

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING TRACE ADKINS

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Trace Adkins on receiving the Daughters of the American Revolution prestigious Medal of Honor award. In accepting, Trace will add his name next to previous Medal of Honor recipients; including former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, Charlton Heston, former U.S. Senator Robert Dole, and fellow recording artist Miss Patti Page.

One of the most unique aspects of my service in the United States Congress is the opportunity to meet talented and dedicated professionals from across the great State of Tennessee. I have long believed the true greatness of our State and country does not lie in its government or institutions, but solely in the creativity, integrity, and passion of its people. We in Tennessee are fortunate to have one of these individuals who exemplify the volunteer spirit and strive to make our community and our country better every day.

Over the years, I have come to know Trace not just as an exceptional artist and performer, but to consider him both a friend and a valued resource. In talking with Trace, his undying love for our country and his genuine support of the brave men and women who currently serve or previously served in the military always stand out.

Earlier this year, Trace went to the Pentagon and received special permission for his heartfelt request to perform his song "Til the Last Shot's Fired" with the West Point Glee Club. At the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, this performance was not just the highlight of the night, but it allowed Trace to shine a spotlight on the Wounded Warrior Project which provides programs and services for severely injured service members as they transition back to civilian life.

President Ronald Reagan said that if we love our country we should also love our countrymen. One of the clearest examples of living daily these words is Trace Adkins. Whether it's through his successful musical career, his faith community, or other ventures, Trace carries in his heart the spirit of what makes America great. I join with his wife Rhonda and their five daughters in offering praise and thanks to Trace on this wonderful occasion. Please join me in congratulating Trace Adkins and his family on this well-deserved award.

HONORING DAVID ASHLEIGH

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Ashleigh upon the

dedication of the Modesto Junior College Swimming Center to be named in his honor. The dedication and naming ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010, at the Dave Ashleigh Aquatic Center.

Mr. David Ashleigh attended Whittier High School in southern California, where he participated in water polo from 1957 through 1961. During his high school water polo career the team won the California Interscholastic Federation, CIF, championship in 1957, 1958 and 1959. In 1960, he was selected for the Helm's Hall of Fame second team (equivalent to the High School All-American teams today). During his senior year, Whittier High School took second place in CIF. He served as the team captain, was the leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player and was selected for the Helm's Hall of Fame first team. Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Ashleigh attended Cerritos Junior College.

While attending Cerritos Junior College, Mr. Ashleigh participated on both the water polo and swim teams. He was named team captain of the water polo team and the swim team both years he participated. He was the leading scorer and was awarded Most Valuable Player of the water polo team both years. Mr. Ashleigh was named the Junior College All-American Player of the Year in 1962 and 1963. On the swim team he participated in the 100 and 200 breaststroke as well as the 200 and 400 individual medleys. He set school records in all four events and set junior college national records in the 200 breaststroke and the 400 individual medley. In 1963 Mr. Ashleigh was voted the Cerritos College Athlete of the Year.

In 1963 Mr. Ashleigh played water polo and participated on the swim team while attending the University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA. During his first season he was the leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player and was selected as a first team All-American. Mr. Ashleigh red-shifted the 1964 season so that he was able to be a member of the USA Olympic water polo team in Tokyo, Japan. For the U.S. team he played the defensive hole guard and played every minute of every game from the preliminary through the final games. The team placed ninth.

Returning to the UCLA team in 1965, Mr. Ashleigh was named team captain and led the team to be the first undefeated sports team in UCLA history. He was named Most Valuable Player and was selected as a first team All-American. Mr. Ashleigh also swam in 1964 and 1965 for UCLA, where he became the first All-American at UCLA in swimming and was the first swimmer in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, history to flip-turn all turns in the 1650 meter freestyle. Mr. Ashleigh set UCLA school records in the 1650 and 500 freestyle, the 200 breaststroke and the 400 individual medley.

Mr. Ashleigh was a member of the 1964 through 1968 U.S. National Water Polo team and was the 1968 U.S. Olympic water polo team co-captain. In 1967 he was the team captain of the Pan-American Team, which was

the first U.S. team to win gold in International Competition outside of the United States. For his amazing accomplishments, Mr. Ashleigh was awarded the James Lee Award for the Most Outstanding Player at U.S. Nationals in 1965 and from 1963 through 1968 was named All-American in U.S. water polo, AAU.

In 1968 Mr. Ashleigh began coaching water polo and swimming at Modesto Swim and Racquet Club in Modesto, California. During the 3 years that he coached there, he had an overall record of 235 wins and only 43 losses. He coached the boys 14 and under 1971 Junior Olympics National Champion water polo team. Later he coached the boys 12 and under and boys 14 and under swim teams that set national records in the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay.

Mr. Ashleigh began coaching swimming and water polo at Modesto Junior College in 1971. In his 27-year career at the college he compiled an overall record of 827 wins and 272 losses. He had 51 winning seasons out of 54 total seasons and has 27 Conference Championships, between the two sports. Under his direction, the water polo team has an overall record of 487–178. Eighteen of his water polo teams made it to the California State Championship Tournament, 81 athletes were selected as All-Americans, 13 conference championships and 5 NorCal championships. From 1984 to 1990 his swim team was 73–0 in dual meets; from 1977 to 1992 the team was 158–11–1 in dual meets. He coached 78 All-American swimmers. The swim team won 14 conference championships and 4 state championships.

In 1991, Mr. Ashleigh began participating in Masters water polo. He played on various teams and won three world championships and placed second three times. While playing Masters, he had the opportunity to play water polo in Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Great Britain, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and India. He was inducted into the California Community College Athletic Hall of Fame in two divisions (coach and player) and was named the 2008 S.O.S. Athlete of the Year. In 1978, Mr. Ashleigh was elected into the U.S. Water Polo Hall of Fame and will be inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate David Ashleigh upon his many achievements being honored at the new Dave Ashleigh Aquatic Center. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Ashleigh congratulations on his many accomplishments and many years of continued success.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY WORLD WAR  
II VETERAN'S PROJECT

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Snohomish

• 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.

County World War II Veteran's Project participants and organizers.

I would like to begin by thanking all veterans for their service to our country. From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan, our men and women in uniform have overcome and continue to overcome tremendous adversity to fulfill their missions.

Our nation's veterans have helped keep us safe, and helped keep us free.

It is important that our community remembers and honors the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served in our military, as well as their families and supporters.

Although future generations may never meet a veteran of World War II, the book assembled by Janell Wood and Christina Moore, "War and Sacrifice," will help all of us understand how our neighbors in and around Snohomish County contributed to this nation's largest war effort at home and abroad.

I thank Janell and Christina for their work recording the individual histories of this diverse group that came together to defeat the Axis Powers. I also recognize the following individuals whose experiences during World War II comprise this book, and honor them for their service:

Lois Auchterlonie, Elwood Barker, William Brayton, Donald Brown, Lawrence "Maggie" Bryant, Joseph Burkard, Dan Burris, H.B. "Chris" Christie, Paul Cormier, Herbert Courtney, William Dean, Ted Dufour, Roy Eastman, Fred Ensslin, Earl Horn, William Huested, Frank Hutchins, Leo Hymas, Stanley Innes, Edwin Kirchgessner, Grace Kortbein, Arthur Langdon, Marcelle "Honey" Langdon, Arthur Larson, Eleanor Leight, Leonard Martin, Harold McMahon, Truman Merritt, William Miller, William Moore, Robert Otto, David Pesznecker, Wallace Pesznecker, Art Poier, Paul Schaus, Ervin Schmidt, Allen Stewart, Jack Terhar, George Thorleifson, William Tygret, Louise Vandervanter, Maurice Vincent, Mick Wagelie, Jack Walter, Maynard Wege, Theodore West, Lonnie Williams, and Robert Willingham.

Our nation's triumph in World War II could not have occurred without the hard work and sacrifice of these men and women and millions of others who gave up ordinary jobs as teachers, factory workers, and businessmen to fight enemies of freedom around the world.

Upon returning to the United States and civilian life, these brave men and women helped America achieve an era of unprecedented economic prosperity.

To the veterans of World War II, and those that supported them, thank you for service to our country, and your involvement in our community.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR  
JOHN TAYLOR'S SERVICE

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of John Taylor and honor his more than 40 years of service with the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Refuge Manager John Taylor began his career with the National Wildlife Refuge System

in 1969 as a GS-3 Student Trainee. For three years he worked with the Mattamuskeet, Piedmont, and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuges. In 1971 he was promoted to his first assistant manager's position.

His career has taken him across the continent, from North Carolina to Alaska. He has worked with 15 refuges across 9 states. He worked with several refuges just as they were being set up, including the Becharof and Alaska National Wildlife Refuges.

While working with the Alligator River and Currituck National Wildlife Refuges he was instrumental in the Red Wolf Reintroduction Program. Red wolves were nearly extinct ten years ago. Now, thanks to his efforts, they can once again be seen in their natural environment.

John Taylor also supported the establishment of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, the first Refuge in the state of Kentucky.

John Taylor has worked selflessly for more than 40 years to protect and preserve the beauty of our country's natural environment for future generations. For the last 19 years, he has served as the Refuge Manager of the Tennessee Natural Resource Refuge. He has been noted for his leadership abilities and his eagerness to get the public further engaged in conservation efforts.

Tennessee's natural beauty and amazing diversity of plant and animal life remain one of its most treasured endowments for future generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in thanking John Taylor for his years of service both to the public and to the environment. He will be missed, and we wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NAVAJO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL—LEGO ROBOTICS  
TEAM ROBOBUFFS

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Navajo Elementary School's Lego Robotics Team, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Building upon their STEM focused education, nine extraordinary students made it to the semi-finals at the FIRST LEGO League State Championship which I attended at ASU's Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering this past winter.

As a teacher for almost 28 years, I understand the importance of hands-on learning experiences and real-life scenarios that help students connect learning in the classroom to the real world. I believe that Navajo's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum is key to creating a learning environment that fosters innovation and creativity.

The kind of teamwork and creative thinking that was shown in the RoboBuff's design is going to help return our country to economic prosperity. Any one of these students might be the next Bill Gates.

Navajo Elementary is giving its students a head start, preparing them for college and beyond. In this competition, they are not only taking math and science curriculum to the next level through problem-solving and experimentation, but are learning life skills.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the extraordinary achievement of the Navajo Elementary School Lego Robotics Team: Tatianna Walker, Hailey Freeman, Nick Lowry, Tino Velez, Michael Majercin, Chad Bonfanti, Wade McEachern, Abby White and TJ Smith, along with the exceptional leadership of their coaches Cathy White and Chip Bonfanti, and their mentors Dr. Christine Loots, Dr. Bill Johnson, Jim Deng, Alicia Payne and David Schaeffer.

AMERICA COMPETES  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of this first amendment en bloc to the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. I support this legislation because I believe a substantial investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics translates to innovation and good-paying jobs. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, it is clear to me how federal grant opportunities for colleges provides for a strong American workforce.

Mr. Chair, included in this en bloc amendment is language I authored which seeks to give every higher education institution, regardless of funding history or its location, a fair shot at receiving funding.

I have concerns that a disproportional amount of the funding authorized under this bill would end up being awarded to large institutions, which may eclipse small colleges and universities, many of which are located throughout rural America.

Let me be clear—I strongly support, and encourage, all institutions of higher learning to pursue federal STEM funding opportunities. What my provision does is simply express the sense of Congress that when the grant-making authority is evaluating two or more applications of equal merit, that additional consideration should be given to applicants in rural areas and those that have no history of federal STEM grant funding.

Mr. Chair, because there are many bigger schools which have an entire staff dedicated to searching for grant opportunities, I believe that we must ensure there is a level playing field so that all areas of this nation and schools of all sizes and resources are able to benefit.

I believe the language I authored will benefit the overall legislation by enabling unprecedented STEM funding access to schools all across this nation.

I would like to close by thanking and congratulating Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their extraordinary work in crafting the underlying bill. I was proud to support the 2007 COMPETES legislation, and I am proud to support its reauthorization.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting both en bloc amendment number

one and the final passage of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

HONORING QUINN CHAPEL AME  
CHURCH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on May 28 Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church will celebrate 135 years of Christian service in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Mrs. Nancy West opened her home for a prayer service in 1875 and Quinn Chapel was formed. Named after Bishop William Paul Quinn, the congregation dedicated their first sanctuary 2 years later. Over the years Quinn Chapel has occupied different structures, dedicating the current edifice in 1958.

