

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF MID-CITY ELECTRIC FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mid-City Electric for fifty years of dedicated service to central Ohio. Mid-City Electric is a family-owned electrical contracting company that is known for its high-quality craftsmanship, exceptional customer service, and tradition of giving back to the surrounding community.

Mid-City Electric began operation in 1960. Mid-City Chairman and Founder Jim Dew built his company on the core values of responsibility, hard-work, and loyalty to customers. His children Brian, Dennis, Steve, and Mary, work alongside the company's award-winning electricians to ensure the quality of their services. Their craftsmanship is displayed through numerous major projects in central Ohio, specifically in the 15th Congressional District, including Mt. Carmel West Hospital, Hilliard Bradley High School, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Grant Medical Center.

Since the company was founded in 1960, Mid-City Electric has generously supported a number of industry and community causes. The company is an active member of the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, which fosters communication, respect, and cooperation between building industry members. In 2006, the Mid-City Electric Company Scholarship was started in honor of Jim Dew's contributions to the construction industry in central Ohio. This scholarship recognizes and supports students who exhibit a strong commitment to a career in construction. The company also has sponsored charitable events, such as the annual Katie Fischer Golf Scramble, which raises funds for scholarships to Madison-Plains High School students.

For fifty years, this family-run business has provided top-quality, reliable service to central Ohio. The leadership, generosity, and commitment to excellence displayed by Jim Dew, his family, and his company have left a lasting legacy in our community. I am proud to recognize and honor Mid-City Electric for its decades of service to Columbus area businesses and families.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OF BEXLEY'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Bexley High School in Columbus, Ohio. Bexley High School is in my congressional district, and I am proud to

recognize a school that not only excels in academics but also distinguishes itself in athletics. The Bexley Girls Soccer Team recently won the 2009 Ohio Division II Girls Soccer Championship. The Bexley Lions finished their amazing season 21-0-3.

The squad, led by team captains Kendra Wilson, Second Team All-Ohio Charlotte Myers and "Ms. Ohio" (girls soccer player of the year) Leah Levey, showed considerable determination throughout the season. For their work on and off the field, members garnered a number of awards. Most notably, the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association recognized five members as "Scholar Athletes," including: Leah Levey, Rebecca Carroll, Rachael Crane, Katie Grady and Mara Kinney.

Head Coach Scott Dempsey, and assistant coaches, Stephanie Bowshier, Chuck Crawford and Natalie Contosta comprise the soccer coaching staff. Coach Dempsey was recognized for his leadership by being named "Coach of the Year" by the Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people who have a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the Bexley community, for this truly great achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES F. RECORD

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a fellow Hoosier whose long and distinguished career in the United States Air Force spanned four decades.

Retired Lieutenant General James F. Record, who was born and raised in central Indiana, passed away on December 22, 2009 with his loving family beside him.

The son of Edwin and Enid Record, General Record, like many Hoosier boys of his generation, grew up on the family farm. In between his chores, young Jim would watch with wonder as military aircraft flew in and out of what was then Bunker Hill Air Force Base. He dreamed to one day fly those fighter jets in the Air Force.

Upon graduating high school, he enrolled at Purdue University in West Lafayette. As a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program and Purdue University Drill Team, not only did he hone skills that taught him discipline and teamwork, but he served as a leader and mentor to his younger classmates.

General Record's Air Force Career began when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1961. He completed flight training a year later and served as an instructor pilot for nearly six years. While serving multiple tours in Vietnam, he distinguished himself

and flew more than six hundred combat missions.

Following his service in Southeast Asia, he went on to command three fighter wings, the 833rd Air Division, and served as the first deputy commander of Joint Task Force Middle East, which operated in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

General Record also served in the Pentagon, U.S. Central Command, United Nations Command, and U.S. Combined Forces Command. This Michigantown native also found himself again serving in the Far East from 1990 through 1992 as the commander of Joint Task Force Southwest Asia.

Rated as a command pilot with more than 6,000 hours flying time behind some of our nation's most legendary fighter aircraft, General Record was decorated with twenty seven Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal with six service stars, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

While family, friends, and colleagues will forever remember and respect General Record's military career, those closest to him will remember a caring father, husband, son or friend. Even while battling the illness that ultimately took his life, he often checked up on those he cared about to make sure they were doing okay.

Memorial services were held for General Record at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, where he commanded the 12th Air Force, as well as Michigantown Christian Church, where he was an active member as a young man.

As we mourn Lieutenant General James F. Record's passing, let us keep his mother Enid, loving wife Peggy, sons James, John, and Joe, as well as his brother Ray and sisters Arlene and Barbara in our thoughts and prayers.

Though the pain of his loss is tremendous, I am sure his family takes tremendous pride in knowing that General Record will join ranks with all those who rest in the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER JAMES KENNETH BROWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James Kenneth Brown, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

For the past 20 years, Petty Officer Brown has served faithfully and honorably around the globe. He first enlisted in the United States Navy in August 1989 through the delayed entry program and proceeded to Recruit Training Command in June of 1990 in Great Lakes,

• 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.

III. In 1990, he participated in Desert Storm and Desert Shield earning the Combat Action ribbon. Petty Officer Brown then became the first Seaman onboard USS *Nassau* to earn the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Pin in 1993. Later in the same year, he joined the Navy Marine Intelligence Training Command to become an Intelligence Specialist. In 1994, he participated in Operation Southern Watch and operations in Kosovo.

Petty Officer Brown reported to the USS *Carl Vinson* as the Leading Petty Officer of Multi-Sensor Interpretation Branch in December 1999. Two years later, the USS *Carl Vinson* launched the first attack of the Global War on Terrorism into Afghanistan in response to 9/11. His second deployment on the USS *Carl Vinson* was off the Korean Peninsula and included the FOAL EAGLE and TANDUM THRUST exercises.

In 2004, Petty Officer Brown took orders to the Chief of Naval Operations—Intelligence Plot and worked in National Military Joint Intelligence Center in the Pentagon. Three years later he reported to the USS *Cole* for a tour as the Assistant Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Two Intelligence Officer. In 2008, Petty Officer Brown transferred to Joint Forces Transformational Command, where he worked as an Intelligence Analyst rewriting and providing critical insight for limited distributed intelligence products. In December 2008, he reported to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo as his last duty station in the United States Navy. He is currently serving as the Leading Petty Officer and the Special Security Officer for the Naval Station and Tenant Commands.

During his service, Petty Officer Brown also furthered his education and earned numerous recognitions and awards for his dedicated service. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Intelligence Studies from the Joint Military Intelligence College in 2004 and earned Post Graduate Certificate in Intelligence in 2007 from the National Defense Intelligence College. He also earned the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (second award), Combat Action ribbon, Good Conduct Medal (sixth award), NATO Medal for Yugoslavia, Joint Staff Identification Badge along with several unit and campaign awards.

I congratulate Petty Officer Brown for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent First Class Petty Officer Brown in the United States Congress, and I wish him and his wife Nichole a happy retirement from the United States Navy and all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARYANNE WEISS,
NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA
WOMEN'S FINANCIAL GROUP
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maryanne Weiss, on being named "Woman of the Year" by the National Bank of Arizona Women's Financial Group. This prestigious honor is given to women in business whose contributions and leadership positively influence our community.

Ms. Weiss is deeply involved with promoting strong business values in the Valley. In 2008, she was named the first woman Chair of Greater Phoenix SCORE. Additionally, Maryanne is a Skills Commissioner for the Arizona Department of Education. Through these platforms, she serves as a positive mentor for Valley women, helping them reach their full leadership potential.

