

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.
EDGAR WAYBURN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay final tribute to a great champion of the environment, Dr. Edgar Wayburn. At age 103, Dr. Wayburn passed away on March 5th surrounded by his beloved family. His accomplishments on behalf of our planet are unsurpassed.

Joining me in tribute today is Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

Working for five decades as a physician, Dr. Wayburn understood that the human condition is inextricably linked to the environment. When Dr. Wayburn first arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1933, he was stunned by the uninterrupted expanse of green beginning in San Francisco and crossing the Bay to Marin. He made a lifelong commitment to ensuring that it remained protected.

He had the same experience when he first visited Alaska fifty years ago with his wife Peggy. They were captivated by the unique beauty of the Alaskan landscape. The national campaign that flowed from that first visit resulted in the Alaska Lands Act: the largest public lands legislation in the history of the U.S. Congress. Today, more than a million acres remain wild largely because of Dr. Wayburn's first trip to what he called "the last frontier."

Dr. Wayburn simultaneously fought to preserve and expand one of America's pristine ancient forests, Redwood National Park in Northern California. Today, these giant redwoods have a permanent home and are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Preserve.

In San Francisco he orchestrated the creation of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), an almost continuous greenbelt stretching down the Pacific Coast from Point Reyes Seashore to the Peninsula. In the 1960s, the idea of an urban national park was an alien concept to Congress and the National Park Service. Thanks to the tireless labors of Congressman Philip Burton and Dr. Wayburn, along with the support of the local community and local environmentalists, GGNRA is today the most visited national park and one of our nation's great natural treasures. Within its boundaries are redwood forests, beaches, dramatic headlands, marshes, abundant wildlife, historic forts, islands in the Bay, and a world-famous prison—and all of this incredible diversity lies within easy reach of one of the largest metropolitan populations in the United States. It is a living testament to the tenacity of Dr. Edgar Wayburn.

Many of us were fortunate to work with Dr. Wayburn on the monumental achievement of transferring the Presidio of San Francisco in 1994 from a military post to an urban national park. He helped craft a model for the nation in

a place which respected the stewardship and traditions of the military Presidio's tradition as a military base, while enhancing the opportunities for volunteerism and environmental education for youth.

Dr. Wayburn received many awards to honor his accomplishments: the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism from Johns Hopkins University, the Starker Leopold Award by the Nature Conservancy, the John Muir Award by the Sierra Club, and in 1999 Dr. Wayburn's life work was recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor that our country can bestow. As President Clinton said at the time, Dr. Wayburn "saved more of our wilderness than any other person alive."

Dr. Wayburn, the honorary president-for-life of the Sierra Club, was the stealth force behind so many environmental movements to save the world's wild lands, forests and waters for the benefit of future generations. The magnificent landscapes that he preserved for future generations will stand as a lasting monument to him.

Above all, Dr. Wayburn was devoted to his family: his beloved late wife Peggy who was his partner in preserving the environment, his children Diane, Laurie, Cynthia and William and three grandchildren. We celebrate his life and we honor his memory.

TCU WOMEN'S RIFLE TEAM

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the TCU Women's Rifle Team. Last month the team won the 2010 NCAA National Championship. This is the first National Championship win since 1983 for TCU, so this is a huge victory for both the team and the school.

In addition to the accomplishment of the entire TCU Women's Rifle Team, several of the ladies on the team received individual distinctions. Freshman Sarah Scherer won the individual National Championship in the smallbore rifle portion of the competition. Senior Erin Lorenzen was honored as the Most Outstanding Athlete of the championship. These two TCU ladies were also honored as All-American athletes. Sarah Beard, Caitlin Morrissey, and Simone Riford received All-American athlete honors as well.

It is evident that the TCU Women's Rifle Team is a very skilled and accomplished group. Head coach Karen Monez has done an excellent job of leading the team. This National Championship is the height of achievement for the team, which has had phenomenal success for the past several years under the leadership of Coach Monez. I am confident that their success will continue.

Again, I congratulate the entire TCU Women's Rifle Team on their National Champion-

ship win. They have made their entire school and all of Fort Worth proud.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY BAY
BLUES FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Bay Blues Festival on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. For a quarter of a century, the Festival has been dedicated to the stewardship and celebration of this uniquely American musical legacy here on the Monterey Peninsula.

Six years ago the Festival started its Blues in the Schools (BITS) program, which has spread to five school districts in Monterey County and keeps on growing. As part of the regular music program, BITS introduces the blues to young people who hope to find their own expressions in music. Scholarships and grants help to keep students focused on and developing passion for their art. BITS clinicians support choirs, guitar classes, combos, and school bands.

In the words of my friend and former staff member, Doris M. Jones, chair of the anniversary committee: ". . . the (festival) began with a few local men and women who had a desire to preserve the rich heritage of blues music, as well as continue to perpetuate the heartfelt sounds created out of times of sorrow, pain, jubilation and joy. . . . 'The Blues' have a way of touching that place in each of us that brings out a deep emotion and understanding that, regardless of how difficult the times, things will get better. Whether it is our economy, our health, our relationships, times of love or times of war, the expression of the blues reminds us that we are more alike than we are different."

The mission of the Monterey Bay Blues Festival is to give back to the community and spread this distinctively American art form through the Festival and by supporting youth and the arts. In this way, they expand the appreciation of their evolving artistic legacy and inspire a passion for music, especially the Blues.

Madam Speaker, I want to hold up the Festival as a cultural institution, an expression of what makes our nation a worldwide leader in the music that is unique to our land. May their continued success inspire many more generations to celebrate our nation's musical heritage and participate in its future.

On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to the Monterey Bay Blues Festival the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for their past and future service.

• 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.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN STANLEY
VINCENT DEGEUS

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Captain Stanley DeGeus on his retirement from the United States Navy, which he has faithfully served for over three decades.

Captain Stanley Vincent DeGeus is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a 1979 graduate of Villanova University. At Villanova, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and was commissioned an Ensign through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.

Following commissioning, Captain DeGeus completed Division Officer tours as Administrative Officer, Second Division Officer, and Combat Information Center/Missile Officer in USS SEATTLE (AOE 3) from November 1979 to May 1983. His first shore assignment was Commissioning Crew and Navigation/Naval Operations Instructor at the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Boston University. While at Boston University, he received his Master's Degree in Biology in January 1986.

Captain DeGeus' subsequent afloat duty included assignment as Executive Officer in USS IMPLICIT (MSO 455) from October 1986 to November 1987 and as Executive Officer in USS ENHANCE (MSO 437) during mine countermeasure operations in the Persian Gulf. He then served as Operations Officer in USS CROMMELIN (FFG 37) from June 1988 to December 1989. Captain DeGeus served as Commissioning Commanding Officer in USS CHAMPION (MCM 4) from May 1990 to September 1992.

Following a year of study at the Naval War College, where he received a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, he completed a three-year tour of duty as an instructor in the Command Training Department at Surface Warfare Officers School Command in Newport, Rhode Island. From May 1997 to November 1998, Captain DeGeus served as Commanding Officer in USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) from September 2001 to February 2003. USS BONHOMME RICHARD deployed for both Operation Enduring Freedom (67 combat sorties) and Operation Iraqi Freedom during his tenure in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Following a tour of duty as a Strategy and Alignment Branch Head in OPNAV 76 and as Sea Shield Pillar Lead in OPNAV 70, Captain DeGeus reported as Commander, Surface Warfare Development Group in May 2005.

Captain DeGeus' medals and decorations include two Legion of Merit awards, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, and four Navy Achievement awards. Most impressive is that he was able to lead a highly successful career in the Navy all while raising his three remarkable children—Juliane Catherine, Case James, and Cory—with his wife, Barbara Jean Mellon of Freehold, New Jersey.

HONORING MR. IRVIN E. RICHTER,
2010 NEW JERSEY BUSINESS
HALL OF FAME RECIPIENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Irvin Richter for his induction into the New Jersey Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Richter has demonstrated significant leadership and dedication to his community, and for this he deserves great praise.

A Laureate induction into the New Jersey Business Hall of Fame is a lifetime achievement award for individuals making a significant, positive impact on New Jersey. Inductees demonstrate, as Mr. Richter has throughout their professional lives high ethical standards, mentorship, community involvement and innovative leadership.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hill International, Mr. Richter is known for his expertise in the field of construction contacts and claims. His reputation for excellence is worldwide, after working on projects such as the Channel Tunnel, EPCOT, Reliance Oil Refinery, Athens Metro, King Khalid Military City, Petronas Twin Towers, Washington Metro, and the Alaska Pipeline. Mr. Richter is not only an actively sought expert, but also an international arbitrator and mediator for the leading participants in the industry. In addition, he has provided expert witness testimony on numerous occasions regarding contractual and damage issues.

Mr. Richter has been honored as a Distinguished Alumnus from his alma mater Wesleyan University and from his Law school, Rutgers University School of Law, Camden. He is a member of the World Presidents' Organization (WPO) and the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT). He is a current and past member of the Board of Trustees of Rutgers University, the Board of Directors of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), the Board of Governors of Temple University Hospital and the Board of Directors of the ACE Mentor Program. In 2002, Mr. Richter was made a fellow by the CMAA for his contributions to the construction management industry. At that time, he was one of only 17 Fellows in the history of the organization.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Richter's contributions to his field and to state of New Jersey should not go unrecognized. I want to personally thank Irvin Richter for the exceptional leadership he has provided and the impact he has made all over the world. I congratulate Mr. Richter on his induction to the New Jersey Hall of Fame and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

**CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS
OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009.

The United States of America has a moral obligation to provide for all the brave men and women whose courageous service allows all of us to live the lives we do.

This service comes not without a price, and America must provide for these service members and their families during deployment and post-deployment.

Our disabled, ill and injured veterans need the assistance and care they deserve for their sacrifice.

S. 1963 will expand mental health services for veterans; enhance health services for 1.8 million women veterans—which for the first time includes care for newborns.

This is a landmark legislation that builds upon the last three years of significant accomplishments for veterans, troops and military families.

S. 1963 will allow for a caregiver of a veteran to receive training, counseling, lodging and subsistence payments when accompanying a veteran on medical care visits.

We must ensure that those who care for our veterans are properly equipped and trained to do so.

In addition, we will prohibit the VA from collecting copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled.

I am proud to vote for S. 1963, on behalf of all the service members, veterans and their families in my District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my proud support for the passage of historic health reform legislation earlier this year. I am glad the Congress, after working for more than nine months, was able to pass comprehensive health care reform that will reduce the growth in health care costs, cut the deficit, and provide affordable health insurance for an additional 32 million Americans.

The package passed by Congress, which includes H.R. 3590 and H.R. 4872 as enacted, will reduce the deficit by \$143 billion over ten years and by more than \$1 trillion over the second decade. Enacting responsible health care reform will provide health care security for individuals, families, and small businesses across the country. This legislation will ensure that individuals can no longer be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition or kicked off their insurance when they get sick. Health care reform also places caps on annual and lifetime out-of-pocket costs so that individuals and families will no longer go bankrupt due to an illness.

Despite the benefits and enhanced Medicare protections that I am confident health reform will bring, I wish to stress the importance of vigorous oversight of the newly created Independent Medicare Advisory Board, IMAB. H.R. 3590 establishes such a board, whose goal is to reduce the per capita rate of growth in Medicare spending. I strongly support the need to control costs, but I believe elected officials who answer to the people should make the key decisions affecting health programs. Medicare beneficiaries expect Congress to

take responsibility for shaping Medicare, allowing Americans a voice through their elected representatives in determining the benefits they receive on a daily basis.

H.R. 3950 wisely prevents IMAB from recommending measures that would ration health care, increase Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing, or otherwise restrict benefits. However, we must remain vigilant in our oversight of IMAB to ensure that the board serves our constituents' best interests.

HONORING KATHRYN GALLANIS MATERN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kathryn Gallanis Matern, an accomplished attorney and the next president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

After receiving her Juris Doctorate from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Ms. Gallanis Matern made a name for herself as the lead prosecutor while working for the Assistant State's Attorney's Felony Trial Division. Many of her cases, most notably the Keystone Case, received substantial attention from the national media.

Outside of her professional duties, Ms. Gallanis Matern remains very busy. Her involvement in the community includes volunteering for the Junior League of Chicago and the New Trier Citizen's League, as well as being the acting Vice President of the Chicago Republican Women's Network. These achievements have culminated in her becoming the next president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

It is my honor to recognize Kathryn Gallanis Matern, an accomplished attorney, volunteer, and member of Chicagoland women's associations.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 960

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II Veterans of American Legion Post 960.

As we mark the 65th anniversary to the end of World War II, it is important that we continue to recognize the remarkable courage and sacrifice these members of the greatest generation of Americans gave for our country. We must never forget their struggle to maintain an enduring freedom throughout the world, and we all owe a debt to those who defended our liberty under circumstances most of us can only imagine.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to American Legion Post 960 for providing such an invaluable service to our community and our veterans. Established April 26, 1956, the 478 member post has been a place for veterans to gather together and their food holi-

day drives have helped feed many needy families in our community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the World War II Veterans of American Legion Post 960 for their extraordinary heroics and sacrifices for our country, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of these brave Americans.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Retired Staff Sergeant Bernard J. Grant served a year in Vietnam as a convoy escort and over eight more years in Europe in counter-intelligence. He was the winner of several awards including: Army Commendation, five Awards of Good Conduct, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, a Unit Citation, and more. He truly understood his duty and he carried it out no questions asked, without regard for his personal opinion. Grant understood that to serve in the military meant to be a weapon of the American government and a part of the greatest military on Earth. In this military, unity and personal sacrifice is key;

there is little room for individualism, for the military must be one in action and goal. One's duty to their country comes before all personal desires. My discussion with Mr. Grant taught me these important lessons, which I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I will always remember them, and I will always respect those who serve our country, and those that have served our country, for their duty, honor, and sacrifice.—Josh Eldridge.

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly support the House Amendments to S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act; legislation that recognizes and aims to meet the needs of our veterans who have bravely served in Iraq and Afghanistan after 9/11. My colleagues will remember that this legislation was held up in the Senate due to one senator's objection that the bill was not paid for. However, our warriors have already paid a very high price through their sacrifices and selfless devotion to our national security, and they should be repaid with excellent care when they return to civilian life. Fortunately, this legislation builds on the Democratic Congress' record of supporting our veterans through new and innovative programs, fixing some of the existing problems in the VA, and increasing funding for the VA budget.

The legislation we are voting on today is a comprehensive approach to caring for our veterans. Specifically, it provides robust support for those who care for our wounded warriors, addresses the needs women veterans, expands services to rural veterans and for mental health care, and closes a loophole for disabled veterans health care.

Specifically, the House amendments to S. 1963 provides services, training, and reimbursements for the caregivers of veterans who return from war with serious injuries. It will strengthen support for caregivers of all veterans and will provide reimbursements for lodging and healthcare to caregivers of Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, the legislation expands health care services for our 1.8 million women veterans including provisions mandating a study of the barriers to women veterans seeking health care, education and training for mental health professionals caring for veterans with sexual trauma, a reintegration and readjustment pilot program, establishment of a child care pilot program for women receiving regular and intensive mental health care and intensive health care services, and post-delivery health care for new born children.

This comprehensive bill also improves health care for our veterans living in rural areas, including by expanding transportation for veterans to local VA hospitals and clinics through VA grants to local Veterans Service Organizations and provides increased access to counseling and other mental health centers to any member of the Armed Forces.

Other provisions in this legislation include prohibiting the VA from collecting copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled; creating a pilot program to provide specified dental services to veterans, survivors, and dependents of veterans through a dental insurer; providing hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability; and expanding the organizations offering transitional housing and other support for homeless veterans that can receive grants or per diems from the VA, which is particularly important to veterans in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and for the Senate to swiftly act so that this legislation can become law and our veterans can begin to benefit from the important programs this comprehensive bill implements.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS S. HIGGINS'
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday of Thomas S. Higgins. Mr. Higgins has lived a life of compassion and dedication towards his family and his community and for this he deserves great praise.

Mr. Higgins was born in Camden, New Jersey on April 23, 1935. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in political science from St. Joseph's University before earning his Juris Doctorate at Villanova Law School. After graduating, Mr. Higgins and his partners founded a successful practice in Laurel Springs, New Jersey. During his forty-year tenure as an attorney, he specialized in environmental law, serving as counsel to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and the Cape May Municipal Utilities Authority. Mr. Higgins represented both governmental and personal clients with the utmost vigor and integrity.