For the past 135 years, Quinn Chapel has provided leadership, inspiration, guidance, and strength to individuals and families in the Flint area. The Ministries of Quinn have encouraged the priorities of higher education, healthcare, business and professionalism in the congregation. The Ministries include: The After School Program; The Young People's Department; The Scholarship Committee; The Commission on Christian Social Action, The Commission on Health; The Commission on Public Relations; The Commission on Christian Education; The Commission on Mission and Welfare; The Commission on Membership and The Debutante Cotillion.

The keynote speaker at the 135th Anniversary celebration is Roland Martin, award-winning journalist and nationally syndicated columnist. Named by Ebony Magazine in 2008 and 2009 as one of the 150 Most Influential African Americans in the United States, Mr. Martin is a commentator for TV One Cable Network, host of "Washington Watch with Roland Martin," a CNN Analyst and Senior Analyst with the Tom Joyner Morning Show. He has authored several books, received numerous awards both in the United States and the United Kingdom and was inducted into the Texas A&M University Journalism Hall of Honor in 2008.

Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Reverend Stanley U. Sims, Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church continues the long tradition of Spirit-filled enthusiasm for worship, love, service, and "assisting them to become all that God created them to be." I pray that the ministers, staff, and congregation of Quinn Chapel will continue their work and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ for many, many years to come.

RECOGNIZING PETTIS NORMAN

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable man and exceptional citizen of Dallas, Texas, Mr. Pettis Norman. I am very privileged to consider Mr. Norman a dear friend, and it is an honor to recognize him before this Congress and the entire country.

Pettis Norman has always been a man of strong character and deep emotional conviction. He was born to Fessor and Eloise Norman in Lincolntown, Georgia and spent his formative years in North Carolina. As the youngest child in a large family, he learned early on the value of his own personal integrity, and to this day, it remains one of his most admirable qualities.

Mr. Norman received a degree from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, and it was there that he became active in the civil rights movement. He participated in lunch counter sit-ins that ultimately spread to cities and states across the country. These sit-ins marked a turning point for the movement and served as a spark for the African-American community to organize, be heard, and protest peacefully. Mr. Norman took part in these with a deep sense of integrity and the simple belief that all people should be judged on the depth of their character and not the color of their skin.

After Mr. Norman graduated from college, he moved to Dallas, Texas to play for the Cowboys in 1962. To this day, he is regarded as one of the greatest tight ends the team has ever had, and his resolve on the field has yet to be matched. Truly, the city fell in love with Mr. Norman just as Mr. Norman fell in love with Dallas, and I believe that the city has gained so much because of him. As a football player, Coach Landry held him in high regard, and still says that trading Mr. Norman to the San Diego Chargers was one of the most difficult decisions he ever made.

Mr. Norman returned to Dallas after two seasons in San Diego to settle into a permanent home. He has been active in civic life ever since, and he is still highly regarded in the community. The people of Dallas consider him an all time favorite, and I believe that it is his moral character and steadfast nature that so endear him to the people he meets.

Madam Speaker, Pettis Norman was an amazing football player and is an outstanding citizen today. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring this great man who has done remarkable things throughout his life and still considers his personal integrity his most variable trait.

MR. SHANE KENNEDY

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Shane Kennedy for his quick thinking and level-headedness during the severe tornado outbreak in Oklahoma on May 10th.

Kennedy, a co-manager at the Country Boy IGA in Norman that was leveled during last week's tornado outbreak, left his place of employment, observed the oncoming tornado, and returned to the store to direct 40 customers and employees to seek shelter in the store's freezer. While the store sustained irreparable damages, none of the 40 patrons suffered significant injuries. As two tornadoes ripped down Highway 9 and through the Country Boy IGA, Kennedy led the group in prayer until the storm system passed.

Madam Speaker, had it not been for Kennedy's foresight and resolve, this severe storm

could have ended in great tragedy. But his fortitude and strength protected these 40 lives from grave danger.

Time and again, Oklahomans have risen to the challenge in the face of adversity. I am once more impressed by the strength and resiliency of Oklahomans through Kennedy's swift and skillful response to protect his fellow Oklahomans.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kennedy deserves our thanks and appreciation. As an American and an Oklahoman, I am proud to be able to represent Mr. Kennedy, and wish him well.

RECOGNIZING PROGRESSIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Progressive Financial Services, Inc. as they celebrate their fifteenth year of doing business in Tempe, Arizona.

As our economy recovers, Progressive Financial Services, Inc. has successfully weathered the downturn and managed to create and maintain jobs in our community, building a workforce of more than 200 employees. This, in addition to the company's future plans to add more jobs, embodies the current mission in the United States Congress to stimulate the economy and provide work for its citizens. Therefore, my office would like to thank and congratulate Progressive Financial Services, Inc. and wish the company continued success in the future.

As a former mayor, I am pleased to have such a vibrant and prosperous business in my hometown of Tempe and within my district.

I urge you, Madam Speaker, to join me in rising to applaud the employees, management team of Progressive Financial Services, Inc. for their achievements and growth over the last fifteen years.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOSEPH  
GUYTON

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay special tribute to a dedicated American and true patriot for whose service to this country as a Captain in the United States Army deserves our sincere gratitude. Capt. Joseph "Joe" Guyton of Stafford, Virginia served with the U.S. Army's 5th Stryker division in Kandahar, Afghanistan. On August 11th, 2009, while Capt. Guyton was conducting a mounted area reconnaissance his unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device. Against all odds he somehow survived, however, the attack left him with severe injuries that resulted in the bilateral amputation of both of his legs.

Currently Capt. Guyton is continuing his recovery with the aid of his loving wife Amy at Walter Reed Medical Army Center. He amazes and inspires us all with his will to live

and a special can do attitude. As he now fights a very different kind of war, rebuilding his life without the aid of his two front legs, he now runs with his heart. His continued faith and courage in the coming years will serve as a source of inspiration to those around him and a lesson to us all. We should all offer our sincere blessings to him and his fine family that has stood with him through this ordeal. Capt. Guyton and his wife, Amy, intend to move back to where they first met at the University of Virginia to raise a family.

This poem, entitled "Stryking Deep!" was penned in Capt. Guyton's honor by a close friend, Albert Caswell.

STRYKING DEEP!

Stryking Hard!  
Stryking Fast! Stryking Deep!  
All in our lives, these things that which last!  
All in our lives to keep!  
Are but, all of those things that which count!  
That, all hearts should so seek!  
All in our hearts of love, like our gifts from above . . . that which so makes our Lord so weep!  
All along our life's path, our Full Measure upon this earth as asked . . . to climb mountains, steep!  
For there are only so many minutes, before out life's path is complete!  
To leave behind, all in our lives . . . those things which last, oh how so very sweet!  
For from This Great Old Dominion . . . Have but come, such great patriotic sons of distinction! Such Fine Virginians!  
The likes of Washington and Lee, Marshall and Jefferson . . . all of these ones!  
Who for our Country Tis of Thee, did what must so be done!  
As when a Cavalier, went off to war . . . To Strike Out, and So Very Deep . . . for our Nations Freedom, to ensure!  
Yea, he wasn't no regular Joe! For Strength In Honor, was his code!  
Marching into the face of death . . . for us . . . the things he bore!  
Remember, you sleep well this night!  
All because of such men of light, who our Freedom's so ensure!  
Who So Face Death! And To Us So Bless! Can you, but not ask for more?  
As when that day came, as all in the midst of hell . . .  
Near death, as he so lay . . . close to death that day! As when his fine heart would so swell!  
As when he made that choice, to Stryk Back and Stryk Deep . . . and listen to his inner voice!  
All in his loss, all in his pain! Looking down, as his strong legs so no longer so remained . . .  
As upon, his most courageous face . . . the tears began to rain!  
As his new war had begun, for this one of Virginia's finest Southern Sons . . .  
To Teach Us, To Reach Us, To All Hearts . . . To So Beseech Us!  
Stryking all of our Hearts, so very deep!  
With his courage and faith, that he would so keep!  
Because, men like him . . . who with their hearts, towards Heaven run . . .  
Our lives, will never be the same! And Capt. Joe Guyton, is his name!  
And if I ever have a Son, I but hope and pray he could be like this one . . .  
Moments, are all we have! All in our lives, To Stryk!  
For What Is True! For What Is Deep! If its Heaven we wish to keep!  
For such noble things in life, to so live and die for . . . is what is right!  
For only from such hearts of Magnificence, can come light!

WILL WE STAND? WILL WE STRYK!  
STRYK!

I extend to Captain Guyton my gratitude and deep appreciation for his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER  
SEATTLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer special recognition to the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) as it celebrates the 20th anniversary of its Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students. For two decades, these scholarships have provided promise and support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) and Allied students with strong commitment to civil rights.

In 1990, two teachers witnessed the challenges that confronted LGBT students as they pursued a college education, including discrimination from professors, harassment by other students, and unsupportive families. These teachers took matters into their own hands and created the GSBA Scholarship Fund, the first scholarship fund for LGBT students in the United States. That year, the GSBA gave two scholarships of \$1,500 each. Since then, the Fund has grown significantly, and now grants a total of \$135,000 in scholarships each year, with the individual scholarships ranging in size from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

One thing that makes the Scholarship Fund so special is the diversity of the students it supports. GSBA scholars come from every corner of Washington State, from cities and from rural communities. They are people of color, male, female, and transgender. But no matter where they come from, these talented students have the drive and the passion to achieve great things in their lives. Indeed, former GSBA scholars have gone on to become doctors, social workers, teachers and public servants. And these scholars have continued to fight for social justice and equality for all, regardless of the careers they chose.

This 20th anniversary marks a particularly special milestone for the GSBA Scholarship Fund—the awarding of its one millionth dollar to support the education of LGBT and Allied students. The unfailing dedication of time, money, and talent by GSBA leadership, members, and volunteers have made this achievement possible. I extend my thanks and best wishes to the GSBA and its outstanding scholars on their twenty years of changing lives and creating hope.

HONORING PARAMEDIC BRET  
ANDERSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Paramedic Bret Anderson for being selected as the Bartlett Fire Department's 2009 Firefighter of the Year.

Since joining the Bartlett Fire Department in 2006, Bret Anderson has been known around

the fire station for his positive attitude, his compassion, and his high regard for patients which has brought peace and comfort to many in times of crisis. After learning the ropes as a rookie and a lot of hard work, Paramedic Anderson has established himself as one of the premier first responders in Shelby County. Paramedic Anderson has displayed this knowledge and skill through several high impact incidents over the past year where his expertise contributed to positive outcomes.

I am pleased to know that experienced first responders like Bret Anderson are hard at work each day keeping the citizens of Bartlett safe. With his broad knowledge of life saving techniques, many people are alive today due to his quick action and high regard for the people he is treating. Paramedic Anderson has my deep gratitude and respect as he continues to selflessly serve our community each day by providing swift medical treatment wherever lives are on the line.

Please join me in honoring Bret Anderson and wishing him and his wife Farrah and their two children Zack and Taylor the best on this well-deserved award.

HONORING BOB REYES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Reyes upon his retirement as the Principal of Fresno High School. After almost 40 years in education, Mr. Reyes will retire in June 2010.

Mr. Reyes spent the first 26 years of his career with the Kerman Unified School District. He served as a classroom teacher for 13 years and then moved into the administration office as an assistant principal at Kerman High School. After 8 years he was promoted to principal and spent 5 years leading Kerman High School.

Mr. Reyes was hired as the principal of Fresno High School in 1997. Over the past 13 years, Mr. Reyes has provided tremendous leadership to the school. The school's academic performance index scores have grown 149 points since 1999, and there has been a significant improvement in the test scores for the California Standardized Test in more recent years. In 2002 Mr. Reyes implemented the International Baccalaureate, IB, Program at Fresno High School, a program that prepares students to be independent learners with a focus on higher education. The program is accredited and graduates are looked upon highly by colleges and universities around the world. The IB Program has grown from the original "Great 8" in 2002 to a current enrollment of over 500 students.