In creating the foundation for business women to thrive, Maryanne has become a shining example of true community service. Her dedication to connecting women with the resources necessary to grow their businesses should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Maryanne Weiss as she is honored with this well-deserved "Woman of the Year" award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN AHOUSE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime staff member and dear friend, Daniel J. Ahouse, as he parts from his distinguished service in the Congress and embarks upon a new venture. For nearly 15 years, Dan has held several positions of responsibility in my office, most importantly as my chief of staff. Dan has served with an unrivaled commitment to the people of the 26th and now 22nd Congressional District of New York. Although he will be profoundly missed, in my office and in the communities I represent, we will continue to enjoy the benefits of his successful accomplishments.

Dan Ahouse originally hailed from Boiceville, a hamlet in the Town of Olive, in Ulster County, New York. He attended Hamilton College where he studied government and, as he had in high school, quarterbacked the football team. Dan began serving in my office as an intern in 1995 and, after quickly establishing himself as a hard worker and a team player, he was promoted to staff assistant, scheduler, legislative assistant, district representative, district director and finally chief of staff.

As with any good quarterback, Dan demonstrated his talent for calling plays and creating opportunities off the field. He is never deterred by a challenge. The great accomplishments we've recently made to establish New York as a hub for solar energy research and development would not have been achieved at the same level were it not for Dan Ahouse's hard work and determination. He has always been anchored by a sense of optimism and his belief that with hard work even the most difficult obstacles can be overcome.

Dan's level-headed judgment and strong leadership have been critically important, and his loyalty has been unfailing. But, as is often the case, his public service has come at the price of many personal sacrifices, including postponing his honeymoon in order to focus on the needs of the congressional operation and, more recently, spending a great deal of time away from his wife, Christina, and three lovely daughters, Madison, Abigail, and Julia, in order to manage my Washington and district offices.

All the while, Dan created an environment for staff and colleagues, in Washington and in

the district, conducive to fresh ideas and productivity. A strong figure in his own community and an integral part of my team, from intern to chief of staff, Dan Ahouse will be sorely missed. I owe Dan my own personal heartfelt thanks, especially for his friendship, support, and counsel over the many years. I wish him a well-deserved, happy, and healthy new beginning.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 due to a flight delay caused by mechanical difficulties. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 990 (Roll No. 17), H. Res. 1011 (Roll No. 18), and H. Res. 1003 (Roll No. 19).

CONGRATULATING MESSIAH
COLLEGE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1030—Congratulating Messiah College men's and women's soccer teams on winning the 2009 NCAA Division III national championships.

Messiah College, located in my home district, is a private four-year Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences in Grantham, Pennsylvania. With a population of 2,744 full-time undergraduate students and a student to faculty ratio of 13 to 1, each of these students are encouraged to grow through their education, faith and community involvement. Recently, Messiah was distinguished as one of only seven colleges in Pennsylvania to be placed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its service to disadvantaged youth. Additionally, Messiah received the 2009 Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification for its outreach to the local community.

For the men's and women's soccer teams at Messiah College, 2009 proved to be a remarkable and historic year. On December 5th 2009, both teams won the Division III national soccer championships, remaining the only men's and women's soccer teams at any level in the NCAA to do so in the same year. The women's team garnered their third national title since 2005 and the men's team won their seventh national championship in the last ten seasons.

The Messiah women's team defeated Washington University-St. Louis by a score of 1-0. The lone goal was scored early in the game by senior Amanda Naeher, who was later named the offensive player of the tournament. She was joined on the all-star team by her fellow teammates Katie Hoffsmith, Amy Horst, and Katlyn Musser. Musser was named defensive player of the tournament.

Remaining players on the women's team include: Seniors Emily Cope and Carey Cortese;

Juniors Molly Bletz, Shalisa Brubaker, Joanna Haqq, Erin Hench, Sarah Henningsen, Katie Hoffsmith, Marla Sensi and Meagan Wademan; Sophomores Kelsey Gorman, Rachel Loya, Autumn Reilly, Olivia Scott, Jessica Shirk, Leah Sipe and Lisa Wingard; and Freshmen Stephanie Andrews, Tannia Nieto, Elizabeth Phillips, Anne Trapp and Corinne Wulf. Assistant coaches and athletic trainers include: Todd Balsbaugh, Maggie Futato, Bethany Sauer, Sandy Bush and Jason Besse.

Later that same evening, the men's team defeated Calvin College in a 2–0 victory, making them an unprecedented 7–0 in national championship game appearances. Senior goalkeeper Jared Clugston was named defensive player of the tournament, while junior Geoff Pezon was named the offensive player. Trey Overholt and Derek Black both joined them on the all-star team.

Remaining players on the men's team include: Seniors Brett Faro, Jevon Gondwe, Josh Mull and Calvin Todd; Juniors Jon Burke, Sean Cunningham, Kyle Fulks, Mark Jeschke, Keaton Kasiguran and Nick Thompson; Sophomores Trevor Lee, Kent Ramirez, Tom Renko, Jordan Sands, Danny Thompson and Sam Woodworth; and Freshmen Jake Berry, JP Fulton, Luke Helmuth, Dan Squire, Logan Thompson and Joshua Wood. Assistant coaches, managers and athletic training staff include: Aaron Faro, Troy Sauer, Dustin Shambach, Ken Heck, Gerard Marrone, and Beau Herndon.

It is with great pride that I congratulate these two outstanding teams, led by head coaches Scott Frey and Brad McCarthy. The teams, coaches, faculty and students at Messiah College have much to be proud of with both their commitment to academics and this remarkable display of athletic excellence.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1030.

IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL NURSE ANESTHETIST WEEK: JANUARY 24–30, 2010

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that this week of January 24–30, 2010, is National Nurse Anesthetist Week and want to acknowledge the high quality health care that Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) provide in my district and to patients around the U.S.

Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for nearly 150 years and are anesthesia professionals who safely administer approximately 32 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States. They are the primary anesthesia providers in rural America, enabling healthcare facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services. In some states, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100 percent of the rural hospitals. Without CRNAs, America's seniors would lack the care they need since CRNAs predominate where more Medicare patients reside.

Furthermore, CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: tradi-

tional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities.

In fact, nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. military men and women on the front lines since WWI, including current conflicts in the Middle East, and they are currently providing much needed care to patients in Haiti as they seek to recover from the recent devastating earthquakes.

Not only do they provide high quality anesthesia care in rural and medically underserved areas, they do so cost-effectively. It is no surprise that health plans increasingly recognize CRNAs for providing high-quality anesthesia care to patients, and for helping to control healthcare costs without cutting corners. In a time of escalating health care costs, it is important to note that the cost-efficiency of CRNAs helps control escalating healthcare costs.

In my own congressional district, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is home to one of America's 108 accredited nurse anesthesia educational programs. The people of my community appreciate the very fine work of this institution, and the care provided by SIUE's CRNAs across central and southern Illinois and around the country.

For CRNAs across the U.S. and those serving our nation in the Armed Forces, I commend you for your work as a profession and your passion for patients.

COMMENDING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ALEXANDRIA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA).

Ever since the Louisiana Constitution of 1852 reauthorized the establishment of Louisiana's first seminary of learning by stipulating that it would be located in Rapides Parish, LSUA has shared a rich and historical legacy with Louisiana State University. On January 2, 1860, Louisiana's pioneer public higher education institution opened its doors in Central Louisiana.