Mr. Higgins has also served as chairman of the Health Care Facilities Finance Authority. In this role, he helped obtain financing for the construction, expansion and renovation of hospitals and other health care facilities throughout the state of New Jersey. Additionally, he has served as a Camden County Freeholder, as a chief fundraiser for the Camden County Democratic Committee and as a member of the Finance team for the campaigns of New Jersey Governor Jim Florio in 1989 and 1993. Among his most rewarding moments was preparing the background information for the successful nomination of Governor Florio for the 1993 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award.

All who know Mr. Higgins know his love of law and politics is exceeded only by his love for his wife, Kathy, his partner and teammate for 27 years. Until her passing in 2006, the two were inseparable and together were an inspirational story of love and dedication. A devoted family man, Mr. Higgins' takes great pride in the successes and achievements of his seven children, and in the blissful faces of his twelve grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Thomas S. Higgins's contributions to his field and the state of New Jersey, and his commitment to his family should not go unrecognized. I am honored to be a part of his special day, and I would like to personally wish him a Happy 75th Birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR GAMES AND EXPO

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo on the occasion of this organization's milestone 25th Anniversary. The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo will be held at Montgomery County Community College from May 10 through 14, 2010.

The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo originated in 1985 through the efforts of Montgomery County's state legislative delegation. Through the continued support and tireless work of talented volunteers, the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo has been successful in ensuring that this annual event combining healthy exercise and community spirit has continued. The Games & Expo is comprised of weeklong competitive events for Montgomery County senior adults and culminates with an Expo featuring health screenings and various exhibits with services and products to benefit the lifestyles of senior citizens. This event gives seniors the opportunity to not only gain information about their health resources, but to come together in the spirit of community to engage in sports and recreation. I am proud to represent the volunteers who work so hard to organize this outstanding event, as well as the participants who take advantage of such a wonderful experience.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo's 25th anniversary and in wishing the volunteers, participants, and community many more years of health and fellowship.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the State of Israel on the occasion of its 62nd anniversary. For 62 years, the United States and the modern State of Israel have shared a deep friendship and strong bonds of cooperation. Since the establishment of our ally in May 1948, the United States and Israel have been united by their strong ties and mutual democratic values.

This week, we pay tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of the State of Israel, which has developed a prosperous, educated, and

vibrant nation since its establishment 62 years ago. During that time, the United States has stood in vigorous support of Israel's right to exist and will continue to do so in the future. As a democracy, Israel's people enjoy freedom of speech and religion, an open political system, an independent judiciary and many other practices. Israel's colleges and universities are highly respected, which strengthens the Israeli economy and allows the country to be a leader in research and innovation.

I am also pleased to celebrate the ties between the American and Israeli people and the rich history of the American Jewish community. For hundreds of years, the United States has benefited from Jewish contributions to American culture. As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens. When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty. American Jews have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life. By recognizing those contributions to the fabric of American life, we promote awareness and understanding.

Israel is an integral and essential partner and I look forward to opportunities to continue and enhance the strong bonds between our nations. As a defender of the inherent rights of all people and nations, I am proud to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to other legislative business, I missed the last vote on April 22, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 220, H. Res. 1270, Expressing support for Mathematics Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING WORLD MALARIA
DAY 2010

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of 2010 World Malaria Day, an issue of great importance to me. I witnessed the widespread devastation malaria can cause both times I lived in Africa, first in Ghana with a program called Operation Crossroads and then when I worked in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) as a Foreign Service Medical Officer. While the disease affects people in every corner of the globe, it is particularly destructive to sub-Saharan Africa. There are 250 million malaria cases worldwide and nearly one million deaths are caused by malaria every year, ninety percent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa. About 3.3 billion people—about one-half of the world's population—are at risk of contracting the disease. It is important to recognize the

damage that this disease afflicts on the generation of the future: seventy percent of the deaths caused by malaria happen to children under the age of five, and one in every five childhood deaths in Africa is due to malaria.

Though the statistics are staggering, it is important to recognize the progress that we've made in treating the disease. We are farther along than ever in developing a successful vaccine to combat malaria and more and more people have access to anti-malarial drugs. And because of an increased focus on outreach, people are being educated about the importance of taking preventive steps like utilizing netting to prevent mosquito bites which spread the disease.

Yet with all of the progress, we must continue to press forward with attempts to develop new tools and technologies to combat the spread of malaria. With the work and dedication of many nongovernmental organizations, including PATH, a nongovernmental organization located in my district that is leading the way in developing global health technology, I am confident that we will have made even greater progress when we observe World Malaria Day next year.

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to express my support for the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (S. 1963). This important piece of legislation is a tremendous step forward for our nation's bravest men and women, and the dedicated caregivers who support them.

This landmark legislation will strengthen health care services for our nation's veterans by expanding services for women veterans, providing resources to caregivers of wounded veterans, improving health care for veterans living in rural areas, providing greater access to mental health services, and expanding assistance to homeless veterans. Importantly, the legislation has received strong endorsements from numerous veterans groups, including the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Wounded Warrior Project, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Among its many critical provisions, I am particularly proud of the expansion of VA services offered to the 1.8 million women who have courageously served their country, including child care for women receiving intensive mental and physical health care services, and post-delivery health care for newborns. In addition, the expansion of mental health benefits, greater support for caregivers, and help for homeless vets will improve the lives of millions of brave men and women and their families.

This important legislation exemplifies the Democrat-led 111th Congress' unwavering commitment to our veterans and their families. Tremendous advances in battlefield medicine have increased the survival rate of wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and made it even more important that we constantly work

to improve veterans' health care and its many support services.

As a nurse, I've seen first-hand the devastating consequences of inadequate health care for our nation's veterans. America has a sacred obligation to ensure these brave men and women receive the highest quality care and today that commitment extends to those dedicated individuals who care for our wounded warriors.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION (AOA)

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on April 19, 1897 a group of osteopathic medical students at the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri founded what is today the American Osteopathic Association. Today I along with Dr. BROUN, Dr. BURGESS, Dr. CASSIDY, Dr. FLEMING, Dr. GINGREY, Dr. KAGEN, Dr. PAUL, and Dr. ROE, rise to honor the anniversary of the American Osteopathic Association and recognize the more than 67,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) for their contributions to the American healthcare system.

Over the past 113 years, osteopathic physicians have provided high quality care to millions of patients and contributed to the advancement of medical science. The osteopathic profession's commitment to primary care and caring for underserved communities are commendable and are essential to the success of our health care system.

Over the past 20 years the profession has experienced tremendous growth. Today, one out of every five medical schools students are enrolled in a college of osteopathic medicine and total enrollment in the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine exceeds 16,000 students. The profession is well positioned to play an important role in alleviating the physician workforce shortage over the next decade.

Osteopathic physicians practice in every specialty and subspecialty of medicine. They practice in the most elite academic institutions and successful group practices. However, a majority of osteopathic physicians continue the profession's long-standing tradition by focusing their careers on primary care specialties, general surgery, emergency medicine, and obstetrics.

These dedicated professionals provide an invaluable service to our nation, and we applaud their history and their ongoing efforts to improve the health of our nation.

HONORING MARGARET "MIDGE" COSTANZA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Margaret "Midge" Costanza, a personal friend of mine, a mentor to women in politics across our country, and a naturally charismatic and color-

ful American treasure. Midge was outspoken and altruistic, passionate, witty and direct. You always knew where you stood with Midge and, whether you agreed with her or not, you valued her perspective and enjoyed being around her.

During her more than fifty years of public service and civic activism, Midge did more than break down barriers. She established new patterns. History records her accomplishments as a series of firsts. She was the first woman elected to the Rochester City Council. She was the first woman with an office in the West Wing of the White House. She was one of the first women in politics to grace the cover of Newsweek. But being first wasn't what defined Midge; it was what she did once there that marked her legacy.

When President Carter gave her an office in the West Wing, Midge used it to be a "window to the nation." She brought constituencies into the White House that had never been there before. She met with gay and lesbian leaders, the poor, and the disabled. She was particularly active in fighting for women's equality, advocating for issues including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the protection of women's reproductive rights.

Midge championed women in politics, supporting female candidates at all levels and working to appoint more women to high office. When she worked in the White House, there were only eighteen women in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate. Today, seventy-six women serve in the House and seventeen serve in the Senate. As a prime example of her dry wit Midge once remarked on this subject, "When we start electing and appointing mediocre women—then, and only then, we will achieve total equality with men."

I attended some of the numerous trainings Midge conducted for women candidates of both parties. She coached us in the art of public speaking. She was a wonderful teacher who helped women develop confidence in their abilities. But she was more than a public speaker; she was a storyteller. She could captivate an audience with a story of her time in the Carter Administration, boasting that Mikhail Baryshnikov flirtatiously asked her to dance at a White House event, or she would show a photo of herself playfully sparring with Muhammad Ali.

Midge's gift for speaking was her ability to move her listeners. She could make an audience feel as strongly as she did about an issue, and charm them with the force of her convictions and the forcefulness of her words. And she could instantly move an audience from heartfelt passion to unbridled laughter.

I learned a great deal from Midge, and I was proud to have her as my guest at President Obama's inauguration. Part of her legacy is the fact that today, it is not just women working in the West Wing who make the cover of Newsweek, but women running for President who do as well.

Midge was fond of hearing people say to her, "You've come a long way, baby." She would coyly reply, "Gosh, have I come a long way. And I love being called baby." Because of Midge, our political system has come a long way, as well. Many of us in office today owe a debt of gratitude to Midge Costanza, our mentor and friend, because she was willing to go first.

COMMENDING COMCAST MIAMI ON
COMCAST CARES DAY 2010

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Comcast Cares Day, an annual day of service that is one of the largest single-day volunteer efforts in the country. Comcast is an active and engaged member of the Miami-Dade community and supports its well-being through annual volunteer activities.

This year's event will be the ninth annual company-wide day of service. Since 2001, Comcast employees have given more than 500,000 hours of service to more than 725 non-profit community partners across the country. In recognition of the efforts of their employees, The Comcast Foundation has also contributed \$8 million to its community partners in support of their year-round work in our communities.

Comcast Miami has announced the Edgar J. Hall Special Populations Center as the recipient of Comcast Cares Day 2010. Edgar J. Hall Special Population Center is part of the City of Hialeah's Recreation and Community Services Department, which provides recreational programs for adults with disabilities, particularly the developmentally disabled. It is home to the largest Special Olympics delegation in Miami-Dade County.

On April 24th more than 600 employees and their families will start Comcast Cares Day at Bucky Dent Park in the City of Hialeah. Projects include the planting of a food garden, a grounds and building make-over, and new upgrades which will increase accessibility for the disabled.

I wish to recognize Comcast and their employees for their dedication to serving the community, and I congratulate the Edgar J. Hall Special Population Center and the City of Hialeah for being this year's beneficiary of Comcast Cares Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

For Tuesday, April 13, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 196 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1222), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 197 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1041), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 198 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1042).

For Wednesday, April 14, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 199 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1236), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 200 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4994), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 201 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3125), "no" on rollcall vote No.

202 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1249), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 203 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1246).

For Thursday, April 15, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 204 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1248, which provides for consideration of H.R. 4715), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 205 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1062), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 206 (on motion to refer H. Res. 1255, raising a question of the privileges of the House), "no" on rollcall vote No. 207 (on Shea-Porter amendment to H.R. 4715), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 208 (on motion to recommit H.R. 4715 with instructions), "no" on rollcall vote No. 209 (on passage of H.R. 4715), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 210 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1242), "no" on rollcall vote No. 211 (On motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4851, the Continuing Extension Act).

HONORING ARTHUR E. KATZ

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arthur E. Katz, a 1963 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy and a longtime resident of Sandy Springs, Georgia. As I'll explain in a moment, tomorrow, April 23, 2010, is a very special day for Arthur. But first, allow me to tell you a bit more about this man who has lived a quintessentially American life.

After his graduation from the Academy, Arthur Katz served with distinction in the United States Coast Guard, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade. In 1965 and 1966, he was stationed in Vietnam as the Commanding Officer of the USCGC Point Cypress. While some here today may not know it, the duties of the Coast Guard often take its men and women far from American shores.

For his leadership at the helm of the Point Cypress, Arthur received the Bronze Star, one of our nation's highest military honors. Arthur's Bronze Star was accompanied by the Combat Distinguishing Device in particular recognition of his masterful handling of the Point Cypress in a vicious firefight with several Viet Cong junks in June of 1966. His quick thinking and well executed strategy led to the destruction or disabling of all enemy craft in that action without a single American casualty.

Arthur later returned to civilian life, earning an MBA from Rutgers University and running his own small business. He has volunteered countless hours for the local community over the years, including his time on the Board of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta and as the President of Emanu-El synagogue in Sandy Springs. Today, he and his wife of forty-six years are the proud forebears of three children and seven grandchildren.

And tomorrow, on April 23, 2010, Arthur will be inducted into the Wall of Gallantry at the United States Coast Guard Academy. According to the Academy's own description, the Wall of Gallantry provides "a regular reminder to Cadets and the public of the scope of responsibilities and sacrifice demanded of Coast Guard officers throughout history."

So even as he is recognized for his distinguished service in the Coast Guard, Arthur Katz will continue to serve as an inspiration to future generations of Coast Guard officers. This is a fitting and much deserved honor for a man to whom we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Arthur Katz has exemplified the American spirit in service to his country, his community, his family, and his faith. Such a life carries an honor all its own, and it is my distinct privilege to recognize him here today.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-
VISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF
SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009-2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

American history, a resonant prize of the past, is a call to duty for the future. The leaders who established freedom in America have been succeeded by equally adroit and faithful men and women. One such individual is the retired Colonel Bill Knudsen, who served in the Air Force for 23 years, spanning the Vietnam and the Cold Wars. The recipient of six Air Medals, Mr. Knudsen flew along Vietcong trails to monitor sensors, directed flights in Thailand, and spent three

years in Alaska as an Intelligence Officer. Mr. Knudsen's family and military background reveals three paramount principles: the contribution of leaders, the cost of freedom, and the duty of citizens. Mr. Knudsen reflects the devotion of leaders—ordinary individuals with humble and selfless attitudes. As the benefactors of the gift of freedom, it is our duty to responsibly elect dependable leaders and to encourage military men and women. Because of dauntless leaders, Americans are blessed with the unparalleled gift of freedom. With the rich history of our nation and the devoted leaders of our generation, we hold great expectations for the continuance of duty, the cultivation of wisdom, and the conservation of our freedom.—Michelle Kim

HONORING ROBERT SELBY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously commend and congratulate Robert Selby upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Selby was honored on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Chowchilla, California.

Mr. Robert Selby was born in June 1936 in Sparta, Tennessee. In 1961, Mr. Selby enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was sent to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for his basic training. He then completed training as a Jet Mechanic and Flight Engineer.

While fighting in Vietnam, Mr. Selby served with special Air Force units flying out of Nha Trang, Vietnam on covert missions into Laos and North Vietnam. His tour consisted of flying on many secret missions deep into enemy territory, inserting agents and hampering North Vietnamese communications in advance of U.S. bombing raids. During one particularly challenging mission on an HC-130, the aircraft was forced to fly low through heavy weather and mountainous terrain to drop supplies to combat forces. For his performance during this particular mission, Mr. Selby was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Upon returning to the United States after the war ended, Mr. Selby completed the Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy. Later, he completed the Command Staff Non-Commissioned Officers' Academy and Air Force Special Operations. Throughout his military career Mr. Selby completed many advanced training courses including, cross-training with the United States Army infantry units and the M-24 Tank, Advanced Flying Course in Turbo Propulsion, the Combat Talon, the Air Force Supervisor's Management Course, and the United States Air Force Trainer-Supervisor Course. He served on many aircraft, including the B-66 and the C-130, units and bases. He served with the 60th Military Air Wing, 8th Special Operations Service, 778th TAS, 42nd TRS and 10th TRW.

In October 1968, while serving with a C-130 squadron in Bermuda providing search and rescue missions, Mr. Selby was involved with the successful NASA Apollo 7 mission. Apollo 7 was launched and was the first manned mission. For eleven days, while the spacecraft orbited earth, Mr. Selby and squadron mates were available to assist if necessary.