Mr. Reyes recently started the Parent Institute for Quality Education to encourage more parental involvement. Over 200 parents have graduated from the program this year, which is the highest number in the San Joaquin Valley. Beyond the school, Mr. Reyes is active within the community, working to improve community relations by closely working with the Historic Fresno High Neighborhood Association.

Through his years of dedicated service, Mr. Reyes has received many awards from numerous organizations, including the "Heart of

the City” by the Fresno First Baptist Church three times, “Diversity in Education Award” by the Association of California School Administrators, “Community Service Recognition Award” by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, and was named “Administrator of the Year” by the Association of Mexican American Educators. Mr. Reyes has also served as a board member for the Community Food Bank in Fresno. The Fresno County Board of Supervisors honored Mr. Reyes in January when they named January 26, 2010 as “Principal Bob Reyes Day” in Fresno County. After his years of commitment and service to the students, staff and surrounding community, an anonymous donor to Fresno High School honored Mr. Reyes by establishing an annual award given to a student at the school in his honor called “The Bob Reyes Leadership Award.”

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Principal Bob Reyes upon his retirement from Fresno High School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Reyes many years of continued success.

**LORD’S RESISTANCE ARMY DISARMAMENT AND NORTHERN UGANDA RECOVERY ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the decades-long, unresolved crisis caused by the Lord’s Resistance Army, LRA, is one of Africa’s longest running and most gruesome rebel wars. For over 20 years, Uganda, a country slightly smaller than Oregon, and its neighbors have suffered from brutal massacres and torture instigated by the LRA. Originally based in northern Uganda, the LRA have infiltrated northeastern Congo, southern Sudan, and the Central African Republic. The humanitarian crisis has resulted in the torture, rape, and death of thousands of civilians and the displacement of over 1.5 million people. Over the past decade, the LRA has abducted over 20,000 children for forced conscription and sexual exploitation. In northern Uganda, children living outside protected camps often leave their homes at night to sleep in hospitals or churches for fear of attack.

The ongoing crisis in Central Africa instigated by the LRA demands more attention, more support, and a more effective plan of action. A fellow Oregonian and constituent of mine, Lisa Shannon, founded the “Run for Congo Women,” which has grown into a global movement that has raised over \$600,000 for Women for Women International’s Congo program.

I’m pleased that we can help her efforts with S. 1067, which directs the administration to develop a strategy to protect civilians and increase aid and awareness about the effects of the war on the people, governments, and economies of the region. We must act to help Uganda and the three other LRA-affected countries aid their displaced citizens and rebuild their basic services, government, and economic infrastructure.

TRIBUTE TO NESIN THERAPY

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great business in my District, Nesin Therapy Services. In 1987, Janet Nesin founded Nesin Therapy Services from her home in Madison, Alabama.

The initial practice focused on providing contract physical therapy services for home health agencies and nursing homes. Janet’s primary goals included controlling the quality of physical therapy services and providing flexible work schedules for her employees. She began the practice with one employee, who remains with the company today.

Despite the turbulence that often accompanies the initial years of small business, the company enjoyed relative success and by 1994 the company had over 15 employees and gross sales were growing. Both of Mrs. Nesin’s daughters worked with the business from the beginning and as each completed their respective physical therapy degrees, began to treat patients.

In 1999, gross sales continued to rise. However, with the inherent instability of contracting in the health care industry, the company downsized to 7 employees and began transitioning from contract services to an independent outpatient clinic. This decision by the Nesins, spurred from the loss of a major contract, proved to be the pivotal point for the ultimate success of the company.

Nesin Therapy focused on providing exceptional care, marketed avidly, and capitalized on changes in the local health care market. By 2001, the outpatient division had rapidly expanded and the clinic was moved to Nesin Therapy’s current Madison location. In 2002, the business shifted exclusively to outpatient physical therapy services and gross sales once again began to climb.

In 2003, with 13 employees, the decision was made to expand into Huntsville. During this time, increased profitability allowed for the expansion to be funded in cash and, in addition to providing more competitive salaries, bonuses were given to employees. The second clinic was opened June 2004 in Southeast Huntsville. Nesin Therapy Services has grown into a thriving family-owned business with 35 employees and a newly opened third clinic in January of 2011.

Nesin Therapy Services has been the recipient of a number of awards over the years. The past several years have included the 2008 Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award; a 2008, 2009 Best Places to Work Award Winner; a 2009, 2010 United States Chamber Blue Ribbon Small Business Winner; and a 2010 United States Small Business Administration Family Owned Small Business State and Regional Winner.

So, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to highlight this great corporate citizen of North Alabama.

HONORING OFFICER STEVEN SONES

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Officer Steven Sones for being selected as the Bartlett Police Department’s 2009 Officer of the Year.

The primary mission of the Bartlett, Tennessee Police Department is to protect and serve the citizens of the community. On April 23, 2009, Officer Steven Sones demonstrated his commitment to mission when he was called to the scene of a mentally disturbed suspect wielding two large kitchen knives and threatening harm to herself and others. As the hours of the intense standoff wore on, the suspect made an abrupt move as if she was going to stab herself. At the moment, the years of dedication, devotion, and training of Officer Sones leaped in as he was able to fire a non-lethal beanbag shot that temporarily disabled the suspect and allowed his fellow officers the opportunity to end the threatening situation without harm to all involved.

Officer Sones began his career with Bartlett Police Department in 2001 when he was hired as a jailer for the City. He stayed with the jail until he was selected as a Patrolman in December of 2004 and participates voluntarily in several special units within the Department. His work with the Crime Suppression Unit and the Special Response Team (S.R.T.) has earned him a reputation as one of the best rounded officers in the Department.

Please join me in honoring Steven Sones and wishing him and his wife, Elisha, and their two children Abby and Bryce, the best on this well-deserved award.

TAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL “WE THE PEOPLE”

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in January I recognized students and teachers at Tahoma High School for earning first place in the “We the People” competition.

Now, Madam Speaker, I’m happy to congratulate those same students and teachers for earning the national “Unit Five Award” by accruing the most points in the fifth unit of the “We the People” textbook—a unit that expounds on the rights protected by the Bill of Rights.

The students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing. Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Annual surveys consistently show that high school students who take part in “We the People” outperform national samples of high school students participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress political test by at least 22%.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Tahoma High School are: Mariah Anderson, Austin Arnold,

Krzysztof Bieniek, McKenna Blenz, Chad Burgess, Casey Campbell, Matthew Cunningham, Wiley Duerson, Robin Hanson, Matthew Herman, John Iatesta, David Mahoney, Savannah Marstall, Melissa Moorehead, Tucker Murrey, Eric Nucci, Shelby Pelon, Chanse Pierson, Talitha Shiroma, Jordyn Sifferman, Karissa Smith, Carolyn Stevens, and Jonelle Thorsheim.

Also, I want to commend the teacher of the class, Mrs. Gretchen Wulfig, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the National Finals. Also worthy of special recognition: Mr. Kathy Hand, the state coordinator, and Mr. Brad Ulrich, the district coordinator, who are responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in the 8th District. I know the "We the People" organization and the students of the 8th District will continue on the path to knowledge and wisdom. Thank you.

HONORING ANDY COULOURIS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating State Representative Andy Coulouris as he leaves the Michigan Legislature to become the public affairs manager for Dow Corning Corporation in Washington, DC. A farewell event will be held in his honor on May 24 in Saginaw, Michigan.

After graduating from Arthur Hill High School, Andy earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. Active in public service, Andy served on the Saginaw City Council for 3 years and was an assistant prosecuting attorney for Saginaw County. He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives for the 95th District. He recently resigned from his second term on April 30.

Andy has worked with the Saginaw County Domestic Assault Response Team, the Bridge Center for Racial Harmony, the Saginaw County Bar Association, the Saginaw Downtown Development Authority, and he is a Vestry Member at St. John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw. Andy and his wife, Natasha, have 2 daughters, Alexandria and Mia.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Andy Coulouris as he starts his new position. I wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his life.

LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY DISARMAMENT AND NORTHERN UGANDA RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for S. 1067, the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act.

I am grateful for the leadership that has brought this important legislation—which I am

pleased to cosponsor—to the floor and to bring visibility, focus, and renewed attention and resources to what some have called an Invisible Conflict.

For too long, the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, has been conducting a campaign of violence and terror against the people of northern Uganda which has spread to southern Sudan and parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

In each of these areas, the LRA is destroying lives and communities. Women and children are particularly targeted by this vicious group and have suffered harsh abuses and atrocities at the hands of the LRA and its ruthless leaders.

Joseph Kony, the man directing this group's atrocious and senseless violence, and two other LRA commanders are wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. The ICC indictment lists 33 charges against him including murder, enslavement, sexual enslavement, rape, intentionally directing attacks against civilian population, and the forced enlisting of children into the rebel ranks.

Just last week, media reports indicated that the UN is investigating new allegations of a previously unreported LRA attack in February in a very remote part of the Democratic Republic of Congo that killed over 100 people.

Unfortunately, unless more attention and resources are paid to stopping the LRA, we will probably only continue to hear more similar disheartening and tragic reports in the coming months and weeks.

It is clear that current efforts to apprehend Kony and other LRA leaders are not working and vulnerable civilians in the region continue to pay the price with their lives for that failure. These terrorists must be brought to justice. The international community needs to step up its efforts to rid the affected communities of this threat and help them rebuild and recover. The U.S. can and must play a key role in that effort.

The bill before us today, S. 1067—the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act, makes U.S. policy very clear: to work vigorously for a lasting resolution to the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda and other areas terrorized by the LRA and to eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army to civilians using the political, economic, military, and intelligence tools available to our nation in a comprehensive and multilateral effort that will result in greater protection of innocent civilians and lead to the capture of Joseph Kony and other commanders of the LRA.

This bill is the work of exemplary leadership from colleagues from both sides of the aisle including Congressman JIM MCGOVERN who has been a long time champion for ending conflict and promoting peace.

This legislation is also the result of the hard work of thousands of activists across the country—young and old—including from my district as well who want to ensure justice and peace for the many victims of the LRA.

The bill would give the administration a strong mandate to act swiftly and effectively to lead multilateral efforts to protect children and families from LRA attacks and put a permanent end to these atrocities.

It would require the U.S. to create a strategy working with our international allies on a viable plan to protect civilians from LRA attacks, support the capacity of local authorities to main-

tain the rule of law, prevent conflict, and diplomatically engage on a regional basis to address the threat posed by the LRA.

Lastly, it would express support for U.S. efforts and funding to assist the people of Uganda and the Government of Uganda in rebuilding and recovery projects in areas of northern and eastern Uganda heavily affected by fighting with the LRA and authorize humanitarian aid aimed directly at the families and communities that have been and continue to be victimized by the LRA, including the children pressed into service as soldiers by the LRA.

The tremendous suffering caused by the LRA cannot end soon enough. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

HONORING PATRICIA DAUGHERTY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Patricia Daugherty for her dedication to her family and community. Mrs. Daugherty passed away in March 2010 at the age of 83.

Mrs. Patricia Daugherty was born on October 5, 1926, in Santa Monica, California. Upon graduating from high school, she attended the University of California, Berkeley for 2 years, and then completed her elementary education major at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 1949, she married James Harsh and had two children, Betsy and Jim.

Mrs. Daugherty's teaching career began in Ventura, California and continued in Manhattan Beach, California. Mrs. Daugherty moved to Mariposa, California, where she continued her teaching career. She began at the elementary school teaching the fourth grade and later transferred to Mariposa County High School teaching language arts. She also advised the journalism, yearbook, newspaper, competitive speech, Shakespeare, composition and creative writing classes. During her tenure at the high school, Mrs. Daugherty was also involved with drama, as well as the junior and senior plays. She was the first pep club advisor and later served as the senior class advisor.

In 1974, Mrs. Daugherty retired. She and her second husband, Sid Daugherty, moved to Joseph, Oregon. In 1976 they built a house on San Juan Island, where they lived until 1980, when Mr. Daugherty's business took them to Port Townsend, Washington. In 1982, they moved to Santa Barbara, where they remained for the next 10 years. In 1992, Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty returned to San Juan Island for a few years, until Mr. Daugherty's health declined and they moved to Yuba City, California. Mr. Daugherty passed away on October 1, 1999.