LSUA saw its beginning in 1959, when the Louisiana State Legislature approved the establishment of a two-year commuter college to serve the residents of this region. In 1960, LSUA registered its first students, and in 1964 established the first degree program, an Associate in Nursing degree.

Today, more than 3,000 nurses have earned their degrees at this institution, and the school currently boasts a 100 percent employment rate of graduate nurses.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Louisiana State Legislature voted to expand college access in one of the most educationally underserved areas of Louisiana by pro-

viding students with the opportunity to earn baccalaureate degrees from LSUA. Since there were students at LSUA who had completed upper-level course work through LSU Senior College, LSUA was able to produce its first bachelor's degree graduates in December 2003.

LSUA's transformation into a four-year university resulted in its being Louisiana's only public college focused exclusively on undergraduate education. LSUA continues to offer access to affordable associate and bachelor's degrees and challenges students to seek excellence in their studies and lives.

Nowadays, LSUA plays an integral role in the business community providing specialized training through continuing education programs. Moreover, this institution is a vital component of Central Louisiana's identity through the involvement of its faculty, staff, administrators, and students in community activities. In addition, former students and graduates of LSUA have fulfilled productive and rightful leadership and citizenship roles in business, industry, the arts, science, education, the military and government.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing LSUA for its exceptional contributions and remarkable influence on higher education, and the community at large, in Central Louisiana. As it celebrates its 50th year of service to Louisiana, LSUA looks to the future as it strives to become a university of choice for Louisianans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT PIERCE FOR RECEIVING THE POLLIN AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Scott Pierce of Fairfax, Va. for receiving the Pollin Award, honoring outstanding dedication to one's community. The Pollin Award is named after the late Abe Pollin and his wife, Irene, noted philanthropists and chairpersons of the Washington Wizards and the Verizon Center.

Scott received the Pollin Award on January 20, 2010 for his tireless efforts on behalf of youth in his community. Over the years, Scott has served on the Board of Directors for both Fairfax Fall Ball and the 17th District American Legion Baseball, and he coached numerous players in Fairfax Little League, Mantua Basketball and Mantua Swim.

Youth sports provide a tremendous opportunity for our children to learn teamwork, dedication and sportsmanship. Constructive activities provide a healthy alternative for our children's time and are an effective deterrent to more destructive behavior, such as participation in gangs. Coaches like Scott Pierce provide invaluable mentoring to our children, and are vital in helping them become productive members of society.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Scott Pierce for this important recognition. I thank him for his dedication to our children and for making Northern Virginia a better place.

EMERGENCY AID TO SURVIVORS
OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I offer my strong support to S. 2949, a bipartisan measure to extend temporary aid to help the thousands of Americans who are evacuating Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that occurred on January 12, 2010.

This is the worst disaster to hit Haiti in over two centuries, with an estimated 150,000 deaths, three million adversely affected, and severe damage to roads, ports, hospitals, and homes.

Nearly 14,000 American citizens have been evacuated from Haiti, with 40 percent of them receiving temporary repatriation assistance.

The Department of Health and Human Services Repatriation program provides assistance, such as travel expenses, medical care, temporary lodging and food assistance, to U.S. citizens repatriating to the United States in the wake of a natural disaster or other hardship. Americans receiving this assistance must reimburse the government costs incurred on their behalf, unless repayment is deemed to be infeasible due to the recipient's overall lack of financial resources.

This important legislation would raise the annual funding limit on the U.S. Repatriation Program, from \$1 million to \$25 million, for Fiscal 2010.

Thank you to my colleagues for acting swiftly to move this bill and provide assistance to all Americans in need of help returning to their homes from Haiti.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 19—On motion to suspend the Rules and Agree, as amended—H. Res. 1003—Expressing Support for the designation of January 16, 2010 as National Influenza Vaccination Week, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDER
CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S
100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
BUSINESS COMMUNITY**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Alexander City Chamber of Commerce's 100 years of service to the business community. Governor Bob Riley will be a special guest and keynote speaker at the ceremony honoring the occasion.

On February 19th, the Chamber will host their annual meeting to give recognition to incoming Board of Directors as well as those retiring this year. As always, during this annual meeting they also plan to pay tribute to the Business Person of the Year, the "Community Spirit" award recipient, Firefighter of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Chamber Ambassador of the Year.

This event will be held at the Betty Carol Graham Technology Center on the campus of Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City.

All of us across Tallapoosa County and East Alabama are deeply proud of the successes of organizations like the Alexander City Chamber, and look forward to the next 100 years of service from this important community organization and so many others like it.

TRIBUTE TO THE HICKORY LOG
RESTAURANT**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hickory Log restaurant in Dexter, Missouri, for its induction to the Missouri Restaurant Hall of Fame. For decades, travelers along Highway 60 in the southern part of our state have been tempted by the thought of delicious barbeque at the Hickory Log. And I can attest from personal experience that no one ever leaves the Hickory Log dissatisfied with the food or the service at a staple of the region's barbeque scene.

The Hickory Log has been owned and operated by the Banken family since they purchased the restaurant in 1967. In that time, they have built a reputation for barbeque that brings enthusiasts from miles around. The restaurant has grown over the years, but the uncompromising quality of the fare is unchanged, and so is the commitment of John and Laveda Banken to be active participants in the life of their community.

Election to the Missouri Restaurant Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor for this barbeque restaurant from Dexter Missouri. Only establishments in business for longer than 25 years are eligible for the honor. Later this month, the award ceremony in St. Louis will bring together some 400 restaurant-industry colleagues of the Banken family.

Owning a restaurant is truly one of the most demanding vocations in the world of small business. It requires around-the-clock time and attention, a continuously positive attitude, and focus on serving the customer with good food. The Hickory Log excels in all of these areas, and the restaurant also serves as a reminder to this House to seriously consider the ramifications of the policies we consider here on the owners, proprietors and workers at restaurants and family-owned small businesses all over the country. We also ought to have in mind the savory taste of the barbeque ribs, like no others, that they proudly serve in Dexter, Missouri.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TEACHERS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED
NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFI-
CATION**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 17 Prince William County Public Schools teachers who recently received certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The National Board is an independent non-profit organization governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

Certified teachers are required to meet standards established by the National Board to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and accomplishments that comprise teaching excellence. A Board Certified teacher supports a vision of teaching based on the following core principles.

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning;
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

I congratulate the following National Board Certified Teachers on achieving this professional recognition:

Kristen Augsburg, mathematics/adolescence and young adulthood, Battlefield High School;

Melissa Callaghan, generalist/early childhood, Cedar Point Elementary School;

Heather Davids, English language arts/adolescence and young adulthood, Osborn Park High School;

Diane Dunn, mathematics/early adolescence, New Dominion;

Julie Faith, social studies—history/adolescence and young adulthood, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Brenda Hayden, career and technical education/early adolescence through young adulthood, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Marge Hopkins, library media/early childhood through young adulthood, McAuliffe Elementary School;

Bobbie Mandro, career and technical education/early adolescence through young adulthood, Gar-Field High School;

Susan Mangicaro, mathematics/adolescence through young adulthood, Brentsville District High School;

Janice McCurdy, exceptional needs specialist/early childhood through young adulthood, Gar-Field High School;

Amanda Proch, literacy: reading-language arts/early and middle childhood, Marshall Elementary School;

Christopher Proch, art/early adolescence through young adulthood, Gar-Field High School;

Krystle Quinlan, generalist/early childhood, Coles Elementary School;

Jennifer Roberts, generalist/early childhood, West Gate Elementary School;

Connie Schumacher, social studies-history/early adolescence, Stonewall Middle School;

Judy Swank, library media/early childhood through young adulthood, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Laura Whitman, English as a second language/early adolescence through young adulthood, Potomac High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education and professional development. Prince William County Public Schools delivers a world class education with the help of teachers like these who make excellence a system-wide standard.