Master Sergeant Selby retired from the Air Force in June 1981. For his service, Mr. Selby

was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, the Republic of Vietnam Unit Cross of Gallantry with palm and device and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Upon retirement, Mr. Selby worked for the Chowchilla Water District, and later, as a hydro-power operator. He was a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896, American Legion Post 248, the Disabled American Veterans, a member of the Chowchilla Masonic Lodge and the Civil Air Patrol. He served several terms as commander of the Chowchilla American Legion and VFW. He was an advocate of veterans' affairs and volunteered his time to take veterans to appointments in Fresno and Madera.

Mr. Selby passed away in the beginning of 2010. He is survived by his wife of fifty years, Shirley, two sons and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Robert Selby and congratulate him upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF OAKLAND COUNTY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oakland County Hospital Association (OCHA) on the occasion of its 100th year. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize the Oakland County Hospital Association for its century of work creating a stronger and healthier Oakland County.

At the beginning of the 20th Century the Oakland County Hospital Association was formed with the mission of meeting the health needs of all of Oakland County's residents. After nine years of planning, fundraising, and construction the Association opened Oakland County Hospital in Pontiac on May 18, 1910 to fulfill this mission. Over 100 years after it was founded, Oakland County Hospital, now Doctors' Hospital of Michigan, remains dedicated to providing quality care to its patients.

Known by many names over the years, Oakland County Hospital, Pontiac City Hospital, Pontiac General, North Oakland Medical Center and finally Doctors' Hospital, the facility has been an ever-present part of the greater Pontiac Oakland area as a symbol of community-focused medical treatment. With Doctors' Hospital continuing to serve patients at the original location of Oakland County Hospital, the mission of OCHA will continue to be fulfilled for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Oakland County Medical Association. The Association has been an integral voice

over the past century in ensuring Oakland County residents have access to high quality health services and I wish the Association many more productive years of fighting to make Oakland County healthier and stronger.

H.R. 1132—THE SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge the House to take up and pass H.R. 1132, which would extend the short line railroad tax credit as soon as possible. This credit creates immediate jobs, leverages significant amounts of private infrastructure investment and helps preserve much needed rail service to rural and small town America.

This credit has produced significant results since its enactment in 2004. Unfortunately the credit expired at the end of 2009. Nationally there are over 500 short line railroads operating 50,000 miles or nearly one quarter of the country's rail network. In my own state of Michigan, short lines operate 52 percent of the states total rail network and almost all of that is in areas no longer served by the large Class I railroads. The majority of Michigan's agricultural products that move by rail move by short line rail.

Today's short lines are small businesses that saved the track the large national railroads would otherwise have abandoned. This tax credit has played a critical role in helping preserve this valuable transportation infrastructure. If we do not extend it soon, the 2010 work season will be lost and with it we will lose a very cost efficient way to create jobs and rehabilitate our rail infrastructure.

Currently, H.R. 1132 is co-sponsored by a bi-partisan majority of the House, 259 Members. Surely with that kind of support we can find a way to enact this legislation before it is too late to enjoy its benefits in 2010, a year in which Michigan desperately needs new jobs.

COMMEMORATING THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, this week, we solemnly commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Government sought to destroy Armenian communities through a systematic campaign of terror. Men were separated from their families and murdered; women and children were forced to march across the Syrian Desert, and killed if they lagged behind. At the time, the United States took bold diplomatic, political, and humanitarian action to end the bloodshed and protect the survivors. Ninety-five years later, we must continue to take pride in our efforts and reaffirm our commitment to ending genocide and defending human rights for all.

Sadly, there still remain those who aggressively deny or raise doubt about this chapter of history. The Republic of Turkey threatens severe diplomatic consequences to nations that officially recognize the genocide, and current Turkish law deems discussion of the genocide to be a criminal offense. Moreover, as a part of negotiations to end its seventeen-year blockade of the modern nation of Armenia, Turkey has insisted on the establishment of a new historical commission to study the events of 1915 to 1923, as if abundant scholarly evidence of genocide did not already exist.

If we are to prevent future atrocities, we must not be afraid to speak out about those that have taken place in the past. I am proud to have cosponsored H. Res. 252, which passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee on March 4, 2010. The resolution calls upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity of the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide. That vote—as well as today's somber tribute—reflects our determination to honor the memory of the genocide's victims and leads us to vow, once more, that genocide will never go unnoticed, unmentioned, or unmourned.

HONORING HELEN THOMPSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Helen Thompson on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Navy. Commander Thompson has bravely and selflessly served our country for over 25 years, and for her service our nation is forever grateful.

Commander Thompson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1978 following graduation from high school. One of her first assignments was on the USS *L Y Spear* where she was among the first group of women to serve in the gray ship Navy. While with the ship company she supported the operation in the Middle East during the Iranian Hostage Situation in 1980.

After five years of active duty service, Commander Thompson joined the Naval Reserve and pursued her education. Commander Thompson graduated from Winona State University in 1989 and subsequently received a commission in the Medical Service Corps. Commander Thompson furthered her education by earning a graduate degree in Information Technology Management from the Naval Postgraduate School and earned a certificate degree in the Department of Defense Chief Information Office Certification Program from the National Defense University. Her countless honors and awards include four Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

In addition to protecting our nation's freedoms, Commander Thompson is a wife, mother and grandmother. I know her husband, Leslie Thompson, her children, David, Leslie Rae and Barbara, and her two grandchildren David Cole II and Haileigh, are proud of her service. Further, Commander Thompson's family continues the proud tradition of service to their

country via her son, David Thompson, who is currently serving in Korea with the U.S. Army.

In closing, I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Commander Thompson for her distinguished service and outstanding commitment to our country.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR H. ROSENFELD'S OUTSTANDING CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rose on February 3rd to pay tribute to Arthur H. Rosenfeld for his lifetime of service and leadership on energy conservation, on behalf of myself and the following members: Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, LOIS CAPPS, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LAURA RICHARDSON, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, JACKIE SPEIER, JANE HARMAN, DORIS MATSUI, BRAD SHERMAN, HOWARD BERMAN, JOHN GARAMENDI, MICHAEL M. HONDA, BOB FILNER, and ZOE LOFGREN. I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter sent by members of the California congressional delegation to Mr. Rosenfeld on the occasion of his retirement as a member of the California Energy Commission.

Dear Art:

Please accept our good wishes on your retirement as a member of the California Energy Commission.

For over half a century, you have led the energy efficiency movement in California and nationally. As a result of your inspiration and innovative leadership, offices and homes throughout California, and the appliances our residents purchase, are more energy efficient than ever before.

Californians today use no more energy than they did three decades ago. New energy efficiency mandates you have sponsored are expected to deliver energy dividends of \$8 billion or more over the next decade.

As you have often said, "the cheapest energy is what you don't use." California's economy is more productive and efficient, our air is cleaner, and our energy industries and research centers are more dynamic because of your work.

You have changed the thinking of industry and government, and changed the habits of Californians from all walks of life in terms of how we think about and use energy on a daily basis.

These are exceptional achievements, and they are a lasting legacy of an exemplary career in public service. Your work has dramatically improved our public policy—not only in California but across the nation.

Accordingly, as members of the California Congressional delegation, we want to take public note of your work, to thank you for your unstinting public service, and to express our appreciation for all you have done to benefit our State, to promote America's energy security, and to shine a light that will help lead the way to a clean energy future for our country in the 21st century.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Israel and all Jewish-Americans as they celebrate Israel's 62nd Independence Day.

Israel and its citizens have demonstrated tremendous resilience in the face of constant threats to their personal and national security. The United States has no stronger ally in the Middle East than Israel. The special relationship between the U.S. and Israel is rooted in our common commitment to democratic values and shared vision of establishing and maintaining a lasting peace in the region.

Israel's Independence Day should serve as an occasion to renew our commitment to the long-term security of our cherished ally and reaffirm that a strong Israel is vital to our national interest and the stability of the Middle East.

Daniel Kutner, Consul General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States, will welcome supporters of Israel to the annual Independence Day Ceremony on April 26, 2010 at the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the citizens of Israel and all Jewish-Americans as they commemorate this extremely special milestone and expressing unwavering support for the security and stability of this shining beacon of democracy in a turbulent Middle East.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

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members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

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You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Horace Easton Bradford is a Texas veteran who fought in World War Two. He joined the military right out of high school in 1941 because he believed it was the right and patriotic choice. During his military career, Mr. Bradford obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant and fought in Northern Africa and Europe in WWII. His job was to maintain and oversee airplane maintenance and service. Planes had to be in the best condition before they could fly out and perform missions and assignments. Although it was hard work, Staff Sergeant Bradford was able to explore a totally different area of the world while serving the country he loved.

Discovering Horace Bradford's experiences in combat in a major world war was truly a life changing experience for me. Reading history in textbooks is nothing compared to an individual's personal encounter with history. I was able to use my background knowledge in U.S. history to understand his experiences in WWII. I could feel his compassion and his dedication to the Army. His service in wartime helped reinforce my appreciation to all servicemen who have fought in world conflicts.—Richard Hung

INTRODUCTION OF EARMARK REFORM RESOLUTION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a Resolution that expresses the will of Congress to save taxpayer money and reduce the deficit.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Jefferson once wrote: "To preserve [the] independence [of the people,] we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude."

As my colleagues may know, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal deficit is \$655 billion through the first five months of FY 2010. This is \$65 billion or 11.0% above the deficit through the first five months of FY 2009—which ended up with the highest deficit in U.S. history (\$1.4 trillion).

In these challenging economic times it is even more important for government to control spending. Congress must control spending, paving the way for a return to surpluses and ultimately paying down the national debt, rather than allow big spenders to lead us further down the road of chronic deficits and in doing so leave our children and grandchildren saddled with debt that is not their own.

Unfortunately, the federal budget deficit is projected to exceed \$1 trillion for the next two fiscal years and hover around \$800 billion annually for the foreseeable future. These current levels of spending are simply unsustainable.

That is why I am proud that the Republican Conference recently adopted a party rule that instills a year-long moratorium on Members obtaining "earmarks" in the FY2011 appropriations process. The earmark process is broken and is in desperate need of reform.

While I am pleased that the Republican Conference has adopted a one-year earmark moratorium, the simple fact is that our policy will not save the taxpayers a dime unless Democrats reduce spending by the amount saved by the Republican moratorium. Otherwise, they will be able to just spend the money saved by the Republican earmark ban on their own Democratic earmarks.

Madam Speaker, the American people want earmark reform because they want to rein in out-of-control spending. In order to actually help achieve this goal, I am introducing this resolution today with virtually all of my Republican colleagues. Specifically, our resolution:

"Expresses the sense of Congress that House Democrats should join House Republicans in a total ban on earmarks for one year, that total discretionary spending should be reduced by the amount saved by earmark moratoriums and that a bipartisan, bicameral committee should be created to review and overhaul the budgetary, spending and earmark processes."

I hope that all Members of the House will join House Republicans in supporting this resolution and thus commit ourselves to the will of the American people to eliminate every cent of waste and squeeze every cent of value out of each hard-earned taxpayer dollar.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was detained from voting after attending the funeral of Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 214; rollcall 215; rollcall 216.

CONGRATULATING STEPHANIE CALDERON, LAUREN GRYZEWSKI, SOFIA RAMOS AND SARA SEWERYN ON RECEIVING THE GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Illinois students Stephanie Calderon of Reavis High School in Burbank, Lauren Gryzewski of Shepard High School in Palos Heights, Sofia Ramos of Mother McAuley High School in Chicago, and Sara Seweryn of the Queen of Peace High School

in Burbank. These four young leaders are among 105 Illinois students selected from 2,125 nominations as 2010 Golden Apple Scholars.

The Golden Apple Scholars program recognizes Illinois high school seniors dedicated to the profession of teaching. The Golden Apple Scholars program is run by the Golden Apple Foundation, which promotes excellence in teaching through a vast array of support programs for current teachers and by training students to enter the teaching profession. Those selected as Golden Apple Scholars receive a \$15,000 college scholarship, as well as valuable, hands-on professional summer training. In return Golden Apple Scholars commit to working for five years in high-need Illinois schools.

Thanks to this award, these four students will be able to bring their energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge to classrooms across Illinois that are in desperate need of highly qualified teachers. It is an honor to represent students whose own continued education will become a foundation for the education of others.

As a former educator, I understand the hard work and dedication it takes to succeed in such a demanding, important profession. I ask you to join me in honoring these four future teachers for their outstanding commitment to their community and state, and in recognition of their designation as 2010 Golden Apple Scholars.

HONORING JOHN LAWSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John Lawson upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Lawson was honored on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Chowchilla, California.

Mr. John Lawson was born and raised in Los Angeles, California where he graduated from Bell High School. After high school, Mr. Lawson enlisted in the United States Army in 1967 and was sent to Fort Campbell, Kentucky for basic training. Upon completion of basic training, he was assigned a military occupational specialty in the Army Signal Corps.

In November 1967, Mr. Lawson was ordered to Vietnam and was assigned to the 459th Signal Battalion; the same unit that served in Europe at Normandy, North France and Central Europe. Upon returning from Europe after World War II, the battalion was deactivated at Camp Pinedale, near Fresno, California. The 459th Signal Battalion was reactivated in 1962 and made part of the Sixth Army. In 1966, the battalion landed in Vietnam as part of the 21st Signal Group, First Signal Brigade.

While with the 459th Signal Battalion, Mr. Lawson encountered the TET Offensive that the North Vietnamese unleashed. During this time, he performed duties as a troubleshooter, repairing radio equipment for combat and supporting units in various provinces of Vietnam. The North Vietnamese successfully attacked U.S. forces and bases throughout South Vietnam, disrupting communications. Mr. Lawson

and his fellow soldiers worked tirelessly to keep critical communications intact for the front-line combat units. During convoy between Nha Trang to Tue Hoa and Da Nag to Tue Hoa, Mr. Lawson found himself under mortar attack and rocket fire. For the outstanding achievement and performance of the 459th, the Secretary of the Army awarded the 459th and its soldiers the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Mr. Lawson completed his combat tour in Vietnam shortly after he was promoted to Specialist-4. He returned to the United States and was honorably discharged. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Republic of Vietnam Unit Cross of Gallantry with palm and frame.

During his civilian life, Mr. Lawson worked as a truck driver until his retirement. Mr. Lawson is a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He has two children and two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate John Lawson upon being named a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lawson many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR
ALAN MASSEY, KCB, CBE, ADC-
ROYAL NAVY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vice Admiral Sir Alan Massey, Second Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, on the occasion of his visit to the United States and in anticipation of his impending retirement from active duty following over three decades of service in the Royal Navy.

Throughout a long and distinguished career, Vice Admiral Massey has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, stewardship and unwavering commitment to members of the Royal Navy, and for this alone he deserves recognition and admiration. But it is his many years of friendship and cooperation with the Armed Forces of the United States for which I pay tribute to this exceptional naval officer.

Over the course of his career, Vice Admiral Massey has commanded a destroyer, a frigate, and two aircraft carriers. In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, as a key ally in Operation Enduring Freedom, he led operations against the Taliban in Afghanistan while in command of HMS ILLUSTRIOUS. Additionally, at the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom, while commanding HMS ARK ROYAL, Vice Admiral Massey led the successful coalition amphibious assault into southern Iraq as part of Operation TELIC. In recognition of his exceptional performance, he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire on the United Kingdom's Operational Honours List.

Vice Admiral Massey has served in the Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom, on four oc-

casions and has held two appointments on NATO Headquarters staffs. He served as Assistant Chief of the Royal Naval Staff, responsible for representing the maritime case in the Ministry of the Defence, while concurrently planning the Navy's future and coordinating its public communications strategy and outreach activity. In an earlier assignment, Vice Admiral Massey led the Operations division of the United Kingdom's Permanent Joint Headquarters, responsible for the conduct of joint military operations in all current theatres, including Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

Vice Admiral Massey has a first class Honours degree from the University of Liverpool, and is a graduate of the Royal Naval Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies. Selected for promotion to Vice Admiral in July 2008, he was appointed as Second Sea Lord, equivalent to our United States Chief of Naval Personnel, and concurrently serves as Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command and Flag Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty the Queen. During the Queen's Birthday Honours of 2009, Vice Admiral Massey was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of Bath.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to rise with me to thank Vice Admiral Sir Alan Massey for his service to the Royal Navy and for his long and distinguished career in support of the mutual interests of the United Kingdom and the United States. We wish him fair winds and following seas as he closes his military career and assumes his new duties as Chief Executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. We also wish Vice Admiral Massey, his wife Julie and their four children, James, Annabel, Tom and Sally, much success, infinite happiness and good health in the days ahead.