Mrs. Daugherty returned to Mariposa in June 2001. She enjoyed visiting with her former students and colleagues and spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mrs. Daugherty is survived by her son Jim, his wife Jan and grandsons Jeff and Dillon; her daughter Betsy and her husband John Montoya; her granddaughter Shannon and her husband Joe Marcus; great granddaughters Sydney, Jordan and Delany; her sisters Trudy Allison and

Phyllis Coolures; her stepchildren Jeanette Daugherty, Pat Perez, Sam Daugherty and their children and grandchildren, as well as her many nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Patricia Daugherty. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

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HOPE CLINIC FOR WOMEN

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, life is precious. While some vote, some pray, many others put all their efforts to their beliefs and work to offer women alternative choices to abortion. I am proud to join with organizations like the Hope Clinic for Women as they stand with women throughout Middle Tennessee. I especially congratulate Bob and Janie Yeager as they are honored tonight for their long-standing commitment to the Hope Clinic for Women, at the Hope for the Future Gala.

Rejoicing over birth, saddened through miscarriage, burdened by abortion, or excited for adoption, women facing these crucial moments in life find quality assistance and loving guidance at the Hope Clinic. For 26 years, the Hope Clinic has been a place, regardless of social standing, ability to pay, or religious affiliation, for women to receive free pregnancy tests, counseling, free ultrasounds, and medical care. Staff and volunteers don't simply stop with the health and wellbeing of the mother, they step in to provide formula, diapers, clothing, cribs, and strollers to the very least among us. Seeking to advocate total health for women struggling with Post Partum Depression, a partnership with St. Thomas Health Services began in 2008 as well.

With open doors and open hearts, the Hope Clinic is also a trusted voice, equipping Middle Tennessee's youth with information about abstinence, healthy life choices, and counseling programs.

Whether it's a safe place to call "home" for a woman carrying her child, or a sound clinic offering personal medical services regardless of ability to pay, the Hope Clinic for Women serves onsite over 2,000 clients each year, and reaches thousands more in the Middle Tennessee area. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Hope Clinic for Women, and those who continue to support such worthy efforts, for protecting life through every stage.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, February 4, 2010. I apologize for the delay in submitting this statement.

For Thursday, February 4, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 39 (on agreeing to the Halvorson

amendment to H.R. 4061), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 40 (on agreeing to the Kilroy amendment to H.R. 4061), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 41 (on agreeing to the Kissell amendment to H.R. 4061), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 42 (on agreeing to the Owens amendment to H.R. 4061), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 43 (on passage of H.R. 4061).

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HONORING COUNCILMAN N. JOHN AMATO FOR HIS RECORD YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the longest serving councilperson in Cherry Hill Township, Councilman N. John Amato, for his 27 years in public service. Councilman Amato has demonstrated significant leadership and dedication to his community, and for this he deserves great praise.

Councilman Amato is a graduate of Rutgers University and holds a Masters degree from Kean College. He moved to the Erlton neighborhood in Cherry Hill in 1963 where he has resided ever since. He was first elected in 1983 and continues to serve Cherry Hill Township. In addition, as a licensed public accountant, Councilman Amato is an administrator for Rutgers University's LEAP Academy, a magnet school serving the City of Camden, New Jersey.

The Councilman devotes his time and effort to his community in many different ways. He is a Eucharistic minister and lector at the Queen of Heaven Roman Catholic Church and also serves on the board of the Young Adolescent Learning Environment School for children with special needs. He is active in the Sons of Italy and is former Board President of the Camden County Vocational Schools.

Councilman Amato and his wife, Marion, have two daughters, Rosemary and Irena, and two grandchildren, Michael and Francesca. He is famous for playing Santa Claus at Christmastime for charitable organizations and the Cherry Hill Mall.

Madam Speaker, Councilman Amato's contributions to his field and to the state of New Jersey should not go unrecognized. I want to personally thank the Councilman for the exceptional leadership he has provided and the impact he has made in Cherry Hill. I congratulate Councilman Amato on his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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HONORING THE SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE (AIR ASSAULT) AS THEY DEPART FOR AFGHANISTAN

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women stationed at Fort Campbell who I have the distinct privilege to represent in Congress.

Later this week, soldiers from the 101st Airborne, Air Assault will be deploying yet again to Afghanistan to help defeat extremism in a nation not yet completely safe from those who prey on freedom. For many of these courageous Americans, this will be their 4th or 5th tour to either Iraq or Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that these frequent deployments have taken a serious toll on military families. However, when I had the opportunity to visit with the soldiers readying for deployment, they looked at that fact as just an example of the supreme confidence that our military leaders have in their ability to accomplish our mission as efficiently and effectively as possible. I, for one, could not agree more.

In a very short period of time, our country will be marking the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. And along with that, we recognize the decade-long commitment from our service members and their families to prosecute the Global War on Terror and bring peace and stability to a war-torn region of the world.

Madam Speaker, I hope that every member of this body will keep the soldiers of the 101st Airborne, as well as all of the members of the Armed Forces, in their thoughts and prayers as they continue to keep our country safe and secure.

May God bless and watch over our Nation's finest and their families, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

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HONORING MABEL ROWNEY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mabel "Gay" Rowney for her dedication to her family and community. Mrs. Rowney passed away on April 23, 2010 at the age of 92.

Mrs. Mabel Rowney was born on August 20, 1917 in Elk River, Idaho. At a young age she met and married Harold Rowney, and together they had eight children. She filled the role of mother and organizer of the family very well. She was a talented musician and taught generations of Mariposa children to play the piano. For over 30 years, Mrs. Rowney served as the organist of Saint Joseph's Church. She sang in various community choirs, performed for many years in the Mariposa Chamber Group and was the pianist for a number of Lion's Follies. Mrs. Rowney was especially well known for her baked goods. The children that went to her house for piano lessons always looked forward to warm, fresh cookies and the smell of homemade bread.

Mrs. Rowney was preceded in death by her husband, Harold. She is survived by her children Beejee Allan, Veronica Gross, Christopher Rowney, Jill Rowney, Teresa Dulberg, Roscoe Rowney, Mark Rowney and Lisa Rowney; sixteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Mabel Rowney. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and wishing the best for her family.

## HONORING LOUIS HERING

## HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the outstanding citizens of our nation's capital, Mr. Louis Hering. I would like to thank Mr. Hering for his extraordinary contributions to the cultural pursuits of his community during the two decades of his residence here and his five plus years of leadership and service to Washington, DC's very own Opera Lafayette.

On June 8, 2010, Opera Lafayette will be holding a Benefit Celebration at La Maison Francaise, Embassy of France, in Washington, DC. During this celebration, Mr. Hering will be honored for his exemplary leadership at the helm of this unique and critically acclaimed opera company. Opera Lafayette is an American period instrument ensemble dedicated to performing 17th and 18th century operas, particularly the French repertoire.

Mr. Hering served on the Board of Opera Lafayette for the last five years, the last three of which he served as Chairman. Under his leadership, the company moved its performance location to the Kennedy Center and also began performing at the Lincoln Center in New York City. In addition, four of the company's five recordings were released on the Naxos label (many never previously recorded). Due to the growth of the company, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts are now awarding support to Opera Lafayette and its opera education program, which brings music and opera education to 5th grade students in disadvantaged DC neighborhoods.

This year, under Mr. Hering's leadership and as part of Opera Lafayette's 15th Anniversary Celebration, the company performed to sold out audiences in the 2,400 seat Concert Hall at the Kennedy Center and the 1,200 seat Rose Theater at the Lincoln Center. No seats were priced over \$15 and many children in low income school districts attended for free, including many whom Mr. Hering personally sponsored. If that was not enough, the performances received rave reviews in both the Washington Post and New York Times.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Hering for his leadership and service on behalf of the arts community of our nation's capital and congratulating him for the honor being bestowed on him by Opera Lafayette on June 8, 2010.

## FINANCIAL NET WORTH

## HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, through the following statement, I am making my financial net worth as of March 31, 2010, a matter of public record. I have filed similar statements for each of the 31 preceding years I have served in the Congress.

## ASSETS

		Real Property	
Single family residence at 609 Ft. Williams Parkway, City of Alexandria, Virginia, at assessed valuation. (Assessed at \$1,363,505). Ratio of assessed to market value: 100% (Unencumbered) .....		\$1,363,505.00	
Condominium at N76 W14726 North Point Drive, Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at assessor's estimated market value. (Unencumbered) ..		\$151,900.00	
Undivided 25/44ths interest in single family Residence at N52 W32654 Maple Lane, Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at 25/44ths of assessor's estimated market value of \$1,541,500. ....		\$875,852.27	
Total Real Property .....		\$2,391,257.27	

Common & Preferred Stock	# of shares	\$ per share	Value
Abbott Laboratories, Inc ..	12200	52.68	642,696.00
Alcatel-Lucent .....	135	3.12	421.20
Allstate Corporation .....	370	32.31	11,954.70
AT&T .....	5996.390447	25.75	154,407.05
JP Morgan Chase .....	4539	44.75	203,120.25
Benton County Mining Company .....	333	0.00	0.00
BP PLC .....	3604	57.07	205,680.28
Centerpoint Energy .....	300	14.36	4,308.00
Chenequa Country Club Realty Co .....	1	0.00	0.00
Comcast .....	634	18.83	11,938.22
Darden Restaurants, Inc ..	2160	44.54	96,206.40
Discover Financial Services .....	156	14.90	2,324.40
Dun & Bradstreet, Inc .....	1250	74.42	93,025.00
E.I. DuPont de Nemours Corp .....	1200	37.24	44,688.00
Eastman Chemical Co .....	270	63.68	17,193.60
Eastman Kodak .....	1080	5.79	6,253.20
El Paso Energy .....	150	10.84	1,626.00
Exxon Mobil Corp .....	9728	66.98	651,581.44
Gartner Inc .....	651	22.24	14,478.24
General Electric Co .....	15600	18.20	283,920.00
General Mills, Inc .....	2280	70.79	161,401.20
Hospira .....	1220	56.65	69,113.00
Imation Corp .....	99	11.01	1,089.99
Kellogg Corp .....	3200	53.43	170,976.00
Merck & Co., Inc .....	24082	37.35	899,462.70
3M Company .....	2000	83.57	167,140.00
Medco Health Solutions, Inc .....	8218	64.56	530,554.08
Monsanto Corporation .....	2852,315	71.42	203,712.34
Moody's .....	5000	29.75	148,750.00
Morgan Stanley .....	312	29.29	9,138.48
NCR Corp .....	68	13.80	938.40
Newell Rubbermaid .....	1676	15.20	25,475.20
JP Morgan Money Mkt .....	119,11	1.00	119.11
Pactiv Corp .....	200	25.18	5,036.00
PG & E Corp .....	175	42.42	7,423.50
Pfizer .....	30415	17.15	521,617.25
Qwest .....	571	5.22	2,980.62
RRI Energy, Inc .....	236	3.69	870.84
Sandusky Voting Trust .....	26	1.00	26.00
Solutia .....	82	16.11	1,321.02
Tenneco Inc .....	182	23.65	4,304.30
Teradata .....	68	28.89	1,964.52
Unisys, Inc .....	16	34.89	558.24
US Bancorp .....	3081	25.88	79,736.28
Verizon .....	1604.303389	31.02	49,765.49
Vodafone .....	323	23.31	7,529.13
Wisconsin Energy .....	1022	49.41	50,497.02
Total Common & Preferred Stocks & Bonds .....			\$5,567,322.69

Life Insurance Policies	Face \$	Surrender \$
Northwestern Mutual #4378000 .....	12,000	92,092.28
Northwestern Mutual #4574061 .....	30,000	221,513.91
Massachusetts Mutual #4116575 .....	10,000	13,509.93
Massachusetts Mutual #4228344 .....	100,000	345,735.52
American General Life Ins. #5-1607059L .....	175,000	41,845.21
Total Life Insurance Policies .....		\$714,696.85

Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts	Balance
JP Morgan Chase Bank, checking account .....	35,600.24
JP Morgan Chase Bank, savings account .....	99,339.63
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, checking account .....	7,390.76
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, savings account .....	371.56
Burke & Herbert Bank, Alexandria, VA, checking account .....	1,312.51
JP Morgan, IRA accounts .....	142,832.49
Total Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts .....	\$286,847.19

Miscellaneous	Value
2007 Chevrolet Impala .....	10,065.00
1994 Cadillac Deville—retail value .....	2,125.00
1996 Buick Regal—retail value .....	2,050.00
1991 Buick Century automobile—retail value .....	775.00
Office furniture & equipment (estimated) .....	1,000.00
Furniture, clothing & personal property (estimated) .....	180,000.00
Stamp collection (estimated) .....	130,000.00
Deposits in Congressional Retirement Fund .....	196,816.21
Deposits in Federal Thrift Savings Plan .....	368,311.59
Traveler's checks .....	7,800.00

Miscellaneous	Value
17 ft. Boston Whaler boat & 70 hp Johnson outboard motor (estimated) .....	5,500.00
20 ft. Pontoon boat & 40 hp Mercury outboard motor (estimated) .....	10,500.00
Total Miscellaneous .....	\$914,942.80
Total Assets .....	\$9,875,066.80
Liabilities	
None .....	
Total Liabilities .....	\$0.00
Net Worth .....	\$9,875,066.80
Federal Income Tax .....	\$107,228.00
Wisconsin Income Tax .....	\$37,253.00
Menomonee Falls, WI Property Tax .....	\$2,562.00
Chenequa, WI Property Tax .....	\$21,920.00
Alexandria, VA Property Tax .....	\$13,450.00

I further declare that I am trustee of a trust established under the will of my late father, Frank James Sensenbrenner, Sr., for the benefit of my sister, Margaret A. Sensenbrenner, and of my two sons, F. James Sensenbrenner, III, and Robert Alan Sensenbrenner. I am further the direct beneficiary of five trusts, but have no control over the assets of either trust. My wife, Cheryl Warren Sensenbrenner, and I are trustees of separate trusts established for the benefit of each son.