MARINE CORPORAL NICHOLAS
UZENSKI

HON. SCOTT MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty to report the tragic passing of Marine Cpl Nicholas Uzenski. Corporal Uzenski was taken from us on January 11, 2010, in an ambush by insurgents in Southern Afghanistan.

Corporal Uzenski was a member of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Bravo Company, based in Okinawa, Japan. A beloved son, grandson, brother, friend, and soldier, Corporal Uzenski will be sorely missed by the entire Franklin community, and a grateful nation whose freedom he fought to protect.

Just 21 years old, Corporal Uzenski followed in the footsteps of his father and uncle in joining the Marines. It was his lifelong dream to serve the nation he loved and defend the ideals for which he gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Corporal Uzenski is survived by his mother Lisa, his father William, stepmother Rebakah, and six siblings. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Uzenski family during this difficult time.

As we stand on this floor and debate the important issues of our time, let us never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we so often take for granted.

HONORING WILLIE BRANDON ON A
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Brandon, an admired and respected citizen of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who lived and worked up until the age of 103. My hometown was saddened by Willie's passing on January 5, 2010.

He was known for his kind heart, his wealth of knowledge, and his optimistic outlook on life. People said he would brighten their day just by talking with him for a few minutes. He expressed his admiration of Murfreesboro by knowing its history backward and forward, and

his wisdom was conveyed through his past experiences and stories. Willie was considered a role model and friend to many.

He began his life in Readyville, Tennessee, with his parents, Charles and Jimmie Brandon, and his sister, Lizzie. His parents were sharecroppers, but his father became a janitor when they moved to Illinois. At the age of 12, Willie dropped out of school to work and help support the family.

For the next 91 years, Willie never quit working. He worked as a cook at the James K. Polk Hotel, City Café, Sewart Air Force Base, Lamb's Grill, and Po Folks Restaurant. He also picked blackberries, cut timber, and mowed grass. Willie took pride in his work, and his dedication was an inspiration to his coworkers.

Over the last 30 years of his life, Willie was the keeper of the Rutherford County courthouse, a historical place many people pass through for business or sight-seeing. Willie could tell very personal stories about the courthouse and his family's history—150 years ago, his own grandfather, a slave, helped to build the courthouse and was later sold there.

Willie's legacy lives on through his daughter, stepson, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter. Supporting them through his continued employment is a testament to how much he loved them.

Willie Brandon's life had a significant impact on everyone he met. He lifted their spirits, shared his wisdom, and gave them hope. He will always be remembered as an institution in Rutherford County and a luminary to all of his friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DAWN PHILLIPS-HERTZ, GEN-
ERAL COUNSEL TO THE MICHIGAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the retirement of Dawn Phillips-Hertz.

Dawn has served as General Counsel to the Michigan Press Association for nearly 30 years, offering free legal advice to anybody from the more than 300 newspapers in Michigan, including those located within Michigan's Second Congressional District.

Journalists throughout the state admired her for gracefully offering a hotline to answer tough questions with thoughtful and accurate answers to any number of open government questions.

She was committed to the cause of freedom of the press, and was a staunch advocate and aggressive defender of it.

Her knowledge of the Freedom of Information Act and all laws pertaining to open government meetings helped countless reporters, editors and publishers to fulfill their duty of providing citizens with information necessary for them to know the activities of their elected representatives and other government officials.

She helped countless editors and reporters from committing troublesome mistakes whenever it was necessary, fully understanding at times intense deadline pressure.

She also helped elected officials understand potential pitfalls in introducing or voting upon legislation that would impact the public's right to know.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Phillips-Hertz on her retirement following a successful career in supporting journalism endeavors in Michigan.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
NOVATO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with pleasure today to congratulate the City of Novato, California, on the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

Novatans are rightfully proud of their community, which has tripled in size since its founding without losing the warm, small-town atmosphere that makes it a charming place to live. As the city has grown from an agricultural settlement to a destination in its own right, residents have kept their focus on the qualities that make Novato unique—strong sense of community, attachment to the natural surroundings, and an appreciation of the region's vibrant and diverse history.

Indeed, the history of Novato long predates its formal establishment half a century ago. Hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish, the Coast Miwok inhabited the area around Novato, valuing it for many of the same reasons that Novatans do today. The city's warm summers, tranquil hills, and fertile soil make it a unique corner of Marin County.

Early European settlers realized this as well, and Novato quickly became the site of some of Alta California's early Mexican land grants, including the 1839 Rancho Novato grant that later gave the city its name. It was also during this time that another Novato rancho became one of the first in the region to experiment with growing wine grapes, an industry that has since contributed so much to the identity and economy of our region. After California joined the United States, Novato grew into a more diverse agricultural hub, attracting Portuguese and Swiss-Italian pioneers to farm the land.

Since the 1930's, however, Novato has had to adapt to dramatic changes. During the Great Depression, as local farms struggled to survive, construction began on what would become Hamilton Air Force Base. The Base served as a critical center for defense and pilot training on the Pacific Coast, both during and after the Second World War. The city subsequently began a process of rapid development, attracting tens of thousands of new residents.

In face of this change, Novatans chose to incorporate in 1960 (with 72 percent of voters in favor) in order to take control over their collective future. They adopted their first General Plan in 1966 and have worked together ever since to maintain what matters to them. For instance, many of the structures that arose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are preserved in modern Novato as a treasured part of the community's heritage. The downtown area, first subdivided in 1888, still recalls its original spirit as a rural outpost far removed from the cares of urban life.

The story of Novato is one of reinvention and perseverance. From its rural beginnings, the city has grown into a home for innovators in industries from biotechnology to winemaking and from insurance to artisanal tea. From a small settlement of Mexican ranchos, Novato has become a thriving city and only the second in California governed by an all-woman city council.

Hamilton Air Force Base, one of the most successful base closure efforts in the Nation, has been reclaimed as a vibrant, mixed-use community with one of the largest wetlands restoration projects in the State. I am especially proud to have worked in partnership with residents, city leaders, and government agencies in the ongoing efforts to achieve this transformation.

This is also a community committed to a healthy and sustainable future. Novato offers recreational facilities and support programs for people of all ages, including one of the country's premier research institutes on aging. The city boasts 27 parks and over 3,600 acres of open space protected by urban growth boundaries. Even now, Novato residents are setting a leading example on promoting sustainable practices and adopting green building standards.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the City of Novato. I ask that you join me in celebrating its achievements and in wishing all its residents the best for the future. Congratulations, Novato, on your 50th birthday!

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR
THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR/AGNES
MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER
AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award program was established by the Washington Post to "recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area."

The annual recipients represent each of the 19 public school systems in the metropolitan region and a single representative from the region's private schools. The educator selected from Prince William County Public Schools also is recognized as the Prince William County Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I congratulate the 2010 Prince William County nominees for the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award:

Karen Bentall, library media specialist, Sudley Elementary School;

Margaret Bozzard, third-grade teacher, Enterprise Elementary School;

Toni Anne Cipriano, learning disabilities teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Colleen Crownhart, physical education teacher, Dale City Elementary School;

Elizabeth Genova, K-5 reading teacher, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Artise Gill, 11th- and 12th-grade English and photojournalism teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Tammy Hinkle, fifth-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Megan Howland, fourth-grade teacher/reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Elizabeth Johnson, third-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Leota Johnson, art teacher, Marshall Elementary School;

Mary Tate Kenneally, 11th- and 12th-grade algebra 2 and 11th-grade geometry teacher, Battlefield High School;

Joseph Kirrane, sixth-grade social studies teacher, Graham Park Middle School.