SMALL BUSINESS BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Business Bill of Rights. For the last three years, Congress has hurt small businesses with legislation to increase taxes and government regulation. It is time to show small businesses that we support them by backing one bill that has it all, the Small Business Bill of Rights.

Endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), this legislation would:

- Protect secret ballots in union elections
- Lower health costs with lawsuit reforms and interstate competition
- Lower energy costs with credits for efficient equipment and hybrids
- Permit children to continue business with low/no death tax
- Exempt small businesses from capital gains tax for 10 years
- Make immigration laws easy to comply with
- Create a Patent Office fast lane for small business innovation
- Limit federal paperwork through the SBA for small businesses to 200 hours annually
- Prevent AMT from taxing the middle class
- Reduce deficit to encourage jobs and improve credit

Small businesses cannot afford lobbyists or lawyers to grease the wheels to get government assistance. With more than 1.1 million small businesses in Illinois accounting for 98.4 percent of all employers, now is the time to act.

In the teeth of the Great Recession, Congress must work to protect the heart and soul of our economy by lowering taxes and decreasing the regulatory burden so that small business employers will begin hiring, putting Americans back to work.

Small businesses are disproportionately suffering, accounting for nearly 80 percent of job losses and I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this commonsense legislation.

Let us grow this economy and put people back to work.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF DAVID J.
HOLLEY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Holley, a constituent and friend, who, on April 2, 2010, officially retired as General Manager of the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority. Dave began his public career in 1973, working for the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority as the Assistant Manager. Two years later, he was promoted to General Manager and has served in that position for the past 33 years.

Dave's dedication to bettering the communities of Schuylkill County led him to be active in state and national organizations. He served as Past President and Past Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association; Vice Chairman of the Water Utility Council of Pennsylvania; and Past Secretary and Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Section of the American Water Works Association.

Socially, Dave is an active member of the community in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. He is current President of the AAA Schuylkill County Motor Club, the Schuylkill County Motor Club Insurance Agency, and the Schuylkill/Pottsville Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. He was the former President of the Pottsville Rotary Club and Pottsville Rotary Little League.

His work in the community and professionally has earned Dave the respect and recognition of his friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Numerous associations have honored Dave with awards for his dedicated service to municipal authorities in Pennsylvania and the water supply field. Athletic organizations have recognized him for his dedication to honoring scholar athletes and his citizenship. Dave was even inducted into the Pottsville Area School District's All Sports Hall of Fame.

I would like to congratulate Dave Holley on his retirement after 33 years as General Manager of the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority and thank him for his outstanding citizenship in the community.

HONORING KENNETH LASITER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Kenneth Lasiter upon being awarded with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr. Lasiter was honored on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Chowchilla, California.

Mr. Kenneth Lasiter was born in Merced, California in 1946. He graduated from Chowchilla High School, where he played on two championship football teams. Mr. Lasiter attended Fresno City College for 1 year and in 1966 he enlisted in the United States Army. He completed basic training at Fort Ord, California, where he fired "expert" with the M-14 rifle. Mr. Lasiter went to Fort Rucker, Alabama for Aircraft Maintenance School; he completed training with a specialty in helicopter maintenance and repair. He also completed courses in the Code of Conduct and Military Justice.

After completing stateside training, Mr. Lasiter was ordered to Vietnam in March 1967. He joined the 655th Transportation Detachment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. The 12th Brigade had deployed to Vietnam in 1965 and consisted of 11,000 personnel and 34 aviation units. The Brigade was based at Long Binh in the III Military Region in Vietnam and was the largest unit of its type to serve in combat.

Mr. Lasiter spent 12 months in Vietnam. During that time he flew combat missions as a door gunner on HU-1B and UH-1D "Huey" Helicopters. He was promoted to crew chief and was later selected to act as crew chief for the group commander. During this time there was increased hostility as regular North Vietnamese forces made their way down the Ho Chi Minh Trail through Laos and Cambodia into South Vietnam. Mr. Lasiter's units flew assault, medical and supply missions to fire bases and in support of ground forces. Mr. Lasiter was part of the cadre that assisted the 1st Air Cavalry when it deployed from the states to Bien Hoa, Vietnam.

Upon completing his 12-month tour in Vietnam, Mr. Lasiter returned to the United States. While on leave he married Carolyn. The newlyweds flew to Germany, where Mr. Lasiter assumed duties at the Wirtheim Army Airfield and was the acting crew chief with CH-23 units.

Specialist 5 Lasiter was released from active duty in September 1969. For his service, Mr. Lasiter was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, the Aircraft Crewman Badge and Expert Rifle and Sharpshooter Badges.

Upon returning to civilian life, Mr. and Mrs. Lasiter made their home in Chowchilla, California. Mr. Lasiter attended Merced College. He then started a lifelong career in farming. Mr. Lasiter is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and is a member of the Cornerstone Community Church. Mr. and Mrs. Lasiter continue to live in Chowchilla. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Kenneth Lasiter upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lasiter many years of continued success.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009-2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country, and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

I, Kathryn Boswell interviewed Reba Leonard, SSG of the United States Army. She was part of the technology branch and was stationed in San Antonio, Germany, and Pensacola. From this experience, I have learned about sacrifice for your country, camaraderie with fellow soldiers, and the effect serving in the military has on a life. Reba is a strong woman and has learned from her experiences in the army to live life to the fullest and "keep a bigger perspective on life." It's not just about me, it's about the wellbeing of the people around me. She worked on the first computers, and was able to communicate live time from Germany to Maryland in the 1980s. She also worked off the first portable hard-drive. She is a computer specialist at McAfee and has raised two boys in Plano, Texas.—Kathryn Boswell

ON HOUSE RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE USE OF PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, as we mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, I ask my colleagues to consider cosponsoring a resolution I am introducing today to reduce the use of plastic and paper bags.

Single-use retail plastic and paper bags are bad for the environment. Both paper and plastic bags consume valuable natural resources when produced, generate waste, and pollute the environment. They keep us dependent on nonrenewable resources and impose external costs that we bear in the form of higher waste disposal costs, visual blight, the destruction of wildlife and the deaths of tens of thousands of animal and marine life by entangling them in the plastic or poisoning them through toxins that leach into the ground and waterways. We use more than 100 billion plastic bags every year and because they don't biodegrade, each bag represents a persistent threat to the environment.

While paper bags are less harmful to the environment, they require four times as much energy to produce and generate 70 percent more air pollution and 50 times more water pollution than plastic bags. And while recycling efforts should be applauded, recycling rates are dismally low. Between one and three percent of all plastic bags are recycled and between ten and 15 percent of all paper bags are recycled.

The resolution encourages states to establish targets for businesses to reduce distribution of plastic and paper bag use by 40 percent over the next five years; educate the public about using reusable bags through public-private initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and other methods whenever possible; and facilitate the dissemination of best practices among businesses for reducing single-use retail bag consumption. It would also encourage businesses to adopt consumer credit programs to promote reusable bag use.

One need look no further than the District of Columbia to measure success. Late last year the District imposed a 5 cent tax on plastic bags which led to a dramatic impact on bag use. The number of plastic bags used by supermarkets and other establishments dropped from the 2009 monthly average of 22.5 million to just 3 million in January 2010.

I could conclude here, but that would be only half the story. This resolution was brought to my attention by two enterprising Georgetown University students, Mariel Reed and Brian Lin. Together with their fellow classmates they drafted the resolution in response to a bill I introduced last year to tax plastic and paper bag use. They used my bill as a case study on environmental legislation. Both students are very bright and realized that there is little prospect my bag tax bill would be enacted. My bill does point toward a worthwhile objective, and it builds on the actions of several local and foreign initiatives that have met with success. But, there is no group or organization that has backed it and few Members today prefer to be on record supporting a tax increase.

And here is the second lesson these Georgetown students came to realize and what remains a valuable lesson that the environmental community needs to appreciate as a movement. The public and many elected officials are not always in sync with what we need to do to restore the environment and preserve it for future generations. Progress on the environmental front has never been a clear and straight line but erratic path with peaks and troughs. But, if we look back over the past 40 years, we have seen considerable progress. If you were to average out all the peaks and troughs, an upward progress would begin to appear. We can be proud of our achievements and the fact that such landmark laws like the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, and many others that we have passed since the 1970s, have gone a long way toward restoring the environment. Our land, air and water are cleaner than they were on the first Earth Day.

While the science of today has led us to a better understanding of our relationship with nature, we must also appreciate that a democracy requires time for the public to accept and support the necessary changes.

Just as the time may not be ripe to ban the use of plastic bags, we can encourage broader public participation in recycling and promoting alternatives that over time will achieve the same goal. There are a number of proven approaches that work to reduce plastic and paper bag use. All have merit and the states are the appropriate forum through which these approaches can be developed and implemented.

Again I applaud the efforts of the two Georgetown students and their class for providing us a valuable political lesson on this 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S QUESTIONABLE NASA PLAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the FY2011 budget proposed by President Obama for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. I believe the administration plan would abdicate U.S. leadership in space. Nearly every astronaut, including Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, has spoken out against this misguided budget proposal.

I submit articles from The Wall Street Journal and the Orlando Sentinel which further call into question the administration's judgment with regard to NASA.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 17, 2010]

NASA WHIPS AW: PROP RE-DO FOR OBAMA'S SPEECH

When President Barack Obama gave his long-awaited speech Thursday laying out a vision for NASA, the backdrop featured an immaculate mockup of the Orion space capsule.

But only a few days before, workers at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida had frantically removed all vestiges of the Orion program from the same building.

What prompted the prop swap?

The reasons behind the abrupt scene change—and Obama's positive words about Orion in his address—reflect the sudden shifts and last-minute policy decisions that continue to buffet the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. For more on that, read this WSJ article.)

In February, the White House shocked many in industry and Congress by seeking to kill NASA's Constellation manned exploration program, designed to replace the retiring space shuttle fleet and eventually take astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars. The multi-billion dollar Orion capsule, reminiscent of the Apollo era, is part of that program.

In the following months, the Obama administration resisted entreaties by Lockheed Martin, the capsule contractor, and its champions on Capitol Hill to save Orion. The company repeatedly tried but failed to interest NASA and the White House in pursuing a less-expensive, stripped-down version of the capsule, "Orion light." For the White House, all of Constellation was too expensive and would take too long to complete.

On Mondays as the space center was preparing for the high-profile presidential policy speech, Lockheed had forklifts and other equipment hurriedly removing everything related to Orion from the building where Obama would speak, according to people familiar with the details. Administration officials bluntly told company executives that the president didn't want to be associated with Orion.

That quickly changed. On Tuesday afternoon, chief White House science adviser John Holdren called Joanne Maguire, head of Lockheed Martin's space programs, to inform her that a revised version of the Orion capsule would be reinstated in the president's plans. Now, NASA wants to use the capsule, at the very least, as an emergency escape system for U.S. astronauts when they are on the international space station.

That still left NASA, however, with the dilemma of what to do about the mockup. Between Tuesday night and Thursday morning, the White House, NASA managers and local center officials managed to restore the Orion mockup to its earlier prominence in the building. "Things were really changing pretty quickly there, at the end," said one administration official.

As photographers and reporters swarmed around Obama, pictures of the capsule were beamed around the world.

Lockheed didn't have any comment. The White House had no immediate comment.

During his speech, Obama had only nice things to say about the Lockheed Martin program, though he initially mispronounced its name. NASA, he said, "will build on the good work already done" on the Orion crew capsule, and it will become "part of the technological foundation for advanced spacecraft to be used in future deep-space missions."

[From OrlandoSentinel.com, Apr. 18, 2010]

OBAMA'S SPACE PLAN ADDS INSULT TO INJURY

(By Douglas MacKinnon)

With all due respect to President Obama, regarding his speech in Florida on "Space Exploration in the 21st Century," I simply have to ask, "Are you kidding me?"

As one who has consulted on and written extensively about our space program, worked in the White House and drafted a speech or two, I know shameless pandering filler when I read it.

The president's speech had more useless and suspect filler than a New York City street hot dog—part of that filler being when

the president recognized his chief science adviser, John Holdren. This is the same man who just told students the United States couldn't be No. 1 in science forever.

When the nation and the program most needed honesty, true direction and an unwavering belief in the promise of space, the president chose to add insult to the injury that is the dismantling of our human spaceflight program. To quote Neil Armstrong, James Lovell and Eugene Cernan, the president's decision to "... cancel the Constellation program, its Ares 1 and Ares V rockets, and the Orion spacecraft, is devastating."

Three heroic and history-making astronauts take the unusual step of writing an open letter to warn of this "devastating" action, and the president responds with a pedestrian speech that makes a mockery of a dire situation. Worse, for purely political reasons, he decided to pit the Apollo 11 moonwalkers against each other.

To try and blunt the criticism of him by the first man to step on the surface of the moon, Obama not only flew Buzz Aldrin with him on Air Force One for the event at Kennedy Space Center, but led his remarks by referring to Aldrin as a legend. Aldrin may be the only one not aware of his role as a prop of the White House political operation.

It's not a stretch to imagine Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel turning to David Axelrod and saying, "If the first man on the moon is going to strongly and publicly criticize us, then let's use the second man to walk on the moon as validation for our 'promise them anything but deliver nothing' new vision."

In a speech void of detail, the president said, "By the mid-2030s, I believe we can send humans to orbit Mars and return them safely to Earth." Where have I heard something like that before? That would be President George H. W. Bush in July 1989 when he spoke of landing Americans on Mars. Twenty-one years later, Obama gives us a watered-down version of that speech.

In 1989, much of the media rightfully took President Bush to task for an open-ended goal that lacked specifics and would have carried a price tag in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Say what you will about Bush's half-hearted effort, at least his astronauts would have landed on the Red Planet. Under Obama's fictional plan, for our investment of more than \$100 billion, our astronauts would only get to wave at Mars as they zipped around it, with a landing saved for a future mission. Can't we just wave at it for free from here on Earth?

The president betrayed both his lack of interest in human spaceflight as well as his ignorance of the subject when he said, "Now, I understand that some believe that we should attempt a return to the surface of the moon first, as previously planned. But I just have to say pretty bluntly here. We've been there before. Buzz has been there . . ."

By that thinking, European explorers should have abandoned the New World and President Jefferson should have ignored the explorations and discoveries of great natural wealth made by Lewis and Clark.

For reasons of cost, commercial enterprise, science and national security, it makes sense for us to establish bases, observatories, mines and potentially even military operations on the moon. If we don't, others—particularly the People's Republic of China with its military-controlled space program—most assuredly will.

President Obama has played the space community for fools, and he's hoping he will get away with it. Unfortunately for us all, China, Russia and others share his hope.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY HELLMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judy Hellman, who is retiring this spring from the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee of the greater Kansas City area. Judy and this agency have been most helpful to me during my time in Congress and were responsible for sponsoring my visit to Israel in 1999 during my first year in office. My remarks borrow very freely from a letter sent by JCRB/AJC Board Chair Michael Abrams in January 2010 when Judy made her plans public.

JCRB/AJC Associate Director Judy Hellman has devoted her professional career and her personal life to the work of justice and community relations, and to the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, first as a volunteer, then as a member of the Board of Directors, and then as staff for decades before her "first" retirement over a decade ago. Shortly after that "retirement" she started helping in the office on one project, then another, then a couple days a week, and was soon once again an everyday devoted and passionate professional who doesn't stop accepting responsibilities and challenges.

Judy's contributions to the community are significant, and too numerous to mention. Her work to advocate that each person does not have to face injustice has touched countless lives and families. Decades ago she worked for fair housing in Kansas City, and was a leader in the movement to free Soviet Jews from religious persecution. Before the founding of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, Holocaust education was a mission of JCRB, for which Judy did extraordinary work.

Judy continues to be admired for her exemplary and prolific work in interfaith relations, her dedicated relationship work with educators, law enforcement, government and elected officials, and her work vigilantly combating hate groups. Judy has listened to, and discussed and worked with, hundreds of individuals and families regarding their issues, always with great compassion and empathy. Many have seen her on JCRB Agency videos poignantly talking about why she has worked for justice in the public square for the people of Israel, and in recent years been a role model in the community advocating on behalf of those suffering injustice in Africa.