Also, I am neither an officer nor a director of any corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin or of any other state or foreign country.

## HONORING CHARLES D. KIRKHAM, JR.

## HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a great Texan and dear friend, Mr. Charles D. Kirkham, Jr. who recently passed away at the age of 84.

Mr. Kirkham was a remarkable person who leaves behind a legacy of excellence and distinction. He led a passionate life that saw many unique events, and he worked diligently throughout his days to better himself and his family. I knew him to be a man that never bought into racial or gender bias, and instead admired people because of their character and sincerity. I send my deep condolences to his family for their loss, and my thoughts will be with them during this difficult time.

Mr. Kirkham was born on July 28, 1925, in Cleburn, Texas, to Charles D. Kirkham, Sr. and Mary Ellen Payne Kirkham. He graduated from Cleburn High School in 1943 and shortly thereafter he left for Europe to fight in World War II with the 94th Infantry Division. It was there that he performed heroic actions that garnered him a Purple Heart and a Unit Commendation Bronze Star. He returned to Texas after the war and received a degree from Texas A&M University in 1950 where he served as President of the Student Senate.

After completing his degree, Mr. Kirkham began a long and industrious career with Merrill Lynch where he worked for 45 years. He was a successful stock broker and made a name for himself that people still regard in high esteem today. He served in the Texas

House of Representatives during the 53rd and 54th Legislature representing Cleburn and Johnson counties. Throughout his life, he was active with Texas A&M University and served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Former Students.

Madam Speaker, I am so privileged to be able to bring the life of Charles Kirkham to the attention of this Congress. He was a man of great character and deep personal conviction, and he will be truly missed. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of this great man who led a noble life and gave wholeheartedly to his community.

HONORING JOHN WILLIAM  
"BLIND" BOONE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late John William "Blind" Boone, famed ragtime musician and a proud son of Missouri. It is my honor and privilege to participate in the celebration and observance of Boone's birthday, Monday, May 17, 2010. I would also like to recognize the members of the John William "Blind" Boone Heritage Foundation, who plan to restore and preserve the home where "Blind" Boone lived in Columbia, Missouri, coinciding with his birthday.

John William Boone was born on May 17, 1864, in the midst of the Civil War. Soon after his birth, he was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness that doctors referred to as a "brain fever." Doctors believed the only chance for survival would come through a radical operation that would end the brain swelling; they would have to remove his eyes.

The procedure was a success and would alter the course of his life. Boone faced much adversity but soldiered through. His musical talents were noticed early on, and he would later become one of the legendary musicians of his era, with a classical repertoire, which included folk music, religious songs and, most famously, ragtime. In 1912, he was contacted by the QRS Piano Roll Company and became one of the first African American artists to cut piano rolls.

Music allowed Boone to cross many racial boundaries and brought him all over the world, bringing diverse audiences together. Boone enjoyed an illustrious career and spent the remainder of his life in Columbia, Missouri.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging John William "Blind" Boone and his contributions to the arts.

COLONEL ANTHONY C.  
FUNKHOUSER

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great public servant, the outgoing Army Corps of Engineers Commander and Division Engineer for the Southwestern Division, Colonel Anthony C. Funkhouser.

Colonel Funkhouser began his public service at West Point, New York where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at the United States Military Academy. During his 25 years of distinguished service as an engineer he has had the opportunity to serve in theater during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as serving at numerous installations including Eschborn, Germany; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and Fort Irwin, California. He has served as the Tulsa District's Commander since 2007 and in 2009, while retaining the Tulsa Command, was promoted to Commander and Division Engineer of the Southwestern Division.

Madam Speaker, his outstanding service and bravery has earned him the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, the Combat Action Badge, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, Army Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, and Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti Liberation medals.

During Colonel Funkhouser's service as Commander of the U.S. Army Engineer Division's Tulsa District beginning in June 2007, he has shown tremendous leadership, professionalism, and adaptability. He has performed his duty in such a way as to earn great respect from his colleagues. Immediately at the conclusion of his change of command ceremony on June 29th, he was challenged to address historic flooding issues at Lake Texoma and Lake Waurika. In the past three years of Colonel Funkhouser's service at the Tulsa District, he has addressed infrastructure needs and shown that his skills lie not only in engineering but working well with all of the diverse groups that rely upon his leadership and judgment.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Colonel Anthony Funkhouser for his dedication to the United States Army. We are a better and stronger nation because of his service.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHIEF OF  
STAFF MARVIN "MAC" KING

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and dedication of my Deputy Chief of Staff, Marvin "Mac" King, who has been on my staff for many years and leaves his work on Capitol Hill to join his wife, Col. Barbara King, a doctor of dental surgery with the Air Force specializing in prosthetic dentistry, in Okinawa, Japan.

Mac first came to my office as an intern in the early 90s after obtaining his law degree. During the time of his internship in my office, Mac excelled in all tasks assigned to him. I knew he would be a valuable and important asset to the Ortiz Team.

Mac, a graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering and a juris doctor degree from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, has worked as a reservoir engineer with the Nat-

ural Gas Pipeline of America in Houston, Texas, and has served as president and technical manager of Losack Inc. in San Antonio, Texas. He has also served as acting counsel in the House of Representatives for the House Subcommittee on Oceanography, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Outer Continental Shelf and as a consulting engineer for Research Management Consultants Inc.

Shortly after the conclusion of his internship, Mac became a full-time employee in my Washington, DC, office where he served as legislative director and counsel from 1995 to 2002. I never doubted Mac's skills and in 2002 I named him deputy chief of staff and he continued to serve as my counsel. At that time, Mac oversaw a staff of ten to sixteen employees in my offices in Washington, DC, Corpus Christi and Brownsville, Texas.

Mac became so good at what he did—he was the "go-to" person in our office. Through the years, I saw Mac grow from an intern to an aggressive and well-rounded legislative guru who knew the ins and outs of Congress.

In 2006, Mac left the House of Representatives to work as deputy director for strategic communications with the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

However, it was too early for Mac to leave Congress, or that's how I like to think of it. In 2009, after more than three years of being out of the Halls of Congress, Mac returned to my office as legislative director and counsel. Within months Mac was appointed deputy chief of staff, a position he will hold until Friday, May 21, 2010.

Mac leaves the Ortiz Team to go live in Okinawa, Japan, with his lovely wife, Barbara. I take this time to thank Mac for his invaluable and relentless work and service for the 27th District of Texas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work and service of Mac for his more than 12 years of employment in the House of Representatives. On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I extend a warm and heartfelt thank you to Marvin "Mac" King for all he has done to better the 27th District of Texas and this great country.

INTRODUCTION OF PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE FUNDING  
STABILIZATION ACT OF 2010

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today we seek to do the right thing for our nation's inventors and innovative businesses—provide the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, with the resources for reliable and sustainable funding. This bill does this by giving the USPTO fee-setting authority, providing the USPTO with the authority to impose a 15 percent temporary surcharge for all of the USPTO's fees, and preventing fees that the USPTO collects from being diverted away from the agency for unrelated government programs. I strongly support this bill because it would help the USPTO hire additional examiners, help reduce the backlog of patent applications, and improve patent quality.

The USPTO is in the midst of a crisis. According to the Commerce Department's own

figures, the number of unexamined patents has ballooned to over 750,000. Moreover, the pendency time for a final disposition is 35 months—not counting appeals. Yet, despite it taking longer for the USPTO to do examination, many experts believe that the quality of patents has actually declined in recent years. Increased backlogs and poor patent quality affect not only the agency, they hurt American innovation, and delay our economic and jobs recovery.

While I support the current patent reform negotiations between the House and Senate, this bill will help to immediately begin to address the fiscal problems of the USPTO. I am still fully supportive of a larger patent reform effort and look forward to working with our Senate colleagues to bridge the gaps between the current House and Senate versions of reform. We are working with the Senate and have been engaged in discussions to make changes to their bill to improve patent quality and decrease the backlog. We want to continue to work with the Senate on the patent reform bill to get the best proposal. Our members in the House and their staffs have been working to resolve the differences between the House and Senate bills to address the needs of the innovation community. We remain open and willing to have a continuing dialogue with our colleagues in the Senate.

The USPTO does not take money from taxpayers. It is fully funded by user fees and generates revenues from those fees. Unfortunately, fees have been diverted to other uses, and this has made it difficult for the USPTO to hire and retain qualified examiners and address patent backlog issues.

Acknowledging these challenges, the USPTO has developed a number of initiatives to address its backlog and quality issues. These initiatives include giving patent examiners more time to do a quality examination of patent applications, targeted hiring of experienced professionals to become patent examiners, restructuring the incentives framework for examiners, and upgrading and improving the agency's information technology resources.

Together, these initiatives are expected to substantially improve quality and lower the backlog. However, these programs cannot be achieved without adequate funding, which the USPTO currently does not have.

Most of the fees the USPTO currently collects are statutorily set, and the fees are collected by the USPTO and deposited in the federal treasury. According to the Intellectual Properties Owners Association, IPO, \$737 million in fees collected between 1991 and 2004 were never transferred back to the USPTO and instead remained in the general treasury fund for purposes unrelated to intellectual property. As an agency within the Department of Commerce, the USPTO is subject to the appropriations process and collected fees must be transferred back to the USPTO through a yearly appropriation.

It is time for Congress to stop the bleeding and step in. I have worked in a bipartisan manner in the past to solve the problem of fee diversion. The USPTO's problems are not out there on Wall Street or in the Gulf of Mexico, they are right here on our doorstep. People lose jobs when technology does not make it to the market. These are problems that are in our power to fix, and that we must fix, and that can be traced directly to the current fee struc-

ture which is cumbersome, reactionary, and at times arbitrary.

This bill requires the USPTO to consult with its stakeholder Public Advisory Committees before publishing a proposed fee change. It also requires a 45-day public comment period. And, to ensure continued close congressional oversight, it also includes a separate 45-day congressional comment period before fee changes can be implemented. Lastly, the bill will sunset this new authority in 10 years, giving Congress an opportunity to evaluate how well this grant of authority worked and whether it should be continued.

The anti-diversion and 15 percent surcharge language in the bill will help the Patent and Trademark Office address its pressing short-term budgetary needs. The provisions in this bill will go a long way to correct the USPTO's fiscal and infrastructure problems. Without stability the USPTO cannot hire examiners, upgrade IT systems, or institute important operational initiatives that are critical to the PTO's vitality. To remain strong in the increasingly competitive global market, the U.S. must have an efficient and effective patent office. This bill is one step to ensure the U.S. remains a technological leader now and going forward into the future.