Terri Lawson, seventh-grade life sciences teacher, Saunders Middle School;

Erin Lips, 9th-12th-grade business teacher, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Donald Magee, band director, Forest Park High School;

Bobbie Mandro, family and consumer sciences teacher, Gar-Field High School;

Dory McAllister, 9th-12th-grade special education teacher, Hylton High School;

Heather Oberle, 9th-grade English teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Doreen Raymond, French and gifted education teacher, Bull Run Middle School;

Erin Steinebach, fourth-grade reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

THE REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX
CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICA-
TION REFORM ACT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce along with my colleague from Florida, Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a bill to prevent those who are here illegally from claiming the refundable child tax credit due to a loophole in our tax code. According to the March 31, 2009 report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration entitled "Actions Are Needed to Ensure Proper Use of Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers and to Verify or Limit Refundable Credit Claims," this tax credit "appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the U.S. without authorization, which contradicts Federal law and policy to remove such incentives." Because this credit is refundable, parents who owe no taxes can receive cash back for their children through the tax code.

In other words illegal immigrants may not only be receiving this public benefit through the tax code but may also be tempted to come to the U.S. because of it. This is just plain wrong.

Unfortunately, this refundable tax credit can be provided to an illegal immigrant so long as the immigrant is able to obtain from the IRS an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). It is because of this very situation that I am introducing the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a simple, commonsense bill to require tax filers to provide their Social Security numbers in order to claim the credit. This simple change can go a long way toward protecting taxpayers by helping to ensure that the refundable child tax credit is going to those who are here legally. This is the fair and right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BOB BURES ON BEING
NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS
"MAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Bures on being named the 2009 Western Springs "Man of the Year." Mr. Bures was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. He will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

Bob Bures, a resident of Western Springs since 1975, has dedicated his life to the service of others. Mr. Bures worked in the Chicago Public School system for 30 years, and has remained a fixture in the community through his many involvements. He has served as executive director of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago and on the Western Springs Village Board. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Western Springs Masonic Lodge 1136, the Affairs Committee and Education Subcommittee for the Union Club of Chicago, and the Western Springs Business Association. Mr. Bures is also involved with the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation and helps to transition special education students into local jobs. Currently he is the auditor for the Czech & Slovak Genealogy Society of Illinois, and previously served as treasurer of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library Foundation. And in 2008, Mr. Bures was appointed to the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission.

Previously a recipient of the City of Chicago Superior Service Award and the Excellence of Service Award from the Aquin Guild of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Bob Bures is very deservedly being honored for his dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Bob Bures for his outstanding service to his community and his recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Man of the Year.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights on the occasion of the organization's fiftieth year.

In 1960, while the civil rights debate was raging across the country over the extension of Civil Rights to all Americans, Kentucky became the first state south of the Mason-Dixon line to establish a human rights commission.

Since that time, the pioneering members of the Commission have been an ally of all Kentuckians fighting for equality, fairness, and the equal application of justice. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is charged with enforcing State and Federal Civil Rights law. It is also tasked with a powerful mandate, remarkable in its scope and comprehensive in its aims:

"To safeguard all individuals within the state from discrimination because of familial status, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age 40 and over, or because of the person's status as a qualified individual with a disability," reads the mandate. "Thereby to protect their interest in personal dignity and freedom from humiliation, to make available to the state their full productive capacities, to secure the state against domestic strife and unrest which would menace its democratic institutions, to preserve the public safety, health, and general welfare, and to further the interest, rights, and privileges of individuals within the state."

Those who have worked with the Commission throughout the last five decades have committed themselves to meeting the goals of that mandate. And that dedication is reflected not just in the law books of the Commonwealth, but in communities throughout Kentucky.

It was Kentucky that was the first southern state to pass a civil rights act and the first in the Nation to enact a fair housing law. And each and every day, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights continues to fight to educate our citizens about how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

Every citizen of our Commonwealth can be proud of the legacy of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Commission for fifty years of dedication to the expansion of equal rights across our Commonwealth and honor their vision of a people united against discrimination and united for equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 990, Expressing support for designation of January 2010 as National Mentoring Month, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 1003, expressing support for the designation of January 10, 2010, through January 16, 2010, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING JOHN TOUPS' CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH CARE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Toups' contribution to health care in northern Virginia. He has recently stepped down after more than 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees at Inova Health System in Fairfax County, Virginia.

In 1986, John began his service as a trustee on the board of the Fairfax Hospital Association, which is now known as the Inova Health System Board of Trustees. He served as vice-chairman from 1999–2003, and then as chairman from 2004–2007. For the past two years, John served on the board as past chairman.

During his voluntary tenure on the Inova board, John led Inova through a merger with Alexandria Hospital in 1997 and then with Loudoun Hospital in 2005. He has helped to establish funding for other health care initiatives to benefit patients and their families, and has long supported Inova's philanthropic priorities, including the Life with Cancer program.

Along with his work on the Board of Trustees for Inova, John found the time to serve as president of various community organizations, including the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, the George Mason University Foundation, and the Northern Virginia Roundtable.

In his professional life, John founded a civil engineering firm which later merged with the Planning Research Corporation. He retired as president and CEO of PRC in 1987.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing John Toups and his significant contribution to the Inova Health System, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the entire northern Virginia community.

HONORING LINDA JOHNSON ON BEING NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Johnson on being named the 2009 Western Springs "Woman of the Year."

Ms. Johnson was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. She will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

A lifelong resident of Western Springs and the owner of Village True Value Hardware, Linda Johnson is a fixture of the community who is always there in her store helping customers. In 2005, Ms. Johnson started the "Glory Days" project, which enables students to deliver small American flags to each home in Western Springs every July 3rd.

Linda Johnson's many commitments make her a fixture in the community including serving as chair of the Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital Foundation and events chair of the Western Springs Business Association. She is a member of the Western Springs Rotary Club, Lyons Township High School Alumni Board, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, La Grange Area Business and Professional Women, and Earlham College Alumni Council. Ms. Johnson also served as president of the Western Springs Business Association and on the Village of Western Springs' Economic Development Commission.

Previously honored as "A Person of Distinction" in 2005 and a recipient of the State of Illinois Volunteerism Award in 2007, Linda Johnson will very deservedly be honored for her dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Linda Johnson for her outstanding service to her community and her recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Woman of the Year.

HONORING THE VITAMIN L PROJECT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vitamin L Project of Ithaca, New York on 20 years of service, and to commend the founders of this group, Jan and Janice Nigro, on their steadfast dedication to community service.

For two decades, the Vitamin L Project has taught young people throughout New York state the power of diversity and positive character development. In 1989, Jan and Janice conceptualized and launched the Project as an innovative model for teaching character education through the magic of song. It all began in Ithaca, New York when a teacher friend of Jan Nigro's asked him to write some songs for elementary-age children about the universal human values of diversity, love, truth, peace, and non-violence. This single request blossomed in 17 songs, and the Vitamin L transformative magic of character building was underway creating a library of uplifting and inspirational music.