For several decades, Judy and Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Hill have co-chaired the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Interfaith Service every January. Judy has been a longtime officer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, working with the Rev. Dr. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson. Judy has been recognized with many awards, and has asked that "this" retirement come with little fanfare. In Judy Hellman's case, her achievements are a monument to her work. Judy's life has been dedicated to working for justice. Judy would have devoted her time to working on these issues even if she had not been a staff member of a justice organization.

With a milestone birthday approaching, Judy has decided to give retirement yet another attempt. All who know Judy feel great admiration, gratitude, love, and respect for her. I

know that I look forward to continuing to work with Judy, soon as a retired and devoted community member, as she continues to work to make the greater Kansas City area a more just community.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE
HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Robert James is a veteran of World War II. He entered the war in the Medical Corps and returned from war as a private first class in the Air Force. After graduating from U.T., Mr. James stayed in the Air Force Reserve for 30 years and retired as a Major. He still regularly visits a nearby base in Colorado, where he buys his groceries, works out, and shops for other needs. Robert James received multiple awards after returning home, including an Air Medal and a Distinguished Flying Cross. Mr. James' story should be preserved throughout history in addition to the thousands of other veterans that risked their lives for the safety of the United States. This interview with my grandfather was very moving and I gained a lot more insight and detail than I ever had before. I am happy to have been able to discuss such a

pivotal time in my grandfather's life and I hope my essay helps to somehow preserve some of his unique experiences so that they can last throughout generations of Americans. The conservation of the stories of our many veterans is very crucial and should be a goal of every American that has been kept alive by these honorable, selfless men and women.—Rebecca James

**HONORING GEORGE GALLUP, JR.
ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY**
HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 80th birthday of George Gallup, Jr., the accomplished son of Dr. George Gallup, Sr., the founder of the renowned Gallup Poll.

George Jr. has followed in his father's footsteps; a close friend described George as a "political junkie," a characteristic that clearly runs in the family. It comes as no surprise that George has become so involved and intrigued by the political process, since he has either observed or participated in polling for his entire life. His father pioneered the random sampling technique, which has been used for decades to gauge public opinion on everything from presidential approval to the economy. He also founded the George H. Gallup International Institute, of which George Jr. is the current Chairman. In this role, George Jr. oversees preeminent economists, psychologists, and sociologists all over the world in their efforts to investigate what people think about the most pressing issues of the day.

George is from Princeton, New Jersey and has been a lifelong advocate for children's rights locally and nationally. He has made the world a safer place for kids through working closely with Child Lures Prevention, an organization which helps protect children from violence, drugs, and sexual abuse. He also wrote a passionate letter to President Obama in support of the organization and the admirable cause for which it fights.

George would agree that the influence of the Gallup Poll over the past 75 years has been much more than symbolic—the organization has provided our political leaders and lawmakers with objective, unbiased information about the ever-shifting values and expectations of the American people. In short, polling makes the government more responsive and accountable to the electorate.

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring a man who has been instrumental in keeping our leaders honest and the American public informed.

RAISING AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in solidarity with my colleagues who, this week,

have come forth under the leadership of Representative TED POE, founding co-chair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, to speak out against violence perpetrated against women. Violence against women is one of the most pervasive forms of violence throughout the world today, affecting an estimated one billion women and girls. It is a reprehensible violation of fundamental human rights and a crime against humanity.

According to the United Nations, approximately 1 out of every 3 women in the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The World Health Organization reports that in some countries, up to 70 percent of women report having been victims of domestic violence at some stage in their lives.

Violence against women has come to be systematically used as a tool of war in some regions, where women are publicly raped, beaten and murdered. In Rwanda, up to half a million women were reportedly raped during the 1994 genocide. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, nearly 60,000 women were raped in a campaign of ethnic cleansing during the war.

Women have become "prey," according to the New York Times, in Guinea, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo it is reportedly more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier.

Shocking stories such as these provide only a snapshot of the complete scope of this deplorable problem and are exemplary, sadly, of the experiences of vast communities of women and girls every day.

It is critical that we in Congress, along with other governments, multilateral organizations and nongovernmental organizations throughout the world, take a strong stand against these crimes. We must not allow violence against women to become a socialized norm.

In 1994 the Violence Against Women Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, in an effort to comprehensively acknowledge and address the severity and importance of this insidious problem within the United States. This landmark Act enhanced judicial and law enforcement tools to combat violence in all forms, improved existing services and provided for additional services, economic security, and protection for victims.

This legislation has since served as an example globally on how issues affecting women can be successfully incorporated into public law and social consciousness. Freedom from violence, abuse and intimidation is a basic building block of empowering women. And, when women have a voice, communities and countries are made stronger, more economically prosperous, and more stable.

In 2009, the International Violence Against Women Act was reintroduced, to extend the provisions of VAWA to tackle violence worldwide. This bill would ensure that all women are protected under the same policies and approach now codified for women and girls in the U.S.

VAWA seeks a comprehensive international strategy to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls. This includes assistance to reduce international violence, enhanced U.S. accountability and training of foreign military, police and judicial officials on preventing and responding to violence, and addressing violence in humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, conflict and post-conflict operations.

We in Congress, along with our international partners, must stand up now to take bold action on ensuring that women and girls are no longer targets of brutal violence; violence that destroys families and communities, and has lasting detrimental effects on productivity, health, and many other areas of women's daily lives.

Furthermore, we must work tirelessly to give women a voice to impact the issues that affect them and be agents of change in their societies. When women thrive, families, communities, societies and economies thrive. When women and girls are victimized, families, communities, societies and economies suffer and are profoundly weakened, and the cycle of violence is perpetuated. Violence against women and girls is an assault against us all and we must end it now.

IN RECOGNITION OF RETIRED SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN KEVIN RAFFAELLI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Raffaelli, who retired as a Captain with the San Mateo Police Department in December of 2008 after 30 years of dedicated and loyal service.

I must note that last year Kevin continued his law enforcement service on an on-call basis and on August 24, 2009 was credited with preventing a pipe bomb suspect from carrying out a potentially catastrophic event at Hillsdale High School. For this heroic action he was awarded the prestigious Medal of Valor, proving again, that some of us get better with age.

The list of commendations for Kevin is long and meritorious and many involve the apprehension of burglary subjects during the commission of a crime. He is well known throughout San Mateo County for his expertise in tactical deployment and special operations at events. He was, for example, commander of the Countywide Tactical Chemical Assault Team, a model operation replicated by other municipalities after 9/11.

He played key roles in coordinating security for numerous dignitaries visiting the San Francisco Bay Area, including President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Jimmy Carter as well as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Kevin grew up in the city of South San Francisco where his brother, Mark, served as the chief of police, so Kevin's thirst for public safety runs deep in his family.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Raffaelli has served his fellow citizens to the utmost of his ability and he has saved lives in the process. I commend him and wish that he and his wife, Elizabeth, enjoy this well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DIANNE ADDINGTON'S DECADES OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF GENISYS CREDIT UNION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dianne Addington, president and CEO of Genisys Credit Union, on her retirement from Genisys. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Ms. Addington for her many years of service and her contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Ms. Addington brings a lifetime of experience to her current position at Genisys Credit Union; a career which began almost 40 years ago as a part-time teller at T&C Federal Credit Union. Through Ms. Addington's ingenuity and hard work she eventually rose to the position of president and CEO of T&C Federal Credit Union, one of the parent companies of Genisys, which she has held for the last 21 years. During her tenure at Genisys, Ms. Addington has been awarded numerous accolades for her commitment to the community including awards from the Sojourner Foundation, the Clinton Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of her many contributions, the Michigan Credit League, MCUL, awarded her the Distinguished Service Award in 2006, for which she was inducted into the Michigan Credit Union Hall of Fame.

Under Ms. Addington's leadership Genisys Credit Union has grown into a thriving local institution, which is deeply involved in strengthening the communities it serves. Genisys is a strong philanthropic partner to Southeast Michigan, having received numerous awards and recognitions from the community for the programs it has sponsored. In keeping with their mission to provide excellent customer service and to support its community, Genisys continues to create programs which highlight the importance of financial literacy to its more than 117,000 members and to the communities it serves. Moreover, through its strong commitment to quality customer service Genisys Credit Union was recognized by the readership of Corp! Magazine as a "Best of Michigan Business" in 2009.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. Dianne Addington for her many contributions to our community and her leadership at Genisys Credit Union. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive service.

CONGRATULATING ANGEL RAY GUERRERO

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero is a teenager in the Northern Mariana Islands, who, despite facing extraordinary health problems in his own life, found

ways to improve the lives of other young people.

At age 12 Angel Ray was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He spent a year and a half in a Hawaii hospital battling cancer.

But Angel Ray did not let his disease control his life. Instead, he used his experience to empower himself to help others.

During his long hospital stay, Angel Ray found that time passed more comfortably because of a playroom in the pediatric ward. It was filled with games and toys, computers and a TV well stocked with DVDs, all of which helped take the young patients' minds away from their illness and from the reality of being in the hospital. In the playroom, Angel Ray told a reporter from the Saipan Tribune, kids "don't feel like they're sick. They feel like they're at home."

But Angel Ray knew—from personal experience—that kids back home at the Commonwealth Health Center in the Northern Marianas had no playroom. Though the average stay is only two-and-a-half days, some patients are there for six weeks or more. And they have no toys or books, no refuge from the psychological toll of being sick.

So Angel Ray partnered with Hawaii state representative Glenn Wakai and with Reach Out Pacific, a non-profit organization that takes surplus medical and educational supplies from Hawaii to the Pacific islands, including the Marianas, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei and the Philippines. Together, they organized donations of toys and books to create a playroom at the Commonwealth Health Center. The Shriner's Hospital in Honolulu was being renovated and needed to clear out toys in its pediatric area. Moanalua High School gave hundreds of books. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court donated shelving. And Matson Navigation offered to ship the 20-foot container stuffed with 50 boxes of books, 19 bookshelves, and 60 bags of toys from Hawaii to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Madam Speaker, Angel Ray Guerrero is an inspiration to us all: an individual who took the adversity in his own life and turned it into a benefit for others.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Dr. Dorothy Height, a true American hero, who worked tirelessly throughout her 98 years to make the world better as a leader, activist, and counselor in the civil rights and women's rights movements. In 2004, I was privileged to support legislation that honored Dr. Height with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award Congress can bestow. Dr. Height led a remarkable life and made a significant difference in the lives of so many others.

After earning degrees at New York University, Dr. Height joined the staff of the Harlem YMCA. There she met human rights activists First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and educator Mary McLeod Bethune. Her encounter with Dr.

Bethune led to Dr. Height's involvement with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), an organization she would come to lead as president for four decades. Dr. Height was a tremendous mediator and minister during times of great civil rights strife, such as after the 1935 riots in Harlem and then again in 1963, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, after a bomb killed four African American girls in a church.

Called the queen of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height was often the only woman at key moments in civil rights history and we are indebted to her for keeping women's rights and equality in the fore. During her tenure with NCNW, Dr. Height instituted programs to establish dialogue between interracial groups of women, to expand business ownership by women, to celebrate women's history at the Bethune Museum and Archives, and to monitor human rights around the world.

In addition to her efforts to overcome racial prejudices and for full voting rights of all, she also fought for school desegregation, for access to decent housing, and for better employment opportunities. It seems only fitting that we honor the legacy of Dr. Height on Equal Pay Day, a day each April intended to bring awareness to the inequalities that still exist in our society. Dr. Height was at the White House ceremony when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act and was there again when President Clinton marked the 35th anniversary of the legislation.

Dr. Height was apt to tell her colleagues at NCNW to continue their efforts to address issues of social concern. In gratitude for everything she has done, we are inspired to continue with her life's dedication to expand civil rights and equality for all.

COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, the 111th Congress has passed some of the most extensive and ambitious environmental legislation this country has seen since the 1970s. So it brings me great pleasure to be here in the House of Representatives to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Such legislation includes the Recovery Act, which I was proud to support and has made historic job-creating investments in a clean energy future that will provide hundreds of thousands of jobs. The House also passed clean energy jobs legislation that enhances the American manufacturing base and will make the U.S. a world leader in new energy technologies.

Additionally, I recently introduced the 10 Million Solar Roofs and 10 Million Gallons of Solar Water Heating Act, which will provide valuable cash rebates for the creation of 10 million small power plants located on the roofs of American homes and businesses throughout the country. This legislation will also create an estimated 1.35 million direct and indirect jobs, lower energy costs, strengthen the econ-

omy, and put America on the path to energy independence.

Corporate interests have spent millions espousing mistruths and presenting a false choice to the American people—the idea that efforts to preserve our planet and ensure our own survival will destroy the American economy. However, this Congress has exposed these claims for what they really are—lies. The 111th Congress has proven that we can indeed strengthen the American economy and ensure that all Americans can breathe cleaner air and drink cleaner water, and I am honored and proud to have been a part of such a historic effort.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINNIE SHIRLEY WIGGINS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and work of County Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins who died on Sunday, April 18, 2010 after a short illness. Commissioner Wiggins was a well-respected elected official and community leader in Perquimans County, North Carolina.

Born on February 6, 1933 to the late Mary and Hardy Wiggins, Sr., Commissioner Wiggins was a graduate of Perquimans County Training School and St. Agnes School of Nursing in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Commissioner Wiggins served our Nation with honor as a United States Navy Nurse Corps Captain, serving aboard the USS *Sanctuary* during the Vietnam War. She was a proud member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

During her more than 20 years as a Perquimans County Commissioner, she provided a passionate and tireless voice for the youths and senior citizens of the Albemarle Region. She worked as a volunteer with elementary school children and devoted significant time to the Meals on Wheels program. She earned recognition for her devotion to public service, including North Carolina's highest honor—the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Commissioner Wiggins had a great passion for her church, Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Winfall, North Carolina, where she was a devoted member for many years.

She is survived by brothers, Percy A. Wiggins Sr. and Horace Wiggins; brother/son Hardy Wiggins Jr.; daughter/niece C. Loretta Buggs; and a host of nieces, nephews, adopted sons and daughters, godchildren and extended family.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to recognize the life and work of Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins and her outstanding public service to the community. I also ask that we pass along our best wishes and prayers to her family, friends and loved ones during this time of bereavement.

CRAIG MORGAN RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS AS THE DISTRICT MANAGER FOR THE SCHUYLKILL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Craig Morgan, a constituent from my district, who is retiring as District Manager of the Schuylkill Conservation District after twenty-five years of service. Craig has always had an interest in the outdoors. As a boy, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, and helping on his grandfather's farm. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in environmental resource management from Penn State University in 1977, Craig began his career with the Schuylkill Conservation District.

The Schuylkill Conservation District was formed in 1955 with an emphasis on soil conservation. Since becoming District Manager, Craig has expanded the conservation district's role to erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, environmental education, farmland preservation, and farm conservation planning.

One of the Schuylkill Conservation District's accomplishments under Craig's leadership is the farmland preservation and erosion and sediment control efforts around the Little Swatara Creek, ultimately preserving the down-stream Sweet Arrow Lake.

Acid mine drainage has traumatically impacted and sometimes destroyed the ecosystems of streams in part of my district. Under Craig's direction, the Schuylkill Conservation District has partnered with the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, and other watershed associations, to treat acid mine drainage and bring those streams back to life with plant life and fish.

Craig is also proud of the Schuylkill Conservation District's efforts to educate local students on the environment and the importance of conservation. In 1979, Craig ran Schuylkill County's first environthon, which combines in-class curriculum and outdoor training, helping students to learn more about aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife, and current issues facing the environment.

Looking back on his twenty-five years as district director, Craig said, "The job has been a challenge, but it's been a pleasure in doing good things and doing the right things. That's the reward. Seeing fish back in streams, seeing people at Sweet Arrow Lake. I am the type of person that wanted to do things right the first time so I didn't have to do them again."

I would like to thank Craig Morgan for his twenty-five years of commitment to conserving and preserving Schuylkill County's waters, lands, and wildlife.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND DANIEL P. COUGHLIN ON 10TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS HOUSE CHAPLAIN

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1216, a resolution congratulating Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin on his 10th year of service as Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Reverend Coughlin was sworn in as the fifty-ninth Chaplain of the House of Representatives on March 23, 2000—the first person of Roman Catholic faith to hold the office. In his decade of service, he has opened House proceedings with prayer, provided pastoral counseling and arranged memorial services for the House and its staff.