Under the current system, fees often do not correspond to the realities of the USPTO's operations or needs. For example, under the current structure, patent applicants pay only about one-third of the costs associated with examination, regardless of whether the patent is granted. Fees are thus out of alignment in terms of what applicants pay and what they cost the office. Not only is this arguably not fair to successful patentees, it is inefficient.

Back-end fees are notoriously hard to predict, especially in an economic downturn. Thus, the agency gets stuck with budgets that do not correspond to its front-end services. The result is that the USPTO's hands are tied, and the agency cannot pursue much-needed modernization and improvements. Accordingly, pendency and quality worsen.

For those who wish to wait for a more comprehensive patent reform bill, I say this: we cannot afford to wait. The provisions of this bill are necessary to make sure that the USPTO has adequate funding, and we recognize the hurdles that lie ahead as we advance these provisions. We plan to work with the Appropriations Committee and the Congressional Budget Office to address any concerns they may have with this legislation. Without action USPTO fees are likely to be diverted, and we must pass this bill to correct this problem that has been going on for far too long. Nothing is more critical to the health of the USPTO than to have the sort of long-term budget stability that this bill will provide.

TRIBUTE TO HAYWOOD HILLYER  
III, LOUISIANA REPUBLICAN  
PARTY PIONEER

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to note the recent quieting of a beloved and tireless conservative voice in Louisiana, Mr. Haywood H. Hillyer III.

Mr. Hillyer was a passionate public servant and a man of action. He was a Republican in Louisiana when Republicans were as rare in that state as a July snowfall. His dedication to conservative principles and his boundless enthusiasm played a pivotal role in transforming the Republican Party into a viable political force in Louisiana.

While in college, Haywood Hillyer was among a group of students who interacted with conservative icon William F. Buckley, Jr. His passion for ideas led him to found and edit a conservative college newspaper, *The Liberator*.

When Mr. Hillyer helped take on the monumental task of growing the Republican Party in the Pelican State, there were a mere 10,000 followers statewide. Today, there are over 750,000 Republicans in Louisiana. Haywood Hillyer served on the Republican State Central Committee of Louisiana for 25 years, and ran for governor.

Mr. Hillyer was also a great patron of New Orleans jazz music, and was featured as a commentator in several jazz documentaries, recalling listening to local jazz pioneers in their youth, and he continued to support local jazz organizations throughout the rest of his life.

Haywood Hillyer graduated from Tulane University and Tulane Law School. He served as an attorney for many years for what is now the Milling Benson Woodward law firm. Haywood was elected to several positions within the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. He was also an amateur sailor and racer, and a civic leader.

On behalf of conservatives throughout the country, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Hillyer for his distinguished leadership and exemplary life. Mr. Hillyer is survived by two sons, Haywood Hillyer IV and Richard Quin Hillyer; a stepson, Tyler Wood Duncan; and a stepdaughter, Halley Randolph Rash, as well as countless other friends and family.

They are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALDESTRUDIS  
"WALTER" TORRES

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer tribute to Mr. Waldestrudis "Walter" Torres, a Puerto Rican Vietnam War hero from my district who recently passed away at the age of 62. Walter was a brave and committed man. He honored himself and his country on the battlefields of Vietnam before returning home to lead a quiet life of civil service. He spent nearly four decades in service to others, as both soldier and civilian.

Walter was born in Coamo, Puerto Rico, on April 10, 1947. In 1967, at the age of 20, Walter joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was soon sent to Vietnam. Like so many of the more than 48,000 Puerto Ricans who served during Vietnam, Walter distinguished himself in combat. For courage and bravery, Walter received the Battle Star Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Services Medal with Three Stars.

After leaving the service, Walter was gainfully employed and hardworking his entire life.

He held positions with the U.S. Federal Government Printing Office as a pressman, the U.S. Post Office as a letter carrier, and later joined the private sector in the board sales business. In 2003, Walter joined the American Association of Retired Persons' Senior Community Services Employment Program, AARP/SCSEP, as a job developer. Walter flourished in this environment, directly impacting the lives of over 1,000 seniors who participate in the program for employment placement services. In 2010, Walter was promoted to be assistant director of the program. In 6 years, he missed only one day of work.

Madam Speaker, Waldestrudis Torres was an outstanding individual and an extraordinary example of American strength and character. Hardworking and large-hearted, he placed service to community and country above all else and should be remembered for his deep sense of commitment to others. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Waldestrudis "Walter" Torres.

ON JESSIE PAVLINAC'S SERVICE  
AS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN  
DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

**HON. KURT SCHRADER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, my state of Oregon has its share of remarkable people. One of whom I wish to recognize today is a constituent of mine, Jessie Pavlinac, a registered dietitian from Oregon City.

As a registered dietitian, Jessie directs nutrition and patient services for adult and pediatric patients at Oregon Health and Science University Hospitals and Clinics in Portland. She is an instructor at OHSU's School of Medicine, the preceptor for the dietetic internship program where she has influenced the careers of thousands of dietitians for more than 27 years, and is also a faculty member of the University of Phoenix in Portland. Her specialty in dietetics is the complex area of renal nutrition and transplant nutrition support, both of which will increase in importance owing to our nation's aging population.

She and her husband Randy, and their two sons, lived for nearly 20 years on a small family berry farm, an experience which has given her a life-long commitment to a reliable, sustainable and safe food supply for the health of our nation.

Jessie Pavlinac's commitment to good nutrition and health has led her to numerous leadership positions in the American Dietetic Association, the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. Since June 1, 2009, Jessie has served as ADA's 84th president. Her term as president expires at the end of May. Among the many accomplishments of the American Dietetic Association during Jessie Pavlinac's presidency, ADA will end this Fiscal Year on May 31 with its largest membership ever—more than 71,000.

In addition to serving her patients and students, Jessie has held numerous positions in the dietetics profession, including president of both the Portland Dietetic Association and the Oregon Dietetic Association. A partial listing of her many awards and honors includes the National Kidney Foundation Council on Renal

Nutrition Recognized Dietitian Award, OHSU's "Hidden Treasure" Award, ADA's Council on Education Outstanding Dietetics Educator, the Oregon Dietetic Association Award of Merit, and the 2006 Nutrition Ambassador Scholarship.

After completion of her bachelor's degree at Oregon State University, Jessie earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Founded in 1917, ADA is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession through research, education and advocacy. Approximately three-fourths of ADA's members are registered dietitians. Other members include dietetic technicians registered, educators, researchers, and students. In fact, nearly half of the membership holds advanced academic degrees. ADA members serve throughout the nation's healthcare system as well as in nonprofit organizations, schools, correctional facilities, government, and community organizations. They can also be found in the food industry, health clubs, weight management clinics, wellness centers, and as consultants.

Madam Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Jessie Pavlinac for completing a successful term as President of the American Dietetic Association, and for her service to her patients, her colleagues, her profession, and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE HILL,  
UNDERSHERIFF OF RIVERSIDE  
COUNTY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from the 44th congressional district of California for her outstanding contributions and achievements. Valerie Hill, a 31-year veteran of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, was recently awarded the 2010 "ATHENA" Award of the Inland Valley for being a valued role model who represents excellence in her profession, extensive community service, and generous mentoring. The ATHENA Awards program, which was created in 1982 and is an extension of local Chamber of Commerce's, recognizes outstanding professional and business women in the community.

Valerie is the first woman to be undersheriff of Riverside County. Prior to this appointment, she received a bachelor's degree in business management and went on to be a female hostage negotiator field training officer and assistant sheriff. She has served in Lake Elsinore, Jurupa, Moreno Valley, and Riverside, where she has mentored many women in the department.

Valerie has received a number of awards recognizing her accomplishments. In 2006, she was president of the Southern California Jail Managers Association, and in 2007, she received the lifetime achievement award from the Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee. In 2002, she was a YWCA Woman of Achievement, in 2004 she was recognized as Inland Empire Magazine's Woman Who Makes a Difference, and in 2005 received the Gold Key Award from Soroptimist International.

She was president of Operation Safe House and the Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center and also served as chair for the YWCA's Evening of Achievement event. Additionally, Valerie makes time with her family to serve hot meals to the homeless and is an active member of Kiwanis of Riverside.

Valerie Hill'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 Valerie a fellow community member and American. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious recognition of honor.

AMERICA COMPETES  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee for working cooperatively with the Science and Technology Committee on H.R. 5116, the America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010. Chairman MILLER has been a champion of STEM education in the House and his Committee has been very supportive in helping shape the STEM education provisions in the Competes Act. I insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an exchange of letters between the Committees on Science and Technology and Education and Labor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,

*Washington, DC, May 5, 2010.*

Hon. BART GORDON,  
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, the Committee on Education and Labor agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within its rule X jurisdiction.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5116 at this time, it does not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward, so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for the cooperative working relationship between our two committees.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 6, 2010.

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,

Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your May 5, 2010 letter regarding H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor. I acknowledge that by waiving rights to further consideration of H.R. 5116, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Education and Labor has jurisdiction in H.R. 5116, or similar legislation. A copy of our letters will be placed in the legislative report and the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,  
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO TIM RUSSELL, BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA PROBATE JUDGE

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished public servant from my home state, a man who has who has served as Mayor of the City of Foley, Revenue Commissioner for the State of Alabama and now, has returned to his beloved home county to assume the responsibilities as Baldwin County's new Probate Judge, the Honorable Tim Russell.

On April 16, Governor Bob Riley appointed Commissioner Russell to be the next Probate Judge of Baldwin County. Tim's selection was an outstanding choice.

As an Army Captain during the Vietnam War, Tim demonstrated leadership and loyalty to his country—vital qualities he still possesses. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his military service.

As a businessman, Tim led Baldwin Mutual Insurance Company as president, while also taking the mantle of public service in his home town. He was elected mayor of Foley in 1996 and was re-elected twice, serving until 2006.

On March 3, 2008, Governor Bob Riley appointed Tim Russell as Alabama Revenue Commissioner. In this statewide position, Tim was responsible for the operation and management of the state's revenue collections, which exceed \$8 billion annually. And as a key member of Governor Riley's cabinet, Tim used his experience in both business and public life to help advance the governor's agenda of always putting Alabama first. Throughout his 8 years in office, Governor Riley has always prided himself on assembling a truly world-class Cabinet and Tim Russell is one of the reasons why this statement was so true.

Tim's able stewardship of this major state agency made him the logical choice to replace

former Baldwin County Probate Judge Adrian Jones, who recently retired to spend more time with his family. Tim officially took office on May 3, 2010.

Madam Speaker, Judge Russell has held numerous posts in many community organizations, including the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, the South Baldwin United Way, the Foley Rotary Club, and the Foley Library Board, to name just a few.

Tim has been the epitome of a servant leader and he and his wife, Sandy, are great friends, as well, to Janee and me. With this latest responsibility, I am confident that Judge Russell will continue to make his family, his friends and all of South Alabama extremely proud.

I congratulate Tim on his appointment and wish him and his family continued success and much happiness.

### COBRA HEALTH BENEFITS EXTENSION ACT OF 2010

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of those relying on COBRA benefits for health coverage.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs since the recession began in 2007. Unfortunately, when you lose your job, you generally lose your health insurance. For those with a preexisting condition or ongoing health problem, this common scenario can leave them with no health insurance and often no way to get coverage.

Section 113 of the House version of the health care reform bill gave unemployed Americans the option of staying on their COBRA insurance beyond the typical 18-month eligibility period. The provision was designed as a stopgap measure to prevent more people from becoming uninsured.

The Senate bill did not include similar provisions extending COBRA. With California's high unemployment rates, my office has received calls from San Diegans on the verge of losing their COBRA benefits with nowhere to turn for health insurance.

We know that COBRA coverage is not perfect. Premiums are generally higher because employers are no longer paying a portion of the cost. However, especially for those with significant health care costs, COBRA coverage is extremely valuable.

In fact, the average medical expenses for a patient with diabetes cost \$13,000 per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. The average cost of treating breast cancer rose to nearly \$21,000 and prostate cancer to over \$41,000 in 2008, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Can you imagine facing these types of health care costs without any type of insurance? Because of the high unemployment rates, I fear many Americans are close to losing their COBRA eligibility.