Over time, the Vitamin L Chorus was established, which today includes approximately 80 young performers as well as a growing group of Vitamin L alumni. Jan's wife, Janice, serves as Vitamin L Project Director and works tirelessly to sustain the Project's mission through outreach to elementary schools, recruitment and training of youth singers, organizing concerts, and serving as mentor and coach to all Chorus members. Together, this husband-and-

wife team, along with enthusiastic Chorus members, and a host of supportive parents and community members, has touched the hearts and minds of children across New York State and other locations where Vitamin L has been invited to perform.

With its focus on early childhood development, Vitamin L encourages children to think about moral issues in a non-threatening, fun, and very personal way. By singing the songs, watching the Vitamin L Chorus act out scenes of things like the consequences of "jumping to conclusions" and having opportunities to talk with Vitamin L Chorus members, young audiences see the importance of valuing positive character and moral behavior.

Vitamin L's first published group character-building songs titled, "Walk a Mile," won the nationally recognized Parent's Choice Gold Award shortly after its release in 1989. Three more Vitamin L recordings of character building songs received similar praise from the Parent's Choice Gold Awards in subsequent years. The recordings have also received very positive reviews in numerous national publications, such as School Library Journal, Booklist, and Time Magazine.

I thank Jan and Janice Nigro for their unwavering commitment to improving their community and congratulate them on 20 successful years with the Vitamin L Project. Their contributions have touched countless people, and enriched the lives of my constituents in New York's 22nd Congressional District and well beyond. The world could use more people who contribute to their county, state, and country, like Jan and Janice and I am grateful for the work they have done, what they are doing today, and their bright future.

RECOGNIZING KAZAKHSTAN FOR
ASSUMING LEADERSHIP OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
(OSCE)

HON. ENI F.H. FALDOMAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. FALDOMAEGA. Madam Speaker, amid regional combat, conflicts, and challenges, Kazakhstan assumed leadership this month of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), an organization of 56 member states with vast potential for strengthening regional and global cooperation, security, peace, and prosperity.

This is a remarkable historic achievement for a nation that only 19 years ago gained its independence from the former Soviet Union. It is also a recognition of the vision and leadership of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev who has charted a course to establish not only a modern state but an emerging democracy.

In the early days of its statehood and under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan demonstrated to the international community its commitment to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. It voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear and missile arsenal and shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. This decision has enhanced global security and reduced the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling

into the hands of terrorists. Kazakhstan's experience qualifies it to lead the OSCE in its efforts to increase regional security.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the principles and values that OSCE member states embrace. The nation has achieved significant progress on democratization, human rights, and economic liberalization. This is no small feat for a country in which more than 140 different nationalities and 40 religions are represented. Yet surprisingly in Kazakhstan, these people and faiths coexist peaceably because of a commitment to the shared values of tolerance, understanding, cooperation, and unity.

Great steps have been made on the path of democracy, but many more strides must be taken before the goal is reached. That is why Kazakhstan views democracy not as a sprint but a marathon; its perspective is not for the short but the long term.

Because Kazakhstan understands the challenges of democracy-building and the importance of inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue to avoid or resolve conflict, this perspective and experience will serve it well in its OSCE leadership role.

Kazakhstan is a leading democratic force in Central Asia today, a region of growing strategic importance to the United States, the OSCE, and the world. Central Asia is where East and West meet. Increasingly, it is where much of our focus will and must be now and in the years ahead. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee overseeing this region, I can state this unequivocally. It is also the reason my colleague Representative BUCK MCKEON and I recently established the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

Kazakhstan moves and interacts with ease and confidence in its home region and the surrounding areas that include Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Iran—all areas where it has interests that make dialogue and cooperation possible but not involvement that precludes it. Because of this, Kazakhstan can function as an honest and trusted broker, helping the United States and other OSCE members. This can lead to improved East-West dialogue and, hopefully, to conflict resolution.

For all the strengths, experiences, and perspectives that Kazakhstan offers, OSCE member states' choice of this new democracy to lead the organization showed correct judgment and foresight in light of the challenges and threats confronting the world. President Nazarbayev has matched the OSCE's judgment and foresight in appointing Secretary of State—Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev to serve as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. This skilled and seasoned diplomat, who once served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, will bring to his new post and the OSCE the needed leadership and focus on measurable results.

His recent speech in Vienna outlining Kazakhstan's priorities during its OSCE chairmanship reveals a commitment to revitalize the organization, reestablish its relevance on key issues, and refocus it to achieve meaningful outcomes. I am encouraged by the vision he sketched. In a world where new crises often seemingly intractable, even insoluble—emerge almost daily, we need an OSCE infused with purpose and energy and committed to full engagement and results. Knowing the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as I do, I am con-

fidant that he can and will lead the organization to achieve the outcomes that all OSCE member states desire.

As a major step toward that end, I fully support the proposal that President Nazarbayev and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev have put forward—namely, that of holding an OSCE summit. Not since 1999 has a summit been held. In my view, such an assembly would offer many advantages and opportunities to the United States and other OSCE member states for advancing the prospects and priorities of regional and global cooperation, security, peace, and prosperity.

The proposed summit warrants the United States' support and is worthy of our best efforts because it is in our national interest. For this reason, I call on President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton to help facilitate the summit through their good offices, and I look forward to working with Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev and the leaders of OSCE member states in any way I can to help execute the forward-looking vision that Kazakhstan has outlined for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

HONORING THE ALBANY PARK
COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Albany Park Community Center for receiving the League of Women Voters Award for outstanding leadership in voter education.

The Center received the award for its dedicated service to increase voter awareness and civic participation in the Albany Park community, a multi-ethnic, working class neighborhood in Chicago. In order to accomplish its goals, the Center held 25 adult education classes that focused on voting, placed bulletin boards with election-related content inside the Center, assisted voters in locating their polling places and understanding their local ballots, registered voters, and participated in the 2008 Mock Election coordinated with the League of Women Voters of Illinois. The Mock Election showed how successful their efforts had been when 318 of the 322 ballots were cast correctly.

They succeeded in reaching over 300 students through their adult education classes and successfully registered newly-naturalized citizens and others who had never voted or who let their registration lapse. Many of the students had levels of education or English language skills, and the program catered directly to their needs.

As part of the "Albany Park Votes!" program, members of the Center went above and beyond their job descriptions, aiding and registering 58 members of the community, most of whom went on to vote in the next election. The program was especially successful in educating the entire community in the civil process, as most of the adult students brought educational materials to their children and encouraged them to vote in the Mock Election, thereby reinforcing the importance of voting and preparing them for when they become eligible voters. In this way, Albany Park Community Center's program will have a long term

impact on the community's involvement in the civil process.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Albany Park Community Center for their dedicated efforts to increase voter awareness and civic participation. Their efforts demonstrate how great the democratic process can be.

EMERGENCY AID TO AMERICAN
SURVIVORS OF THE HAITI
EARTHQUAKE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2949, the Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act. The true scope and magnitude of the heartbreaking tragedy in Haiti continue to unfold. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians are still without reliable access to water, food, shelter, and other basic essentials. Children of all ages find themselves without family, relatives, or loved ones. While remarkable humanitarian efforts continue to reach more of those in need every day, the rebuilding effort in Haiti is one that will take more than a decade.

Americans across the country have been moved by the terrible disaster and have generously given support in any way that they can. In the Merrimack Valley and the Fifth District of Massachusetts which I represent, concerned residents have volunteered their time, donated money, organized fundraising efforts, and provided needed supplies. For example, this weekend, a restaurant in Lawrence, Massachusetts is providing free lunch to all those making a donation to the Haiti relief fund.

