Mr. Ellis exhibited for the Oakland community throughout his life, everyone considered Hal a native "Oaklander."

Hal graduated from Piedmont High School in 1949 and received a Bachelors Degree from the prestigious University of California, Berkeley in 1953. He was a member of the legendary 1951 and 1952 Cal Bears football teams under the leadership of Coach Pappy Waldorf, affectionately known as "Pappy's Boys." While at Cal, Mr. Ellis also served as President of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. In 1955, Mr. Ellis graduated from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and then went on to serve his country for two years in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer stationed in Morocco.

Mr. Ellis was ambitious and driven from a very young age. In 1958, at the age of 27, Mr. Ellis co-founded Grubb & Ellis Co. along with his business partners Don and John Grubb. Mr. Ellis guided the company as its Chairman and CEO, bringing others up with him as he led the company through countless successful ventures. In the following decades, Mr. Ellis would become one of the most prolific and iconic real estate developers in the Greater Bay Area.

Mr. Ellis directly oversaw the growth of his company from a small Oakland development firm into a national diversified real estate company. Most influential to the lives of residents in my district, the work that Mr. Ellis' company performed and the vision Mr. Ellis had for the architectural and urban integrity of our area dramatically reshaped downtown Oakland, California. Nationally, his company would grow to such influence that it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Ellis' keen business sense and tireless dedication elevated his company to the prominent position as the larg-

est independently owned, publicly traded real estate firm in the United States. Today, the company boasts 130 offices world-wide.

Sixteen years ago, Mr. Ellis co-founded Ellis Partners LLC with his daughter, Melinda and his son, James. Ellis Partners LLC has, in its own right, become one of California's largest commercial developers and investors. Hal also formed Catalist Homes, which reflected his vision for the future of the residential real estate industry by creating a model of technical intelligence and efficiency.

Although Mr. Ellis' influence and impact was truly phenomenal in scope, his true contribution was the indelible imprint he left on the landscape of Oakland, California. His efforts led to the development of the Oakland City Center and Oakland's Jack London Square. Both of these developments have been and are critical to the vibrancy of a diverse and complex urban area whose residents deserve the opportunity afforded by a healthy local economy where small businesses can thrive.

Mr. Ellis was extremely involved in his community and professional organizations. He was an excited and inspiring individual, always ready to share his vision for the future and work on creative collaborations to bring innovation and growth to the development industry. Hal was a member of the Pacific Union Club, the Claremont Country Club, the World Presidents Organization and several additional real estate industry organizations.

A gentleman with endless optimism and strength, even Mr. Ellis' illness produced in him a sense of urgency to make a difference and advocate on behalf of others suffering from this devastating form of cancer. With the support and partnership of his family members, the University of California, San Francisco and Bain & Company, Mr. Ellis led the efforts to form the Melanoma Therapeutics Foundation. In the hopes of expediting the discovery of a cure for this disease, his family continues to remain involved and encourage support of this important organization in memory of Mr. Ellis.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to thank Hal Ellis' family for sharing this wonderful spirit with us, especially his loving wife of 22 years, Marian Ellis, his sister, Jackie Ellis Leisz, his sons Stephen and James Ellis, his daughters Melinda Ellis Evers, Chantal Lamberto, and Jackie Lamberto, his daughters-in-law Karen and Melissa, sons-in-law Will and Eli, and of course his beloved grandchildren, Katherine, Audrey, Elizabeth, Ryan, Tyler, Gracie, Morgan, and Braydon. Mr. Ellis' legacy will live on through his devoted family and a host of loving friends. May his soul rest in peace.

EXTENDING THE NEW MARKETS
TAX CREDIT TO THE TERRITORIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend eligibility of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) to Com-

munity Development Entities (CDEs) created or organized in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This bill would make a technical correction to existing law governing the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program and specifically authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to certify corporations or partnerships organized in one of the four U.S. territories as entities qualified to participate in the competitive application process for the New Markets Tax Credit.

The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-554) authorizes the NMTC Program for the purpose of increasing incentives for investment in low-income communities across the country. Under the NMTC Program, certified Community Development Entities (CDEs) are eligible to apply for a New Markets Tax Credit from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the Department of the Treasury. Taxpayers who then invest in the CDE are allocated some of those credits in return for their investment. The CDE must invest those funds in low-income communities, and the taxpayers are able to claim, over a seven-year period, credits equal to 39 percent of their investment. CDEs act as intermediaries for the provision of loans, investment funding, or financial counseling in low-income communities and are able to legally operate anywhere in the United States, including in the territories.

Despite the ability of a CDE under current law to legally and practically operate in a U.S. territory, a corporation or partnership that is created or organized in a U.S. territory applying for CDE certification cannot qualify for such certification under current law. This ineligibility stems from such organizations being deemed "foreign" and not "domestic" under other relevant provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This nuance in law effectively prevents local CDEs in the territories, that is, entities who would otherwise be recognized as such by the Department of the Treasury, from investing in their own communities.

The bill I have reintroduced today would rectify this situation, which I recognize to be an oversight of Congress in the enactment of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000. The bill would allow for the certification of CDEs created or organized in a U.S. territory thereby enabling them to operate and invest in their own communities. CDEs organized and operating in any one of the several States or the District of Columbia could continue to invest in low-income communities in the territories under this arrangement.

I am joined by Mr. FALCOMA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Mr. PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico, and Mr. SABLAN of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in introducing this bill. We look forward to working with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means to advance this bill and to support increased investment opportunities for our own communities. Ultimately, this bill is about making the New Markets Tax Credit Program work for the territories and ensuring Congressional intent behind the New Markets Tax Credit is fully realized and fulfilled in our communities.