I'm proud to introduce the COBRA Health Benefits Extension Act of 2010 with Chairman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman ROBERT ANDREWS, and Congressman JOE COURTNEY to help Americans keep their health insurance. Those on COBRA can stay with their cov-

erage beyond standard eligibility periods until they find a new job providing insurance or until health insurance exchanges are available in 2014. They can also drop their COBRA coverage and enter a government-sponsored high-risk pool if they so choose. This legislation provides a bridge to those at risk of losing their health coverage so they do not have to go without insurance.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much for your efforts to make health coverage accessible and affordable.

### THE DEEPWATER HORIZON TRAGEDY

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, nearly 1 month after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill began on April 20, oil continues to flow from the well, poisoning the Gulf and destroying the environment. The Deepwater Horizon Rig activities were considered by all to be a low risk drilling exploration. Such a classification sends chills up my spine given the countless riskier drilling ventures occurring along the coasts of this great Nation.

While millions of Americans tune into the news to watch the destruction of the Gulf Coast, the environment, and the economy of that area, I think of the thoughtless, baseless, and cavalier Republican energy chants "Drill Baby Drill." It echoes in the ears of the American public and anybody who cares about the Gulf Coast. Drill Baby Drill—what a farfetched plan given that the U.S. contains 2.2 percent of world oil reserves and consumes 25.9 percent of the world's oil consumption. You do not have to be a math scholar or a Nobel Prize economist to see the flaws of this strategy.

We need to find alternative forms of energy. We must use America's great resource and brainpower to harness the sun and to harness the wind. We must find new ways to help us with our problems of energy which will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, protect our environment, and safeguard the flora and fauna.

We will never be able to drill our way to energy independence. Rather than invoking our brawn, we must utilize our brains and innovate, as Americans have done for generations. Rather than throwing our limited Federal dollars at the feet of oil giants, let's invest in American ingenuity and create an American clean energy economy. Rather than sucking out every last drop of oil and coal beneath the earth's surface destroying the air we breathe and water we drink, let's utilize renewable energy sources like solar and wind that enhance our environment.

The choice is clear—we can drill our way further into environmental destruction and oil dependence, or we can create a new energy economy that creates millions of jobs and protects the environment for future generations.

Recently I introduced legislation that will do just that—the 10 Million Solar Roofs and 10 Million Gallons of Solar Water Heating Act. This legislation will create an estimated 1.35 million direct and indirect jobs, lower energy costs, strengthen the economy, and put America on the path to energy independence.

Madam Speaker, we have to find a new direction and be like America has been in the past, innovative and creative.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY LOWRY FOR HER FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA'S MOJAVE DESERT COMMUNITIES

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Beverly Lowry, a dear friend and dedicated public servant who has helped guide the city of Barstow and other High Desert communities for nearly 40 years.

A native of Emporia, Kansas, Mrs. Lowry has lived in California since 1947, and moved with her husband Al in 1966 to the Mojave Desert outpost of Barstow. Although she is a veteran traveler, she has called the desert her home ever since, raising two sons and watching two grandsons grow up there.

Friends of Bev Lowry know she is not one to sit on the sidelines, and just a few years after arriving in the desert she was elected to the Barstow Heights Community Services District board, which provided city-like services in an unincorporated area. During her 26-year service on that board, she oversaw the paving of nearly 33 miles of residential streets and the creation of a new off-ramp from Interstate 15 to serve the community.

Bev Lowry's involvement in public policy grew beyond local elected boards when she joined the staff of California State Sen. Walter Stiern in 1974. For the next 20 years, she served the constituents of legislators and county supervisors as a staff member, becoming a recognized expert at solving problems and resolving disagreements with county, State, and even Federal officials. Needless to say, since these were also my constituents as a member of Congress, I came to know Bev well and respect her greatly.

As both a staffer and a local representative, Bev Lowry was one of the leaders in securing State funding to build Silver Valley High School and the Newberry Springs Senior Center, as well as for the improvement of State Highway 58, an important cross-desert link.

Perhaps her most significant contributions to her community came through Bev Lowry's service as a board member of the Mojave Water Agency and her tremendous accomplishment as chairwoman of the committee to bring a State Veteran's Home to Barstow.

The Mojave Water Agency was created to deal with the serious problem of over-drafting of the underground basins that provide nearly all of the water for tens of thousands of desert residents. The agency was tasked with providing State Water Project water to residents of both the Mojave Desert and the eastern desert area known as the Morongo Basin. It was my honor to work with Bev and the other members of the MWA board to provide funding for pipelines to deliver this water, which now serves more than 100,000 people. The district has also begun an ambitious water reclamation plan, and Bev was here in the House Chamber to observe Federal approval for that plan.

Thanks to Bev Lowry's leadership, State officials in the 1990s chose Barstow over 28 competing locations to build the first State Veteran's Home in more than 100 years. The home provides a sanctuary for 400 retired and ambulatory veterans from throughout the High Desert area.

Bev Lowry has been deservedly recognized for her contributions, chosen as Woman of the Year by the Barstow Chamber of Commerce—and then selected by the chamber as Woman of the Decade in 1987.

Madam Speaker, every community in America wishes it had leaders like Beverly Lowry, who can pull people together and get major things accomplished. This weekend, Bev will be paid a wonderful tribute by the Barstow Community College Foundation, which is creating a scholarship in her name. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Lowry on her achievements, and thank her for her decades of public service.

CONGRESS CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF LANDMINE POLICY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today 68 members of the United States Senate sent a bipartisan letter to President Obama calling for a comprehensive review of the U.S. policy on anti-personnel landmines, urging the Administration to identify any obstacles to joining the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction. I am proud to say that 57 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives also sent a bipartisan letter to the President in support of their Senate colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has not exported anti-personnel mines since 1992; it has not produced anti-personnel landmines since 1997; and it has not used anti-personnel landmines since 1991. During the past decade, the United States has become the world's largest contributor to humanitarian demining and rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors. I firmly believe that it's time for the United States to formally join the 158 nations of the world who are parties to Convention banning anti-personnel landmines so that we can receive the credit for which our nation is long overdue and restore our leadership in shaping the Convention in the future.

I know that there are military questions that require review so that all sectors of our government are united in joining the Convention. I believe there are answers to these questions, answers that our NATO allies and other nations have confronted and overcome over the past decade as they complied with Convention's requirements. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge among our NATO allies, all of whom are parties to this Treaty, on adopting new military strategies and tactics, working with non-Treaty States, and identifying alternative weaponry as we abandon, once and for all, this indiscriminate, rogue weapon. I encourage our military leaders to reach out to our NATO partners and consult with their military counterparts on how they

adapted and complied with the Landmine Ban Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen first-hand the results of anti-personnel landmines on civilians and soldiers in El Salvador and Colombia. I have talked with survivors from around the globe, including men and women who proudly wear the U.S. military uniform. I have met with landmine survivors, including children, who were only working their fields or walking to school when they stepped on a landmine. They are not victims, Mr. Speaker—they are survivors and leaders in a global movement to ban this weapon from all current and future arsenals. They are clear-eyed, sophisticated individuals who are determined that no one—in uniform or civilian—shall ever be harmed again by these weapons.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is in our best national and security interests to join the Convention. Clearly, the bipartisan letter by our Senate colleagues and the supporting House letter show that the time has come for the United States to once again take up its leadership on this international issue. I ask unanimous consent to enter the House and Senate letters and related materials into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

U.S. SENATE,

*Washington, DC, May 18, 2010.*

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,  
*The White House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to convey our strong support for the Administration's decision to conduct a comprehensive review of United States policy on landmines. The Second Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held last December in Cartagena, Colombia, makes this review particularly timely. It is also consistent with your commitment to reaffirm U.S. leadership in solving global problems and with your remarks in Oslo when you accepted the Nobel Peace Prize: "I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do, and isolates and weakens those who don't."

These indiscriminate weapons are triggered by the victim, and even those that are designed to self-destruct after a period of time (so-called "smart" mines) pose a risk of being triggered by U.S. forces or civilians, such as a farmer working in the fields or a young child. It is our understanding that the United States has not exported anti-personnel mines since 1992, has not produced anti-personnel mines since 1997, and has not used anti-personnel mines since 1991. We are also proud that the United States is the world's largest contributor to humanitarian demining and rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors.

In the ten years since the Convention came into force, 158 nations have signed including the United Kingdom and other ISAF partners, as well as Iraq and Afghanistan which, like Colombia, are parties to the Convention and have suffered thousands of mine casualties. The Convention has led to a dramatic decline in the use, production, and export of anti-personnel mines.

We note that our NATO allies have addressed their force protection needs in accordance with their obligations under the Convention. We are also mindful that anti-personnel mines pose grave dangers to civilians, and that avoiding civilian casualties and the anger and resentment that result has become a key priority in building public support for our mission in Afghanistan. Finally,

we are aware that antipersonnel mines in the Korean DMZ are South Korean mines, and that the U.S. has alternative munitions that are not victim-activated.

We believe the Administration's review should include consultations with the Departments of Defense and State as well as retired senior U.S. military officers and diplomats, allies such as Canada and the United Kingdom that played a key role in the negotiations on the Convention, Members of Congress, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other experts on landmines, humanitarian law and arms control.

We are confident that through a thorough, deliberative review the Administration can identify any obstacles to joining the Convention and develop a plan to overcome them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Leahy; Richard G. Lugar; Jack Reed; Daniel K. Inouye; Olympia J. Snowe; Joseph I. Lieberman; George V. Voinovich; John F. Kerry; Orrin G. Hatch; Carl Levin; Charles E. Schumer; Robert F. Bennett; Jeff Bingaman; Susan M. Collins; Max Baucus; Judd Gregg; Arlen Specter; Sheldon Whitehouse; Harry Reid; Benjamin L. Cardin; Dianne Feinstein; Ben Nelson; Lisa Murkowski; Robert Menendez; Barbara A. Mikulski; Christopher J. Dodd; Sherrod Brown; Kent Conrad; Mike Crapo; Richard Durbin; Ron Wyden; Byron L. Dorgan; Evan Bayh; Michael F. Bennet; Russell D. Feingold; Maria Cantwell; Bill Nelson; Patty Murray; Blanche L. Lincoln; Mark R. Warner; George S. Lemieux; Mary L. Landrieu; Tim Johnson; Thomas R. Carper; Herb Kohl; Robert C. Byrd; Jon Tester; Edward E. Kaufman; Mark L. Pryor; Tom Udall; Claire McCaskill; Mark Udall; Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Frank R. Lautenberg; John D. Rockefeller, IV; Daniel K. Akaka; Kay R. Hagan; Jeanne Shaheen; Al Franken; Jeff Merkley; Debbie Stabenow; Mark Begich; Tom Harkin; Roland W. Burris; Robert P. Casey, Jr.; Amy Klobuchar; Barbara Boxer; Bernard Sanders.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 18, 2010.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,  
*President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We write to add our voices to our bipartisan Senate colleagues and convey our strong support for the Administration's decision to conduct a comprehensive review of United States policy on landmines. The Second Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held recently in Cartagena, Colombia, makes this review particularly timely. It is also consistent with your commitment to reaffirm U.S. leadership in solving global problems and with your remarks in Oslo when you accepted the Nobel peace Prize: "I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do, and isolates and weakens those who don't."

These indiscriminate weapons are triggered by the victim, and even those that are designed to self-destruct after a period of time (so-called "smart" mines), pose a risk of being triggered by U.S. forces or civilians, such as a farmer working in the fields or a young child. It is our understanding that the United States has not exported anti-personnel mines since 1992, has not produced anti-personnel mines since 1997, and has not used anti-personnel mines since 1991. We are also proud that the United States is the world's largest contributor to humanitarian

demining and rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors.

In the ten years since the Convention came into force, 158 nations have signed, including the United Kingdom and other ISAF partners, as well as Iraq and Afghanistan which, like Colombia, are parties to the Convention and have suffered thousands of mine casualties. The Convention has led to a dramatic decline in the use, production, and export of anti-personnel mines.

We note that our NATO allies have addressed their force protection needs in accordance with their obligations under the Convention. We are also mindful that anti-personnel mines pose grave dangers to civilians, and that avoiding civilian casualties and the anger and resentment that result has become a key priority in building public support for our mission in Afghanistan. Finally, we are aware that anti-personnel mines in the Korean DMZ are South Korean mines, and that the U.S. has alternative munitions that are not victim-activated.