Our military has also done incredible work in reaching survivors, opening airports in order to facilitate the distribution of aid, and helping to maintain order.

I am pleased that the House of Representatives will pass bipartisan legislation to extend temporary aid to help the thousands of Americans who are evacuating Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.

As of Monday, 14,000 American citizens have been evacuated from Haiti, with 40 percent of them receiving temporary repatriation assistance. The Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act will provide these individuals with help in securing and paying for connecting flights, temporary lodging, food, and medical assistance.

Last week, Congress passed and the President signed bipartisan legislation, which I cosponsored, speeding up the tax deduction for charitable contributions for Haiti so that individuals making contributions by the end of February can claim these charitable contributions on their 2009 tax return.

The need in Haiti will be great for many years to come. Support from U.S. foreign aid agencies and the international community will be essential, along with efforts from ordinary citizens, like the one taking place in Lawrence this weekend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 17, 18, and 19 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY DISABILITY APPLI-
CANTS' ACCESS TO PROFES-
SIONAL REPRESENTATION ACT

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I am joined today by my colleagues, JIM McDERMOTT Chairman of the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, SAM JOHNSON, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and JOHN LINDER, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, in introducing the Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act. This important, bipartisan legislation will help individuals with severe disabilities navigate the often lengthy and complex process of applying for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, SSI, disability benefits.

Specifically, this bill will improve access to quality, professional representation for disability applicants by making permanent a temporary provision to expand access that is due to expire on March 1.

For many years, attorneys who represent Social Security disability claimants have been able to have their fees withheld from the claimant's past-due benefits and paid directly to them by SSA. By providing a way to ensure that attorneys are paid if the claim is successful, this system has helped to ensure that disability applicants—even those who are very low income—have access to professional representation. This representation is particularly important for those applicants who appeal their case by seeking a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The fee paid to representatives is limited to 25 percent of the claimant's past-due benefits, subject to a dollar cap, and is only paid if the claimant wins.

In 2004, Congress adopted a provision to temporarily expand this fee-withholding system in two ways: by extending the system to SSI claims, and also by allowing qualified non-attorney representatives to participate. To be a "qualified non-attorney," a representative must pass an examination administered by the Social Security Administration, SSA, and meet other criteria designed to protect applicants.

This expansion of the fee-payment system has been very successful, and disability groups and other stakeholders have strongly supported making it permanent. In addition, both SSA and the Government Accountability Office have examined the program to extend fee-withholding to non-attorney representatives and found it was working well.

The Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act

would ensure that these successful programs continue. The bill has no cost, and even generates some savings—\$55 million over 10 years—due to user fees paid by representatives who participate.

Ensuring that individuals with severe disabilities have the help they need to navigate the complex benefit application process is a goal on which we can all agree. I urge you to support this bipartisan legislation to move us closer to this goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 1011, recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PIT MARTIN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Chicago Blackhawk, Pit Martin. Pit was born in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, played 17 seasons in the NHL, and died in a tragic snowmobile accident two winters ago. He was only 64.

Pit is remembered as a hockey player, and for good reason because he was a darned great one. His storied career spanned four teams and 19 years—including 11 seasons with the Chicago Blackhawks. In 740 games, Pit scored 243 goals, dished out 384 assists, and was the "M" on the Chicago Stadium's iconic "MPH" line with Jim Pappin and Dennis Hull. He was named to four All-Star teams and led the Hawks to two Stanley Cup Finals.

But anyone who stood 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighed 168 pounds in the NHL can never be defined by numbers alone—and so it was with Pit. After the 1969–70 season, he was awarded the Bill Masterson Trophy, exemplifying the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship, and dedication to hockey. He was never the biggest dog in the fight, but during the 1,101 games he suited up for, no one fought harder, worked harder, and did more with less.

When Pit passed away, Hall-of-Fame linesman Matt Pavelich summed it up best: "He was small, but he wasn't timid. I just remember him as a real nice guy." The Blackhawk family and the city of Chicago miss him.

Let's see if we can finish what he helped start, and bring home a Stanley Cup this year, for Pit, and all of Chicago.

CONCERNING THE RECENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE 143RD AIRLIFT WING OF THE RHODE ISLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO ASSIST WITH RELIEF OPERATIONS IN HAITI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the Rhode Island Air National Guard members who deployed to Haiti on Friday, January 22nd, to assist in the critical aid and evacuation effort taking place after the devastating earthquake that hit the country two weeks ago. Immediately after the earthquake struck, members of the U.S. armed services, first responders and relief agencies began their work to help the people of Haiti recover from this tragedy. With an alarming death toll of over one hundred thousand and the number of displaced Haitians reaching one million, the national and the international community must do all it can to support and help rebuild this shattered nation.

I am especially proud that the 143rd Airlift Wing, based out of Quonset Point Air National Guard Station, is helping in this recovery effort with transport and medical evacuation assistance. They will provide critical assets to the relief operation and will help deliver aid and supplies expeditiously to the Haitian people. During the past several years, the 143rd has answered their call to duty with the courage and bravery our Nation has come to rely on from our National Guard. The 143rd provided assistance to the citizens of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, made numerous tours to Iraq and have recently deployed again to Afghanistan. Both our state and our nation are incredibly grateful for their service and the service of all our men and women in uniform serving at home and abroad. I hope all our Rhode Island National Guard members return home safely and soon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, on January 26–27, 2010, I missed rollcall votes 17 through 25 because of medical reasons. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 17, “yea;” rollcall vote 18, “yea;” rollcall vote 19, “yea;” rollcall vote 20, “yea;” rollcall vote 21, “yea;” rollcall vote 22, “yea;” rollcall vote 23, “yea;” rollcall vote 24, “yea;” rollcall vote 25, “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1–5, 9–11,

15–16, and 20–25. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 3–5, 9–10, 15–16, and 20–25. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall votes 2, 11. I would have voted “present” on rollcall vote 1.

IN MEMORY OF MS. DONICE HARBOR, 2010 NAACP HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Ms. Donice Harbor who will be honored, posthumously, as the North Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s 2010 Humanitarian of the Year at the 26th Annual Humanitarian Banquet on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This is a fitting tribute for an outstanding North Carolinian tragically taken from us long before her time. Donice was thoughtful and hardworking. She often put the needs of others before her own. Though only 36 years old at the time of her passing, Donice’s wisdom and breadth of knowledge exceeded her years on this earth. For those who were blessed to know her, she will always be remembered for her leadership, her quiet determination and her ever-present smile.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Donice received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Fayetteville State University and her Masters degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University. While in graduate school, Donice began her career in public service as a Legislative Intern with state Senator Jeanne Lucas, the first African-American woman to serve in the North Carolina State Senate.

In 2001, Donice began working with then Lt. Governor Bev Perdue as Director of Public Liaison. In 2009, when Perdue was elected to the office of Governor, Donice became the Governor’s Director of Faith and Citizens Outreach. In addition to being a dependable public servant, Donice was also a passionate advocate who was an active member of the Wendell-Wake County NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a valiant supporter of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and its Foundation.

The tragic loss of Donice Harbor reminds us that cancer touches nearly every family in North Carolina. The U.S. House recently passed my legislation to raise awareness of the importance of early detection of cancer. Simply put, early detection saves lives.

Donice Harbor was an outstanding North Carolinian and very deserving of the NAACP’s Humanitarian Award. She was a very special friend to members of my staff and myself personally, and she will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this extraordinary public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 17 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 990), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 18 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1011), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 19 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1003).