Over the years I have come to know Reverend Coughlin and value his service to the House of Representatives. This resolution is a fitting honor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Coughlin for his decade of faithful service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL SPANN WATSON

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Spann Watson, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a retired U.S. Air Force pilot and an advocate for civil rights. Mr. Watson, who helped break the color barrier in the military years ago, passed away at the age of 93 years old.

Mr. Watson, originally born in South Carolina, moved with his family to New Jersey where he was inspired to become a pilot after watching Charles Lindbergh land the *Spirit of St. Louis* at Teterboro Airport. Mr. Watson earned his pilot's license while studying engineering at Howard University. In 1940, he was told by an Army recruiter that there were no openings for black pilots; however, a year later, the NAACP filed a race-discrimination lawsuit and the War Department set up an experimental program to train African American airmen.

Mr. Watson completed this program, which was based at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, as a fighter pilot and participated in nearly 40 flight missions during World War II. He retired from the military in the 1960s and worked as an affirmative action specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration. He continued to lecture into his 90s about his experiences as a military and civil rights pioneer.

Over the past 20 years, Mr. Watson traveled the country attending air shows and speaking about the all-black flight program. In 1997, Congress honored graduates of the Tuskegee program with the Congressional Gold Medal—the Nation's highest civilian award.

While at Tuskegee, Mr. Watson met Edna Webster, a civilian employee at the airfield,

and they were married on December 17, 1943. The couple had five children and spent nearly 50 years as a resident of Westbury, Long Island.

Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration, pride and respect that I acknowledge the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Spann Watson and thank him and his family for a lifetime of civil service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MYRTLE E. THATCHER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished citizen of Kansas City, Kansas, who celebrates her 100th birthday today.

Myrtle E. Green Thatcher was born in Kansas City, Kansas, on April 22, 1910, to Embridge and Eliza Green. She is a lifelong resident of Kansas City, where she graduated from Northeast Junior High School and Sumner High School. She was married for over 50 years to Nathan W. Thatcher, Jr., the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Thatcher, Sr., who was general manager of Thatcher Funeral Home, which is the oldest black family-owned funeral home in the State of Kansas. The business began operation in April 1912, at 1520 North 5th Street, founded by Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Thatcher, Sr.

In 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thatcher, Jr., affectionately known as Myrtle and "Snooks", remodeled the building. In the following year, Nathan died, leaving the family business in the capable hands of their only child, Quintelle Thatcher Davis, who guided the business until finally succumbing after a hard fought battle with cancer in 2007.

Myrtle E. Thatcher has been active in the business for over 50 years. A licensed funeral director, she's been a member of the Missouri-Kansas Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, and other professional groups. She's been a member of Pleasant Green Baptist Church for over 50 years and is a charter member of Alice M. Browne Chapter #40 of the Order of the Eastern Star. The recipient of numerous community service and professional awards through the course of her career, she is still serving our community, along with the excellent leadership of her grandson, Robert Davis, the fourth generation of her family to join the business, where he serves as general manager, funeral director and embalmer.

This family business will be 98 years old this month. As Myrtle maintains, they will continue to follow founder Nathan Thatcher, Senior's, practice of following the Golden Rule: do unto others as they do unto you. And Myrtle will continue to be very proud of her family, which includes five great grandchildren and three grandchildren: Judy Easterwood, who lives with her husband Robert in Kansas City, Kansas; Robert Davis, and Associate Professor Jacquelyn Hams, the chair of the department of earth science and anthropology of Los Angeles Valley College.

Madam Speaker, I know that you and all members of the House of Representatives join with me in paying tribute to Myrtle E. Thatcher upon her 100th birthday.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, April 20, 2010 marked the observance of National Equal Pay Day—a time to celebrate the women who have blazed trails for gender equality, reflect on the progress that has been made since the Equal Pay Act and recommit ourselves to closing the wage gap between women and men.

When the Equal Pay Act became law in 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. That figure only went up to 77 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2008. It is unconscionable that more than 40 years later, women continue to be paid less for performing the same job as their male colleagues. Equal Pay Day reminds us of the need to recommit to ending the injustice of wage discrimination.

Last year, one of the first major bills signed into law by President Obama in January 2009, was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which restores the right of women and other minorities to challenge unfair pay in court. Specifically, the bill overturned a 2007 Supreme Court decision that made it much harder for women and other minority groups to pursue pay discrimination claims. As long as workers file their charges within 180 days of a discriminatory paycheck, their claims for a remedy will be considered timely.

In January 2009, the House of Representatives also passed the Paycheck Fairness Act which closes the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and imposes penalties on employers who discriminate based on gender. We look forward to working with the Senate to complete this bill and send it to the President's desk.

Pay inequity is not just an issue that impacts women; families, communities, and our entire economy suffer because of this injustice. Our Nation is still recovering from an economic recession and thousands of Americans continue to struggle to make ends meet. We should not allow pay inequity to exacerbate our economic challenges.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to eliminating this inequality so that we can truly achieve equal pay for equal work.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 62nd Anniversary of the Jewish State of Israel. On April 19, 2010, Israel celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, the national Independence Day of Israel, which commemorates its founding in 1948. In that spirit, the following is an op-ed I wrote regarding the benefits of U.S. aid to Israel.

ROTHMAN: THE DIVIDENDS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL—APRIL 13, 2010—THE RECORD.

The argument that American military aid to Israel is damaging to the United States is

not only erroneous, it hurts the national security interests of this country and threatens the survival of Israel.

U.S. support for Israel is essential, not only for Israel's national security, but for America's. Every bit of that support—and more—withstands all reasonable scrutiny.

Under the 2010 U.S. budget, about \$75 billion, \$65 billion and \$3.25 billion will be spent on military operations and aid in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan during this fiscal year, respectively. Israel will receive \$3 billion, in military aid only. There is no economic aid to Israel, other than loan guarantees that continue to be repaid in full and on time.

There isn't enough space here to discuss the relative merits of the expenditures in these other countries, but we already know the critically important return we get for helping our oldest, most trusted ally in the strategically important Middle East—the most powerful military force in that region, the pro-United States, pro-West and democratic Jewish state of Israel.

Here's how:

First, it's important to remember that about 70 percent of the \$3 billion aid must be used by Israel to purchase American military equipment. This provides real support for U.S. high-tech defense jobs and contributes to maintaining our industrial base. This helps the United States stay at the very top in the manufacturing of our own cutting-edge military munitions, aircraft, vehicles, missiles and virtually every defensive and offensive weapon in the U.S. arsenal—with the added contribution of Israel's renowned technical know-how.

Second, the United States and Israel are jointly developing state-of-the-art missile defense capabilities in the David's Sling and Arrow 3 systems. These two technologies build on the already successful Arrow 2, jointly developed by our two countries, which is already providing missile defense security to Israel and U.S. civilians and ground troops throughout the region.

A MULTIPLIER EFFECT

The knowledge we gain from these efforts also has a positive multiplier effect on applications to other U.S. military and non-military uses and jobs here.

Third, given Israel's strategic location on the Mediterranean, with access to the Red Sea and other vital international shipping and military lanes of commerce and traffic, it is critically important to the United States that Israel continue to serve as a port of call for our troops, ships, aircraft and intelligence operations.

Israel also has permitted the United States to stockpile arms, fuel, munitions and other supplies on its soil to be accessed whenever America needs them in the region.

Fourth, America's special relationship with Israel provides us with real-time, minute-to-minute access to one of the best, intelligence services in the world: Israel's. With Israeli agents gathering intelligence and taking action throughout the Middle East and, literally, around the world, regarding al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Iran and Hamas, the U.S. receives invaluable information about anti-U.S. and terrorist organizations and regimes.

Fifth, imagine the additional terrible cost in U.S. blood, and the hundreds of billions more of American taxpayer dollars, if Saddam Hussein had developed nuclear weapons, or if Syria possessed them.

Then remember that it was Israel that destroyed the almost-completed nuclear reactor at Osirak, Iraq, in 1981 and Syria's nuclear facility under construction at Deir-ez-Zor in 2007.

And think about the many operations that Israel's Defense Forces and intelligence

agents have undertaken to foil, slow and disrupt Iran's efforts to develop a nuclear weapons capability. A nuclear-armed Iran would threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans in the region, all of Iran's Arab neighbors, the world's largest oil supplies and those who rely on that oil.

ACCESS TO LETHAL IRANIAN TECHNOLOGY

It also would provide anti-U.S. terrorists with access to the most lethal Iranian technology and probably set off a nuclear arms race in the region.

For about 2 percent of what the United States spends in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan this year, Americans can take pride in the return on our investment in aid to Israel.

And with Israel's truly invaluable assistance to America's vital national security, we can take comfort that—in actions seen in Tehran and Damascus and noticed by al-Qaida and other anti-U.S. terrorists everywhere—the United States is safer and made more secure because of the mutually dependent and beneficial relationship between us and Israel.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. Much like our July 4th, this day commemorates the date on which David Ben Gurion read the formal Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel drafted by a coalition of Zionist leaders, voted on by the People's Council (Moetzet Ha'am) and signed by 37 founding mothers and fathers of the Jewish State.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations approved a partition plan to take effect upon the expiration of the British Mandate. The partition plan was immediately rejected by the Arabs and armies from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria attacked to try to destroy the fledgling Jewish State before it could be established. During the War of Independence, the Jewish Settlement (Yishuv), under the leadership of David Ben Gurion, formally established the State of Israel.

The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was signed on May 14, 1948, which fell on the 5th of the Hebrew Month of Iyar, the date the British Mandate over Palestine expired. At a ceremony held at the Tel Aviv Museum, now known as Independence Hall, David Ben Gurion read the Declaration and 25 of the 37 signatories formally affixed their signatures before a crowd of 250 invited guests and a radio audience of countless listeners. Eleven of those who ultimately signed the Declaration were trapped in Jerusalem which was then under siege; the 12th was abroad at the time of the ceremony.

Eleven minutes after the declaration was signed, President Truman de facto recognized the State of Israel. America shares an unshakable bond with Israel, born of our shared values and our common outlook. We are both nations of immigrants that believe the path to success lies in invention, creation and investment. We are both nations that believe in the rule of law and the importance of a

strong and independent judiciary. We are both nations that were created by pioneers seeking religious freedom. We are both pluralistic nations in which what you know and what you create is more important than who you are and where you came from. And, the United States must stand with Israel and must work to ensure that Israel endures as a Jewish State.

In the 62 years that followed its establishment, Israel has survived and flourished despite the repeated efforts to destroy her. Israel is a vigorous democracy, our strongest ally in the Middle East. Her economy is thriving, in large part as a result of her agricultural, technological and medical innovations. With a free and active press, freedom of religion, free elections and a free and independent judiciary, Israelis of all religions and nationalities enjoy rights and opportunities unimaginable elsewhere in the Middle East.

Israel constitutes a fraction of 1% of the land mass and only 2% of the population of the Middle East. Nonetheless, Israel far outshines much of the world in terms of academic, scientific and technological achievement. Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees per capita in the world and produces more scientific papers and more books per capita than any other nation in the world. It is the only nation in the world that has had a net increase in the number of trees. Israel has transformed itself from an impoverished backwater to a gleaming modern nation, ranking among the very highly developed countries of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Israel for its 62 years of independence, innovation and enterprise.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA VETERANS ON THE
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010 HONOR
FLIGHT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 100 World War II veterans from Southwest Florida traveling to Washington, DC on the Honor Flight on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Since its inception in 2005, Honor Flight has flown tens of thousands of World War II veterans to our nation's capital to view the World War II Memorial. Thanks to the generosity of thousands of volunteers and businesses around the country, these heroes have an opportunity to visit the Memorial that was built to honor their service to our great nation.

I would like to recognize the following men and women from Southwest Florida who are taking the Honor Flight to Washington, DC: Kurt Boenker, Fred Warner, Vincent Marinera, Carl Price, Joseph Harrington, James Jarvis, Norman Jarvis, David Smith, Lawrence Phelan, Thomas Withrow, Robert Bricker, Henry Chiminello, Robert Voege, Robert Schugg, Jack Anderson, James Cusick, Jr., Jack Blachley, Robert Hall, William Wardle, Ralph Cook, Leonard Nallman, Donald Lester, Thomas Mac Kimmie, Robert Stilson, John Drake, James Hausler, Alfred Pagles, Stanley Parks, Eugene Roaf, Edward Coombs, Ber-

nard Brehm, Aubrey Smith, Ronald Birchler, Elwood Grube, Ira Weisblum, George Brown, John Nemeth, Kenneth Sayers, Edward Sturm, Eugene Poslaiko, Emmett Yoder, Jr., Charles Brandenburg, Eleanor Purser, Dorothy Kurtz, Louis Spencer, Joseph Beauchamp, David McKalip, Kenneth Ferris, Robert Partington, George Mann, Donald Bunger, Frank Parker, Michael Ursitti, Elias Ursitti, Charles Rogers, Forrest Yeager, Paul Groves, La Moine Heimstead, Edward Texley, Robert Demmink, Curtiss Sarff, Ervin Loche, Paul Wilcox, Dominic Franciose, George Doucette, John Heck, Frank Barletta, Frank Oden, Jr., Wesley Bates, Eugene Andrews, Jorgen Brinch, Frank Mazzarisi, Edwin Ratcliffe, Lewis Riggles, Charles Briner, Carl Loiocano, Carlton Carson, Lew Hall and Frank Burns.

Throughout our nation's history, men and women have answered the call of duty in times of peace and in times of conflict. These veterans and their sacrifices have helped to preserve liberty and freedom around the world.

I would like to thank these veterans for their commitment to our country. I am honored to have these brave men and women visit Washington, DC. Madam Speaker, it is a true honor to represent these heroes in Congress.

COMMEMORATING DR. BARBARA-
JAYNE LEWTHWAITE AS 12TH
PRESIDENT OF CENTENARY COL-
LEGE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dr. Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite upon being inaugurated as the 12th President of Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey.

Dr. Lewthwaite is only the second woman and second former faculty member to hold the position since Centenary's founding in 1867. Part of the Centenary College community for more than 20 years, she brings to the post sound academic credentials, strong educational leadership skills and valuable business acumen.

Dr. Lewthwaite was appointed Acting President of the College on January 1, 2009. Since that time, she has used her academic background to enhance the College's mission: providing a student-centered liberal arts education with a career focus and a special emphasis on community service.

Before assuming the Presidency, Dr. Lewthwaite served Centenary in several leadership positions, including Chief Academic Officer and Acting Chief Operating Officer. As a member of Centenary's Executive Staff since 2003, she spearheaded significant accomplishments at the college: supporting the development of a faculty of talented teachers and scholars; upgrading academic expectations that are grounded in the adoption of standards such as the Centenary Greater Expectation Learning Outcomes; leading the academic assessment movement that resulted in the College being the first in New Jersey to receive pre-accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC); achieving extensive articulation agreements with local

and global partners; and undertaking a major revision of the curriculum which included movement from a three-credit to a four-credit course curriculum, and numerous faculty-generated enhancements that have focused on experiential learning, service learning, global initiatives, and substantive new online offerings in the adult and traditional student programs on the graduate and undergraduate level.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate to have Dr. Lewthwaite at the helm of Centenary College in northwestern New Jersey. With her leadership I am confident that Centenary will continue to provide high-quality education to its students, preparing them for the 21st Century.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-
VISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF
SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Major Scott Edward Barnett, has accomplished so much in his life. After talking to him, I understand that being in the military is a very rewarding life experience. I have learned so much after interviewing him.

After speaking with someone who has seen so many traumatic experiences, the war really does become real to me. I also can really feel the pain of having to be so far away from your loved ones for so long. I can't even imagine having to be newly married, then deployed to a foreign country in danger, away from your new spouse, not being able to contact them every day. Or even having children and not being able to see them grow up. This would be extremely hard to do, and it really takes a special type of person to do that. This assignment has given me a new appreciation of everything that our soldiers do for us. When you are just living your normal daily life, there are soldiers out in danger, fighting to let you keep that freedom that you just take advantage of. I believe that more people should get to know about the war veterans, so that they can appreciate everything soldiers do for us.—Abby Callison

A TRIBUTE TO EARTH DAY AND NORTHWEST HALIFAX HIGH SCHOOL

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to mark Earth Day's 40th anniversary. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day has done more than simply raise awareness of environmental issues; it has helped shape policy to build a more sustainable country.

This occasion should remind everyone of the opportunity to swiftly take steps toward addressing our most dire environmental threat—global climate change. Last June, the House approved the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would establish a process to curb greenhouse gas emissions. If signed into law, our children will celebrate the 80th annual Earth Day in 2050 with 83 percent less domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

It is critical that the U.S. Senate take immediate steps to provide meaningful, science-based legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions. We must do our part to leave a legacy of conservation and sustainability for future generations. And, as Congress slowly labors to provide direction, millions of Americans are taking their own steps to live greener and more sustainable lives.

Northwest Halifax High School, located in Littleton, North Carolina in the First Congressional District, has installed a 2.0k/W solar panel system that will use a third less energy and reduce carbon emissions by 117,840 pounds over the lifespan of the system. On average, the school will save enough money to hire two full time teachers.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Earth Day, I urge Congress to meet the mandate of the American people and pass meaningful legislation to confront climate change. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Earth Day, and commending Northwest Halifax High School on setting an example for all Americans.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR VICTIMS OF TESORO REFINERY FIRE IN ANACORTES, WASHINGTON

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1262, which honors the victims of the fire at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes, Washington and expresses condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones in the wake of this tragic incident.

On April 2, 2010, as a team of seven employees worked in the refinery's naphtha hydro-treater, a devastating fire broke out. While the fire was quickly brought under control by Tesoro's fire control team and local first responders, three of the employees died immediately in the fire, three more died of their injuries, and another remains in intensive care after suffering severe burns.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the community of Anacortes and the entire state of Washington, including to Representative RICK LARSEN who represents the affected community. Our district has five refineries that employ many of our constituents and we share in their unfortunate loss.

As we continue to deal with the devastating consequences of this episode, we must also direct our attention to preventing losses of life like this in the future. Ensuring the safety of our refineries must be a top priority to protect the security and wellbeing of our workers, their families, and communities.

Again, I would like to express my condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those killed in the fire and also offer my support and hope for a full recovery to the Anacortes community.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 62nd anniversary of one of our country's most steadfast and supportive allies: Israel.

Since Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, Jews from all over the world have moved there to put down roots, flourish, and participate in a Jewish state and society. Israel has grown from a country that provided a refuge for Jews who survived unprecedented horrors and anti-Semitic persecution to a nation with a strong and enduring tradition of democracy and liberal governance.

Israel was born out of war and conflict, and has weathered constant threats from beyond its borders since its creation. The history of Israel is one of a nation small in size but large in its dedication to the enduring principles of democratic governance, liberal democracy, and national unity. It is a testament to the character and inner strength of the Israeli peo-

ple that their country continues to develop and flourish even as it is surrounded by so many who unjustly wish to see it dissolved and destroyed.

The nation of Israel is a friend of the poor and dispossessed around the world. It has sent humanitarian aid and emergency medical supplies to war zones in Rwanda; disaster areas in Turkey, the Indian Ocean, and along the Gulf Coast; and to fire-scorched areas in Greece. Most recently, Israel supplied much-needed support and relief to the people of Haiti, including deploying the Israel Defense Forces on aid missions and contributing millions of dollars to help the Haitian people rebuild their country.

It is clear that Israel's national mission is a higher calling than mere survival or self-perpetuation. It is an example to the world of the power of a determined national spirit, a citizenry dedicated to justice, and a set of founding principles that cannot be corrupted.

From the moment the United States recognized the State of Israel 11 minutes after its creation in 1948, Israel has proven to be a loyal partner with which the United States enjoys a mutually beneficial alliance. The advances made by our two countries in educational, scientific, and technological fields help to make the world a better place, and augment our intelligence and security partnerships in a crucial region of the world.

I join with many of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives in highlighting my admiration for what the nation of Israel has accomplished in the last sixty-two years. It is my hope that the people of Israel use this anniversary as an opportunity to set a path forward that will help bring peace and prosperity to themselves and to their region for the next several years.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff and owners of The Saint Paul Hotel on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary, which will be celebrated this weekend on April 17th.

Since its grand opening on April 18th, 1910, The Saint Paul Hotel has served as a geographic and cultural landmark for Minnesota's capital city, as well as a gathering place for Saint Paul's many visitors and residents.

In 1908 local businessman Lucius P. Ordway recognized the need for a major hotel in the growing commercial hub of Saint Paul. Mr. Ordway partnered with the city's Business League to purchase a parcel of land near downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park and finance the hotel's construction. Less than two years later, the Saint Paul Hotel was opened for business. It immediately was recognized as the premier hotel in the region, and less than one month after its grand opening celebration the hotel was named "Best in the West" by the National Hotelman's Association.

After falling into disrepair in the 1950s, civic and business leaders undertook an extensive renovation to return the hotel to its original

glory between 1981 and 1982. Since then, The Saint Paul Hotel has won dozens more awards for outstanding service and accommodations, and it has become, once again, one of the foremost luxury hotels in the Midwest.

Throughout its history, The Saint Paul Hotel has hosted a number of American Presidents, foreign dignitaries and heads of state, performing artists, writers, athletes, and numerous weddings. It has contributed a century's worth of memories to Saint Paul and the surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the Centennial Anniversary of The Saint Paul Hotel and its contributions to the rich history of the city of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.

HONORING ROY ISOM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man whose life and passions exemplified the well honored work ethic and spirit of fortitude, fairness, decency and citizenship that has made our nation great. Many things have contributed to the agriculture industry's prominence in our nation and the world, but one significant underlying factor in awareness of California's premier agricultural contributions to this great society has been the presence of individuals such as Roy Isom. On April 15th, 2010, agriculture and the entire Central Valley of California, lost a valuable friend and ally in Mr. Roy Isom, a radio icon in Fresno, California, the man colleagues called the hardest working person in broadcasting.

Roy Isom was a fixture in Central Valley California broadcasting for more than 40 years. Mr. Isom was known in the Central Valley by many as the "voice of agriculture" producing daily, an hour-long morning agricultural news show, reporting the concerns and activities of farming and agribusiness. Roy genuinely understood agriculture and its issues, talking regularly with farmers. Roy Isom was dedicated to agriculture.

Mr. Isom was a good hearted and good natured newsman who came to KMJ in Fresno in 1981 after a long stint in television news, including KFSN ch. 30. He started as farm news editor, but later added the title of news director to his resume. Colleagues marveled at his work ethic. He would come to work at 1 o'clock in the morning and then "maybe" leave at 3 in the afternoon, only to come back to work the next day seemingly unaffected by it. Though he arrived to work so early, he'd refuse to be pulled off a story until that story was told—and told well.

Roy Isom was known for his fair and balanced reporting. There was no one who didn't like or respect Roy. Though passionate about his craft, he was never pushy. Former KMJ general manager Al Smith reported, "He was never a gotcha news guy. He was a guy who just wanted to get the facts ma'am.", always done in a respectful way. Roy could masterfully paint a mental picture for listeners when on the scene of breaking news events.

Over the course of 45 years, Mr. Isom covered countless major breaking stories. Roy

covered some of the most important stories our Valley has ever seen, most notably the recent dire water crisis facing our Central Valley farmers and their communities. His collection of media badges and awards speak volumes. He was named the California Farm Bureau Agricultural Reporter of the Year in '94. In 2005, Roy received the "Heavy Puller Award" from the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Cancer may have claimed Roy's life at 72, but longtime friend and broadcaster Dennis Hart reports Roy went out just the way he'd planned; working until the very end. He's one of those rare people that got to do just that.

Roy Isom is survived by his wife of 45 years Pat Isom; son, Richard Isom; daughters Jennifer Isom Schmidtke and Catherine Isom; and seven grandchildren; all of Fresno. Mr. Isom will be long remembered for his love and dedication to his family and to the broadcast industry, and for his tireless efforts in doing his job, especially on behalf of Valley agriculture. A memorial scholarship in Roy's name has been set up with the Ag One Foundation at California State University, Fresno. Roy Isom will truly be missed by family, friends and the entire Central Valley Region. I will greatly miss Roy. Here's to a truly honorable and great man!

COMMEMORATING 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th annual Earth Day.

Each year Earth Day offers us an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made toward protecting our environment and the work that we still need to do.

Now more than ever, we have an historic opportunity to take action to limit the harmful effects of climate change and create the clean energy economy of the future.

And there is no reason why America shouldn't be at the forefront of this new economy—and my hometown of Sacramento is helping to lead that effort.

To date, our area has among the highest federal funding levels through the Recovery Act and other grants to support investments in clean-tech and energy efficiency projects, including SmartGrid.

Madam Speaker, Sacramento's efforts are helping to lay the groundwork for renewed economic prosperity for our country, create good jobs, and will provide enormous benefits to our environment at the same time.

TRIBUTE TO GARY M. CHRISTMAS,
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District for his nearly 30

years of outstanding achievements and accomplishments in public service. Gary M. Christmas has served as Riverside County's Chief Deputy County Executive Officer since October 2008, and has been employed with the county in Riverside, California since July 1997. After almost three decades of service, Gary is retiring and today I honor his years of public service.

Gary graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and from San Jose State University with a Master's in Library Science. Prior to attending college, Gary served four years in the United States Coast Guard stationed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Gary was a librarian for 16 years where he held progressively more responsible library management positions. He was also a reference librarian at several colleges and universities, including University of California, Riverside, Cal-Poly Pomona, Riverside Community College and Mt. San Jacinto Community College.

Gary served as the county librarian from July 1997 to June 2004 where he managed the library services contract and the County Library System with over 30 branches and more than 300 contract employees.

As Deputy County Executive Officer, a position he held from June 2004 to October 2008, Gary oversaw analysts in the Executive Office on budget and policy items, managed the County Capital Improvement Program team and coordinated the court facility transfer to the State Administrative Office of the Courts.

During his tenure as Chief Deputy County Executive Officer, Gary worked directly with the CEO, Assistant CEO and the Board of Supervisors in developing county policies and strategies. Additionally, Gary managed the Program Division of the Executive Office and has served as the legislative coordinator for the county advocacy program in Sacramento and Washington, DC. Gary has also represented the county at various federal, state and local meetings, boards and committees.

Gary has been married to his wife Kathy since 1974 and has two children, Erin and Andrea. In retirement, Gary will continue to travel and spend time with his family.

Gary Christmas's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Gary a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009-2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress.

These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. The summary follows:

I had known a little about what my dad did while he was deployed, but I had never pressed him for details. I think that is was partially because I assumed that anything that would make a good story would be classified for the next eighty years, but I also think that I was a little bit afraid of what I might hear. However, the stories that he shared were not as horrifying as I expected. I was stunned when he told me that he had never had a casualty in any of his units.

Our interview session was about as casual as it could be. I went outside to interview him while he was working in the yard. During our interview I learned more about some of the places he had visited in peace, including the U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates) and what was included in that country. At first I was surprised that this was one of his favorite places he has visited, but after he explained what was there it made perfect sense. I was honored that I could speak with my father about his experiences. It inspired me to do my utmost to make sure that I will preserve our military history.—Kai Fujisaka

AMERICA MUST CONTINUE TO LEAD THE FIGHT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that April 25th is World Malaria Day. On this day, global health advocates around the world will be raising awareness about malaria, and the fight against this deadly disease.

Malaria is an acute and often fatal disease transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. The World Health Organization estimates that an-

nually, there are approximately 250 million cases of malaria and nearly 1 million deaths, primarily among children in Africa under five.

Malaria is highly preventable and treatable with existing tools, including insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying of insecticides, and anti-malaria drugs. Through the President's Malaria Initiative, contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and other investments, the United States has played a prominent role in the global effort to fight this deadly disease.

This effort is already showing impressive results, but ensuring that available anti-malaria tools reach all of the people who need them will require greater dedication of resources from the U.S. and our partners. Furthermore, drug and insecticide resistance mean that today's tools are likely to lose their efficacy over time. Therefore, it is critical to invest in research on new tools, including drugs, insecticides, diagnostics, and, eventually, a malaria vaccine.

The past several years have seen remarkable gains against malaria. Securing and expanding these gains will require continued U.S. leadership and investment.

2010 WORLD MALARIA DAY—"WE CAN DEFEAT MALARIA"

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of World Malaria Day, which occurs on April 25th. For millions around the world—particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the global malaria burden is heaviest—the disease is a daily reality, an enduring epidemic that kills millions and impedes the progress and ambitions of entire nations.

In the last decade, however, it has been proven that this need not be the case; that malaria can, in fact, be defeated. Between 2000 and 2009, 384,000 lives were saved in 12 African countries alone, through resources like insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and malaria prevention for women during pregnancy. This was accomplished through the efforts and support of many countries, organizations, and companies that effectively raised the level of prevention, treatment, program support, and health system-strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2008, Congress authorized an historic \$48 billion for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs by passing H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. But the current level of funding is not where it needs to be to ensure that these life-saving measures reach the people who need them. In fact, current funding is only 25 percent of what is needed to achieve the malaria intervention and elimination goals established by the UN and the Roll Back Malaria partnership.

World Malaria Day is an opportunity to raise awareness for this cause and address its inherent challenges. This is not an endeavor for which we lack the knowledge, skills, or resources to win. Rapidly scaling up the distribution of malaria control interventions has been proven to have a dramatic impact on reducing

illnesses and deaths caused by malaria. There is a plan in place to put us on the path to eliminating this disease and, through our foreign assistance, we, as Americans, are an integral part of that plan.

Congressman BOOZMAN and I launched the Congressional Malaria Caucus to promote awareness in Congress of the efforts being made to stamp out the disease. We now have close to 60 Members of the Caucus, and I encourage us to see this plan through and help those who face the daily burden of malaria to reach their potential as a nation and as people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on April 22, 2010, I regret that I was not present to vote on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Flake Privileged Resolution, the Motion to Refer the Flake Privileged Resolution, the Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2194, and H. Res. 1270.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Refer the Flake Privileged Resolution, and H. Res. 1270

I would have voted "no" on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Flake Privileged Resolution and the Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2194.

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. I rise in support of S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at augmenting the support services available to family caregivers of wounded veterans, improving VA services to women veterans, preventing veteran homelessness, and increasing mental health care access to veterans.

This historic bill achieves so many necessary and important goals. First, it provides immediate support for veteran caregivers by creating a program to offer caregiver training, access to mental health counseling, and 24-hour respite care in the veteran's home. Family caregivers sacrifice so much of their own lives in order to care for our nation's heroes. It is so important that we give them every supportive service they need so they do not become overwhelmed by the daily realities of caring for a wounded veteran.

Second, this bill seeks to build a VA health care system respectful of the unique medical needs of women veterans. For the first time, VA will be authorized to provide health care for newborn infants of women veterans. Our women veterans deserve private health care that is respectful of their unique medical needs.

This bill also seeks to expand VA services that are designed to end veteran homelessness. It is unacceptable that the brave men and women who fought in service to our country would go without a place to rest their heads at night. I applaud these efforts to augment Secretary Shinseki's plan to end veteran homelessness in the next 5 years.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act deserves our undivided support. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 1963.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

I had the privilege of interviewing Congressman Sam Johnson. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Congressman Johnson was a prisoner of war for nearly seven years in the Hanoi Hilton. Shortly after the Vietnam War, he retired from the United States Air Force as a Colonel. When he departed from the military, he was a highly decorated officer having received two Legions of Merit, the

Distinguished Flying Cross, two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star with Valor, four Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, and three Outstanding Unit Awards.

Since 1991, Congressman Johnson has served the Third District of Texas as our representative to the United States Congress. He serves as the Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee. Congressman Johnson currently sits on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Johnson has personally inspired me as a young man. Through his unshakable faith, he has shown me that nothing is impossible with a mighty God. "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). Congressman Johnson is my Hero.—Gabriel Devoto.

HONORING DAVID POSSNER

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the service of David Possner to the youth of New York City. He has dedicated his life to educating the youth of our city and to the betterment of his community.

David Possner graduated from the prestigious New York City Leadership Academy's Aspiring Principals Program and is currently an assistant principal at M.S. Q226 in Queens, New York. At this school, he is the supervisor of the Visionary School Academy. In this role, he is a role model and inspiration to his students. He is always available to assist students and their families, in or out of the classroom.