RECOGNITION OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, there have been times in history where great technological challenges have been overcome by the combined efforts from both government policy and scientific innovation. We are sitting at one of those critical junctions today. Our country is taking active steps to curb our energy consumption by implementing energy efficiency policies and is also highly engaged in scientific innovation to make renewable technologies, such as solar, a sustainable part of our total energy portfolio. I am here today to discuss several promising technological advancements in solar systems that might one day help reduce our country’s dependence on foreign energy sources.

As we know, solar technologies come in several flavors. Some systems such as solar photovoltaic convert the sun’s energy directly into useable electricity. Other technologies such as solar-thermal systems use the sun’s energy to boil water that then turns a steam turbine which ultimately generates electricity.

Development of solar photovoltaic systems has relied on manufacturing processes developed in the microelectronics industry, which has relied heavily on silicon as the main material component. These manufacturing methods can be slow and they yield relatively expensive solar cells. Through technological advancements in material science, new materials such as copper-indium-selenide (CIS) or copper-indium-gallium-selenide (CIGS) have resulted in low-cost solar cells. Solar cells made with these materials can even be printed much like you would print a document with your inkjet printer at home.

While CIS/CIGS photovoltaic advancements are driving manufacturing costs down, further advancements in silicon solar cells are also progressing. Advancements have been possible through new techniques used in nanotechnology labs across the country. The new generation of solar cells, instead of being constructed of flat layers of material on a silicon wafer, may end up looking more like microscopic cities. These “3D” solar cells are showing promise as they may be able to better absorb the sun’s energy and convert it to usable electricity.

Great things are happening in the solar photovoltaic world, but important advancements in the solar thermal world are also taking place. Recently concerns about the amount of water used in generation of electricity with solar-thermal power plants were raised; these concerns can be misleading as similar amounts of cool water are needed for coal or natural gas power plants. Regardless the solar-thermal industry has responded with an innovative dry-cooling process which could reduce the water consumed to almost nothing.

There are some that want a silver bullet to lay to rest our country's issues with foreign energy sources. While no such bullet exists, we can make real progress by encouraging development in all these promising technologies in parallel. Doing so can help States, like Washington State, achieve goals outlined in their renewable portfolio standards. On a larger scale we can move our entire country towards a clean energy source.

I hope that my colleagues here in Congress will help me in moving relevant bills swiftly through our legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CECIL MOORE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 13, 2010

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Mr. Cecil Moore, a constituent of mine who will be turning 90 on February 13th this year. Mr. Moore is a World War II Veteran and American hero and deserves our greatest praise.

He was so determined to serve our Nation, he hitch-hiked all the way from Sylacauga, Alabama, to Atlanta, Georgia, to enlist in the Marines in 1939. During World War II, he served most of his time in the Pacific and participated in the Marshall Islands campaign.

He eventually retired in 1965 at the rank of Colonel.

On February 13th, this hometown war hero will be celebrating his 90th birthday. All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply honored to be a part of celebrating this extraordinary veteran's 90th birthday celebration. Our best wishes and happy birthday to Mr. Cecil Moore.

IN HONOR OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT ADAM K. GINETT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Technical Sergeant Adam K. Ginett, a 29-year-old from Knightdale, NC, who was killed on Tuesday, January 19 near Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. Ginett was assigned to the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. It was his second tour of duty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Ginett received a Bronze Star for his role in a firefight on his first tour in Afghanistan. He also served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to his grandfather, Jim Haslam, Sergeant Ginett's unit was walking toward a location where a cache of IEDs was thought to

be hidden. Another servicemember was killed in the incident and three were wounded.

In brave service to our Nation, Ginett opted for explosive ordnance duty after he graduated from boot camp. According to Ginett's mom, Christina Kazakavage of Coats, NC, he chose this dangerous work because it would mean that he would be able to directly save American lives by searching for and defusing bombs that were meant to take someone else's life. Sadly, last week that calling led to his own death from an IED in a field that he was working to make safe for others.

Though he had planned for a career in the military since he was in high school, Ginett had other interests, including artistic pursuits. He interned for four summers during high school with cartoonists at Walt Disney World in Florida, and he worked in a pottery studio in Knightdale during his last year at East Wake High School.

Ginett's body returned to North Carolina yesterday. A funeral mass will be held Friday, January 29 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay-Varina and Ginett will be buried with military honors in Raleigh Memorial Park. He is survived by his parents, James and Christina Kazakavage, and sister, Sarah Kazakavage, of Coats; paternal grandfather, Joe Kazakavage of Port St. Lucie, FL.; and maternal grandparents, James and Mary Haslam of Cary.

Madam Speaker, Adam Ginett is a true American hero whose selfless devotion to his fellow soldiers should be remembered. I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting this brave young soldier for his sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. I would like to extend my deepest condolence to Sergeant Ginett's family and to all who knew him. Our Nation lost a true hero and he will be missed.

ON INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2010, which will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/or her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/or her medical expenses, the cost of replacement of the stolen items, or for pain and suffering, he/or she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from such an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical ex-

penses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home. This is unacceptable!

The Veterans Pensions Protection Act will amend the U.S. Code to exempt the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. No veterans should be unable to pay their medical bills, unable to get the care they need, or in a situation where they could lose their home. After serving our country so valiantly, our veterans deserve no less than the very best benefits.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,308,886,504,801.94.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,670,460,758,508.14 so far this Congress.

Yesterday the Congressional Budget Office released their Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2010–2020. They estimate a deficit of \$1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 18—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1011, Recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 990, expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on 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, January 28, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 2

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011, the Future Years Defense Program, the 2011 Quadrennial Defense Review, and the 2011 Missile Defense Review.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011.

SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Persily, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, and Patricia A. Hoffman, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011.

SD-215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Donald E. Booth, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Bisa Williams, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, and Beatrice Wilkinson Welters, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the Supreme Court's decision to allow unlimited corporate spending in elections.

SR-301

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Kazakhstan's leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

SR-485

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine business perspectives on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reconstruction and development contracts in Afghanistan.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine prohibiting certain high-risk investment activities by banks and bank holding companies.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rosemary Anne DiCarlo, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, and to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, Brooke D. Anderson, of California, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, and to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, Allan J. Katz, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, Ian C. Kelly, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, and Judith Ann Stewart Stock, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the world wide threat.

SH-216

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Scott H. DeLisi, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, and David Adelman, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for health care proposals.

SD-215

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, focusing on immigration detention reform.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 4

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine keeping foreign corruption out of the United States, focusing on four case histories.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Comcast/NBC Universal Merger, focusing on the future of competition and consumers.

SD-226

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for Defense Authorization and the Future Years Defense Program.

SDG-50

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's implementation of the SECURE Water Act, (Title 9501 of Public Law 111-11) and the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Conservation Initiative which includes the Challenge Grant Program, the Basin Study Program and the Title XVI Program.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider any pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine combating cyber crime and identity theft in the digital age.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 11

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider any pending nominations.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 23

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine proposed defense authorization request for fiscal

year 2011 for the Future Years Defense Program.

SDG-50

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

MARCH 2

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation from Disabled Veterans of America.

345, Cannon Building

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine legislative presentations from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Ex-Prisoners of War, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Officers Association of America, Air Force Ser-

geants Association, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

345, Cannon Building

MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session.

SH-216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation from Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SDG-50

MARCH 18

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine legislative presentations from AMVETS, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Gold Star Wives, The Retired Enlisted Association, Fleet Reserve Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

SDG-50