David's commitment to education and community service is not limited to the classroom. He is always available to assist students and their families in both academic and personal matters. David is involved in numerous charitable organizations and has inspired many of his students to join him in these endeavors. He sees his role not just as an educator, but as a leader of youth. His tireless dedication to his life's calling makes him an inspiration not just to his students, but to educators across the country.

I am pleased to inform you that David's hard work has not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized by the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, the New York State Assembly, and the New York City Council. The New York Post has called him "a visionary who has made a deep impact on the lives of his students and fellow teachers."

The one word that we could use to describe David would be "hope." This has been his guiding principle for his entire career: hope in New York City, hope in our state, hope in our youth, and hope in our nation. Despite the constant challenges facing his students, he never gives up on them and always inspires them to strive for excellence.

Madam Speaker, I invite the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the outstanding life contributions of David Possner to our city's and our nation's youth.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and celebrate with them on their 150th Anniversary of service and dedication to serving their Church and community.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth come from a long legacy of public service that stretches back to the 19th century. This legacy is interwoven with the founding and development of the Catholic Church in New Jersey. Under the authority of the first American bishop, Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton founded the American Sisters of Charity in 1809 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Fifty years later, Sister Mary Xavier Mehegan was assigned by the New York Sisters of Charity to take charge of the new community that the first Bishop of Newark, James Roosevelt Bayley, nephew of Mother Seton, wished to establish.

Following the example of Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the new community was formally ordered and established in Newark, New Jersey on September 29, 1859. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth founded the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, the first secondary school for young women in the state, near Morristown in 1860. In 1899, at a time when New Jersey had no baccalaureate-degree-granting college for women, Sister Mary Xavier Mehegan founded the College of Saint Elizabeth, New Jersey's oldest four-year college for women and one of the first colleges for women in the United States.

Under Sister Mehegan's leadership, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth moved their ministries beyond New Jersey to Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Following her passing, they further expanded their work into China, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. While their endeavors continued to grow and expand abroad, they did not hesitate to toil restlessly for those who were disadvantaged and discriminated against at home. During the period of segregation, the Sisters of Charity opened a school for black children in Pensacola, Florida. The Sisters truly believe it to be self evident that all men, women and children are created equal.

From this rich history, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have become a beacon of hope throughout the community. Their mission is to work with and for the poor, to alleviate suffering, to dispel ignorance, and to promote justice. They participate in the mission of the Catholic Church through ministry supported and nourished by prayer and a vowed life of service to the community. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth serve as a true example of selflessness and service. They continue to embody President John F. Kennedy's grand instruction: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join with me in honoring the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth for their 150 years of faithful service to New Jersey.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The summary follows:

As a 1st rank navel veteran, Mr. Harvey F. Spears has had many awe-inspiring experiences. In particular he was involved in law enforcement and weapons control in his military career, which lasted 20 years. In the Navy, he was the Command Master in Arms (CMAA) and was involved in the Navy Security Guard. He comes from a history of family serving their country through various aspects of the military. He helped found the Veterans Association just before graduating from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas; currently, Mr. Spears is the president of the Veterans Association at UNT, which helps veterans gaining an education at the University of North Texas to fully access all the resources available to them.

I absolutely enjoyed talking to him and realized that he had been through much that even I could learn from. I was also amazed at how many places he has been to, seeing as I have never been outside the country. Ultimately, I admire his leadership ability to create an organization for veterans as an alumnus of the university and still play a prominent role in his community, even after

his retirement from service.—Anita Chandrahas

TRIBUTE TO DENVER HEALTH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, along with Representative Ed PERLMUTTER, I would like to recognize the exceptional endeavors and notable undertakings of an extraordinary public hospital system in Denver, Colorado. It is fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding institution for its innovation in the health care field and for its enduring service to care for the people of our state. It is to commend this outstanding and distinguished institution that we rise to honor Denver Health on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

Since 1860, Denver Health has been providing essential, quality health care services for the metropolitan area. It is astonishing to think about what an integral role Denver Health has played over the last 150 years. It has been a community institution since Abraham Lincoln was elected President; sixteen years before Colorado even became a state. Denver Health has been here since the days of duels and horse-drawn ambulances; since before the Civil War even began. The hospital began in a small log cabin and has transformed into the extraordinary institution we know today, serving twenty-five percent of Denver residents and one in every three Denver children. Last year alone, Denver Health provided approximately \$350 million in uncompensated care to the uninsured and medically needy.

The first sentence in Denver Health’s mission statement is a testament to its commitment to the health of our citizens. It reads: “Provide access to the highest quality health care, whether for prevention, or acute and chronic diseases regardless of ability to pay.” Serving as the safety-net provider for the community, Denver Health faces obstacles year after year as the uninsured population continues to increase. Denver Health’s pioneering leadership has been innovative in developing tools to reduce cost, curb waste, and improve quality for our most vulnerable populations.

In addition to its role as our primary safety-net hospital, Denver Health provides a number of other services to the surrounding communities and region. Denver Health operates the city’s school based health centers, Denver’s 911 emergency response system, provides correctional facility care, and houses the Denver Public Health Department. Denver Health also serves the surrounding region by housing the regional Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center, Rocky Mountain Center for Medical Response and the Rocky Mountain Regional Trauma Center. Denver Health is truly a system of integrated care.

Denver Health’s physicians, leadership, and medical professionals have received an array of local and national accolades for their innovation and commitment to achieving the highest quality of patient care. Denver Health leads the way in innovation and improvement in quality and efficiency.

Please join me in commending Denver Health on the occasion of its 150th Anniver-

sary. It is the vision, innovation, and commitment of Denver Health that continually enhances the lives of our citizens and builds a better future for Coloradoans and for all Americans.

HONORING TAYLOR MILLS AS A STUDENT LEADER

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Taylor Mills, a student leader at the University of Arkansas.

A dedicated student and an active individual, Taylor Mills has quickly distinguished himself as an influential leader among the students of the University of Arkansas. He has served in various leadership positions around campus, such as the president of the Red Cross, vice president of Hogs for Haiti, and as the president of One World RSO. Maintaining his motivation to be a well rounded individual, Mills conducts research for the Terrorism Research Center as well as serves as the intern coordinator for Winrock International. All of this has culminated in his nomination as Student Leader of the Week.

Taylor Mills serves as an inspiration for all of us, showing what hard work and dedication can lead to. I have seen his hard work first hand as an intern in my office and am proud of what he has accomplished. I believe this man is capable of great things not only for the State of Arkansas, but also for the entirety of the United States. Thank you, Taylor Mills, for all you have done at your time at the University of Arkansas and all you will continue to do. We look forward to seeing what you will accomplish.

HONORING REVEREND JAMES COFFEE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor a man who was a dear friend to me and a giant in our community. Reverend James Coffee of Santa Rosa, California, passed away April 6, 2010, at the age of 76, after a life that touched thousands of lives. He will be deeply missed.

Raised in Oklahoma when segregation was the rule of the day, Rev. Coffee moved to the San Francisco Bay Area as a teenager. He was first invited to be the pastor of Community Baptist Church in Santa Rosa in 1962 while studying at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in Mill Valley. A year later, he accepted the position and took on a small congregation of 15 African American members.

Rev. Coffee was engaged in the civil rights struggles of those times, including the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott where he met Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Racial tensions existed in Sonoma County also. In 1985 the church was damaged in a fire that Rev. Coffee believed to be arson, possibly because of his stand against apartheid and his success in

persuading the Board of Supervisors to withdraw investments in South Africa. Many in the community rallied around the church, contributing time and money to the repairs and later to the building of a new church.

Reverend Coffee always persevered in his vision of a society where everyone could realize his or her full potential. With love and an open heart, he acted on his principles. With the support and assistance of his wife Vivian, his family, and his many friends made over the years, he worked inclusively to break down the barriers between races and promote the greater good.

He was particularly concerned with the community's youth, mentoring young people, providing scholarships, and joining with others to establish and promote programs such as Rites of Passage (with Shirley Gordon) which teaches teens that they can attend college and become leaders. These activities have given young people the hope and the support that keeps them out of gangs and on the path or promise.

Rev. Coffee also founded or participated in a wide variety of civic organizations and could be found bringing people together for a wide variety of social issues. From the Bridge Builders Organization (to promote racial reconciliation), 100 Black Men of Sonoma County, Race Equality Week, and Citizens Against Domestic Violence to the Salvation Army Advisory Board and Citizens for Balanced Transportation, Rev. Coffee's presence and energy were a catalyst for the whole community.

In 1981, he co-founded Santa Rosa's Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration (with Carole Ellis and Mary Moore) which continues to inspire youth and bring people together. In 2004, he had the honor of meeting King's son, Martin Luther King III who spoke at a Sonoma County Human Rights Commission event at which the first of a new series of awards were presented—the Reverend James E. Coffee Human Rights Awards.

Rev. Coffee himself earned many awards throughout his years of service. He appreciated these acknowledgements, yet the greatest honors for him were the light of understanding in a teen's eyes, the dialogue across a racial barrier, and the legacy of love and activism. He leaves a Community Baptist Church that is multi-cultural with 500 active members who will carry on his work.

He is survived by his wife Vivian; his children James Jr., Shirley, and Yvette; three grandchildren; one great grandchild; and countless friends who will mourn him and be inspired by his example.

Madam Speaker, I am one of those many friends and I will miss him every day. To me, the Reverend James Coffee, has been the perfect embodiment of one of his favorite sayings: "Make a difference one day at a time." Reverend Coffee did make a difference—with strength and persistence, humor and compassion—every day of his life.

IN HONOR OF TAKE STOCK IN
CHILDREN GRADUATION AND
CONTRACT SIGNING 2010

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention

of my colleagues the work of Take Stock in Children. This organization offers extraordinary educational and mentoring programs for disadvantaged youth throughout the state of Florida.

Enrolling students as early as sixth grade, Take Stock in Children offers each child a college tuition scholarship, a volunteer mentor, a case manager, and long-term support. The children in the program sign performance contracts agreeing to get good grades; exhibit positive behavior and; remain drug and crime free.

Through their programs, Take Stock in Children aims to reduce the number of high school drop-outs and increase the number of students who finish college and enter the workforce successfully. Since its inception in 1995, Take Stock in Children has served over 16,000 children in 67 of Florida's counties, graduating 92 percent of its scholars in comparison with the state average of 65 percent. In my home county of Broward, over 900 low income students have received scholarships since 1996, with 550 volunteer mentors meeting with the students at their schools every week.

I would like to congratulate the 72 Take Stock in Children senior scholars who will be graduating and the 85 new scholars who will be entering the program next week in Broward County. They join students graduating from around the state, 88 percent of which are first generation college-going students, empowered by the financial and moral support that this important program has provided over their high school career.

I am proud today to honor the important work that Take Stock in Children continues to do paving the way to better lives for many disadvantaged children and helping them pursue the American dream of a college education.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, our friend and partner. After a process that began with the Balfour Declaration, the Mandate of the League of Nations and generations of struggling to regain their homeland, the United Nations passed a resolution on November 29, 1947 giving Israel the right to exist as a state. On May 14, 1948, Israel signed a proclamation creating the State of Israel, establishing it as a country that will "ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." That same night, the United States officially recognized Israel as a sovereign nation.

Despite its unfortunate history of violence, the State of Israel has established itself as a world leader and a nation millions of Jews are proud to have as their homeland. Considering that Israel is the hundredth smallest country in the world with less than one thousandth of the world's population, what Israel has been able to accomplish is truly remarkable. What separates Israel from almost every other country is its truly innovative and entrepreneurial nature.

With regards to education, Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees in the world, so it is no surprise that Israel has become a leader in the health, science, and technology fields. In fact, many of the technologies we rely upon in the United States were actually developed in Israel such as the cell phone, computer operation systems, and voicemail technology. As a result of these technological developments Israel has developed a \$100 billion economy, which is larger than the combined economies of all its immediate neighbors.

Therefore, I rise today to celebrate Israel's Independence and to pay my respects to those who have lost their lives defending the nation they loved. Although the State of Israel has experienced more than its fair share of trying times, it has never lost sight of the noble ideals upon which the state was founded: freedom, justice, equality and peace.

CELEBRATION OF ELIZABETH
EVELYN WRIGHT DAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Day, which will be commemorated this year on April 24th, in Talbotton, Georgia. Ms. Wright was an incredible woman. Her passion to inspire and educate the disenfranchised burned within, and her internal fire was often challenged by actual fire. She survived several arson attacks, yet remained undeterred. The flames of hatred were no match for the lamp of knowledge.

Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was born April 3, 1872, in Talbotton, Georgia. She was raised in a poverty-stricken area of Talbotton known as "Smith Hill." As a child, she was persistent in her educational endeavors. At St. Phillip's AME Church, she studied reading, writing, and arithmetic, and her scholastic excellence was quickly recognized by her professors.

To realize her potential, Wright then enrolled at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where she worked in the cafeteria during the day and attended classes at night. With the aid of Olivia Washington, wife of Booker T. Washington who was then Principal of Tuskegee Institute, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was able to attend daytime classes. She became close with the Washington family, and was affectionately known as "Lizzie." Mrs. Washington inspired Lizzie to use her exceptional talents to educate underprivileged African-American children.

During her senior year of college, Wright was approached by Almira Steele, a white trustee at Tuskegee who knew of Lizzie's stellar academic reputation. She asked Lizzie to move to McNeill, South Carolina, to teach. In 1892, taking a hiatus from school, Lizzie realized her dream of educating African-American children and became inspired to open her own school.

In 1893, the McNeill School burned to the ground due to a hate-fueled attack. Witnessing this injustice inspired Lizzie to return to Tuskegee to graduate. She resumed teaching in McNeill, this time, at her own school. Nevertheless, the flames of hatred burned again as

white supremacists burned the lumber purchased to build Lizzie's schoolhouse and then set fire to the temporary classroom building. These were not the last fires of injustice Lizzie would experience in her lifetime. She would attempt three more times to build a school, and each met a fiery end.

Undeterred, she moved to Denmark, South Carolina, and opened the Denmark Industrial School. In 1902, with the gracious aid of Ralph Voorhees, a blind philanthropist from New Jersey, Lizzie was able to purchase 280 acres of land. With the assistance of her friend and mentor Booker T. Washington, the school expanded, and was renamed the Voorhees Industrial School, which today is known as Voorhees College. In 1904, the school was incorporated by the South Carolina State Legislature.

Sadly, due to life-long illness, Lizzie passed away shortly thereafter, but she left an incredible legacy. She never yielded in the face of adversity, and strove to educate and inspire her community. Her passion still inspires the students of Voorhees College. Today, the college is an accredited four-year liberal arts college, dedicated to a diverse global society, life-long learning, healthy living and an abiding faith in God. The students aim to improve communities, society, and themselves.

On April 2, 2009, my colleague, Congressman CLYBURN, sponsored a Tribute to Elizabeth Evelyn Wright. In celebration of her birthday, the Citizens of Talbotton, Georgia, first declared "Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Day" on April 4, 2009. The Citizens of Talbotton, in celebration of the "Second Annual Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Day," have asked that Congress again recognize the amazing contribution she made to education. On behalf of Georgia's Second Congressional District, which is proud to be the birthplace of Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, as well as the place she spent her formative years where her char-

acter, values, and academic excellence were developed, I am pleased to honor her today.

Madam Speaker, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright was beyond remarkable, and has not been given an appropriate place in history. It is my hope to draw attention to this incredible educator, whose life and courage in the face of adversity continues to inspire students and teachers today.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The summary follows:

This unique opportunity to interview a veteran was very eye-opening and educational. It helped me to better understand why this country is so great. After interviewing such a prideful American, it is easy to see why this nation has been so prosperous. I am more cognizant of the opportunities set out for me and why those opportunities are possible. Many of them are only available because of those who have fought for this great country. I found this project so inspirational that I have become more interested in possibly serving some day. I think that for this country to continue to succeed it needs more people who are as special as Mr. Rowley, the veteran that I interviewed. His passion for America rubbed off on me in a unique way. The way he explained his experiences to me was special. It definitely seemed like his life and the way he saw things changed during his service. His eyes were opened up to the world. He never before realized how good his life in America was. One thing that struck me the most was how optimistic he was about the future of the country. In a time with so many issues, it is reassuring to hear enthusiasm about where we are and where we are going.—Blake Balda