We believe the Administration's review should include consultations with the Departments of Defense and State as well as retired senior U.S. military officers and diplomats, allies such as Canada and the United Kingdom that played a key role in the negotiations on the Convention, Members of Congress, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other experts on landmines, humanitarian law and arms control. We are confident that through a thorough, deliberative process the Administration can identify any obstacles to joining the Convention and develop a plan to overcome them as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you on plans for the review.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern; Edward J. Markey; Janice D. Schakowsky; John Lewis; Nick J. Rahall II; Darrell E. Issa; Bob Filner; Sander M. Levin; Rosa L. DeLauro; James L. Oberstar; Collin C. Peterson; John Conyers, Jr.; Carolyn B. Maloney; Eleanor Holmes Norton; Betty McCollum; Peter Welch; Fortney Pete Stark; Charles B. Rangel; James P. Moran; Chaka Fattah; Raúl M. Grijalva; Lloyd Doggett; Michael M. Honda; Barbara Lee; Maurice D. Hinchey; Paul W. Hodes; Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.; Keith Ellison; Jerrold Nadler; Gary L. Ackerman; Jackie Speier; Tammy Baldwin; Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.; Sam Farr; Lynn C. Woolsey; Peter A. DeFazio; Melvin L. Watt; Michael H. Michaud; John J. Hall; John W. Olver; Earl Blumenauer; Marcia L. Fudge; Dennis J. Kucinich; Jim McDermott; Dale E. Kildee; Robert A. Brady; Lois Capps; Judy Chu; Rush D. Holt; Carol Shea-Porter; Michael E. Capuano; John Garamendi; José E. Serrano; Bobby L. Rush; Maxine Waters; Eni F. H. Faleomavaega; Susan A. Davis.

[From the United States Campaign to Ban Landmines, May 18, 2010]

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORT BAN ON LANDMINES: LETTERS SENT TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

WASHINGTON, DC.—A letter signed by 68 senators, asking the administration to join the 1997 Landmine Ban Treaty, was delivered to President Obama on Tuesday. The signers include 10 Republicans and two Independents and constitute more than the two-thirds of the Senate needed to ratify a treaty.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT-D) and Sen. George Voinovich (OH-R) circulated the Senate letter, and a similar letter in support of the Senate initiative, circulated by Rep. James McGovern (MA-D) and Rep. Darrell Issa (CA-R) in the House of Representatives, was also delivered to President Obama. The existence of the letters was made public on

May 8, but the final versions, with all signatures, was delivered Tuesday.

In describing the use of antipersonnel landmines, Sen. Patrick Leahy said, "The idea that a modern military like ours would be using indiscriminate, victim-activated weapons today is hard to reconcile with our current military objectives, particularly when you consider that the two countries (Iraq and Afghanistan) where our troops are fighting are parties to the treaty and the members of the coalition that we are leading in Afghanistan are also parties to the treaty."

The Administration launched a review of U.S. landmine policy late last year, and in the letters the legislators say that they are "confident that through a thorough, deliberative review the Administration can identify any obstacles to joining the Convention and develop a plan to overcome them as soon as possible."

Rep. James McGovern, who circulated the letter in the House, said, "A thorough review will show that the U.S. can play an even greater role in the world on landmines by formally joining the ban. The Senate letter demonstrates the support is there."

The Congressional letters follow a letter sent to President Obama on March 22 by leaders from 65 national nongovernmental organizations that also urge the U.S. to relinquish antipersonnel landmines and join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty without delay.

"The strong support these letters have received shows that Congress is firmly behind accession to the Mine Ban Treaty," said Zach Hudson, the coordinator of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines (USCBL). "The U.S. has not used these barbaric weapons in 19 years. With these letters, Congress adds its voice to that of the American people in calling on our government to join our NATO allies—and all of the 158 nations that have joined this treaty—and eliminate the use of landmines once and for all."

[From the Washington Post, May 8, 2010]

SENATE PUSHES OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO SIGN TREATY BANNING LAND MINES

(By Craig Whitlock and Glenn Kessler)

More than two-thirds of the Senate is urging the Obama administration to consider signing an international treaty that bans land mines, reviving a dormant campaign from the 1990s that left the United States divided from its closest allies.

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) said in an interview Friday that 68 senators had signed a letter to President Obama to support a "comprehensive review" of U.S. policy on land mines. The letter is an indication that there are enough votes in the Senate to ratify the treaty—at least 67 would be required—if Obama signs the measure, which has languished in Washington for a decade.

"We want to show we have enough people to ratify a treaty," Leahy said. "I think there's an excellent opportunity that we'll finally do it."

The pressure from Congress leaves the White House in an awkward position as it tries to navigate between Obama's desire to work closely with allies on security issues such as nuclear disarmament, while at the same time listening to advisers at the Pentagon, many of whom are leery of such campaigns.

The mine ban treaty was the result of a grass-roots movement championed by celebrities, including Princess Diana, and ordinary citizens such as Jody Williams, a Vermont native who won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for her role as founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines. About 5,000 people a year—the majority of them civilians—are killed or maimed by mines scattered across 70 countries.

Neither President Bill Clinton nor President George W. Bush signed the treaty, which was negotiated in 1997 and took effect in 1999. Their rejections left the United States at odds with more than 150 countries that embraced the accord, including every member of NATO.

The treaty prohibits the manufacture, trade and stockpiling of land mines. The United States has not used antipersonnel mines since the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and stopped producing them in 1997, but the military keeps about 10 million of them in reserve.

In November, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly announced that the Obama administration had decided against signing the treaty, saying, "We would not be able to meet our national defense needs nor our security commitments to our friends and allies." But after Leahy and human-rights groups condemned the decision, the State Department said it would revisit the issue and conduct a broader policy review.

White House and State Department spokesmen emphasized Friday that the administration is in the midst of a comprehensive review, cutting across all affected agencies, that will not be completed for some months. But two senior U.S. officials speaking on the condition of anonymity indicated that the administration is actively looking for ways to come into compliance with the treaty without endangering national security needs.

"We are asking that if you come into compliance, what would be the costs and the benefits—and if there are costs, how can they be addressed in other ways," one senior official said.

The official described the administration's review as "a herculean effort" intended to "cut through reflexive reactions" to the issue of eliminating land mines from the Pentagon's arsenal.

Officials also said they welcomed the indication of bipartisan support represented by the Leahy letter.

Another senior U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said the administration is looking at what new technologies could be used to bring the United States into compliance with the treaty while also allowing it to respond to threats such as North Korea. Some military officials want to maintain the U.S. stockpile in case it is needed to slow an invasion of South Korea by the North. About 30,000 U.S. forces are stationed in the South.

The Pentagon declined to say whether it would support the treaty, citing the Obama administration's review. "It would be premature at this time to provide any statement until the review is complete," said Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary.

Leahy, who has fought for a land-mine ban for many years, said there was bipartisan support in Congress for ratifying the treaty. Ten Republicans have signed the letter to Obama, which Leahy said will be delivered to the White House next week. The lead Republican co-sponsor is Sen. George V. Voinovich (Ohio), Leahy aides said.

In November, Leahy criticized the Obama administration's initial decision to reject the treaty as "a default of U.S. leadership." Since then, he said, White House and State Department officials have left him with the impression that they are seriously considering adopting the treaty, especially if he can help deliver the votes in a Senate that is usually sharply divided along partisan lines.

"It's been a much more positive response than I've seen in a long, long time," Leahy said of his talks with administration officials.

Leahy noted that Obama has pushed for a global reduction in nuclear arms; ignoring land mines, he added, could undercut U.S. diplomacy on that front. "If we want to keep the high moral ground, then we have to do it," he said.

Although Clinton did not sign the international mine ban, he ordered the Pentagon in 1998 to develop alternatives to anti-personnel mines, with the goal of giving them up completely by 2006.

In 2004, in response to objections from the Pentagon, Bush adopted a different policy that permits the U.S. military to use sophisticated mines that are designed to self-destruct within a fixed number of days. The idea was to reduce civilian casualties from unexploded mines left on the battlefield.

At the same time, Bush set a deadline of 2010 for the U.S. military to end the use of antipersonnel or anti-vehicle mines that lack timers. Obama administration officials have said that they are on track to meet that deadline this year.

Neither China nor Russia has ratified the international mine ban treaty. Human rights groups say there is little pressure for them to do so as long as the United States doesn't sign.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF EL HADJ AMADOU THIOUF

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of a great educator, El Hadj Amadou Thiouf. Born in Bargny, Senegal, he devoted his entire life to the cause of education. Studying for 4 years at *ecole normal* William Ponty, an elite school in Thies, Senegal, he was first assigned to Lamingue, Kaolack, where he served for 2 years and met his wife Adj Fatou Ndoeye. They were married on August 11, 1957.

From 1957 to 1971, he lived in Rufisque where he taught at three different institutions: Diokoul, Fass and Matar Seck. In 1971, he was sent to Matam, a city in northwest Senegal, and then moving again, serving in Bargny, the city of his birth, from 1972 to 1975.

In 1978, he returned to his hometown of Rufisque and became the principal of Thiokho Elementary School, the school close to his home and where his children attended. There, he remained as principal until 1985, when he became the head of El Hadj Ousseynou Diagne, the largest elementary school in Rufisque.

After a long and distinguished career as an educator, Mr. Thiouf retired on September 9, 1992. He is a recipient of the *Ordre National du Lion*, Senegal's highest national honor and the *Chevalier des Palmes Académiques* for his lifelong dedication and commitment to education.

In 1998, Mr. Thiouf and his wife became permanent residents of the United States and spent half their time in the United States and the other half in Senegal.

He is survived by his widow Fatou Ndoeye and their 10 children: Mame, Diaraf, Abdou, Seynabou, Pape, Adj, Sokhna, Awa and Mahomet. Mr. Thiouf also had 13 grandchildren. Their oldest son Alassane, a graduate of the University of Arizona, died in a tragic car accident in September 1990 in Senegal.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to come before you today and share the life of this great man.

### TRIBUTE TO SONNY CALLAHAN, 2009 MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Alabama Congressman Sonny Callahan, who was honored on April 8 with the Mobilian of the Year Award, presented by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club. Former Congressman Callahan received the Bienville Plaque and a proclamation from Mayor Sam Jones.

I was honored to deliver a tribute to Sonny Callahan's life and career during the award celebration on April 8 and below is an excerpt of my remarks.

The Sonny Callahan story is much like that of many other young men his age—and from that time in Mobile's past. But Sonny, according to those who have known him the longest, was always someone special. He had the good looks, the charm and personality that made other people feel good about themselves when they were with him.

He had a natural charisma and intellect, often masked with that Reagan-esque self-deprecating humor, that made Sonny, even to his peers and colleagues, a natural-born leader that people gravitated to for his counsel and advice, for his often unique perspective on life . . . or simply for a little humor and levity to lighten the moment.

As the story goes, we know he used those talents early on in the world of business and it was a success story that made for a natural campaign brochure.

I'll never forget what our wonderful friend, mentor and advisor, the late Bill Yeager, told me when I was first interviewing to be Sonny's campaign press secretary back in 1982 . . . Bill said, "Jo, Sonny's story of a self-made man who grew up with all the reasons not to succeed, but overcoming one obstacle after another, always finding a way to be successful, is not just biographical hype.

"Even if he is sometimes hard to pin-down," Bill told me, Sonny is truly one of the most decent human beings I have ever known."

And as Bill Yeager often was in his judgment of others, he was right on the money as it related to Sonny.

Sonny's early success on the campaign trail . . . he was elected to the Alabama House in 1970 and only once—in the 14 times his name appeared on the ballot—did he not finish first—was an omen of even bigger opportunities that would come.

But Sonny wasn't just someone who loved politics . . . he loved helping people.

And that, my friends, is a distinction that sadly, too few of us make when it comes to lumping everyone in politics in the same vat.

There were the light-hearted moments . . . like the time when Sonny was driving to Montgomery when the legislature was in session and his friend, Tommy Sandusky, had finally gotten one of those Motorola car phones almost a year after Sonny had gotten his first car telephone.

The story goes that Tommy was so proud of the fact that he had finally caught up to Sonny, that he pulled up to Sonny in his car at a stoplight in Montgomery, picked up the phone and called him to say, "hey Sonny, I just wanted you to know that I'm calling you on my car phone."

. . . to which Sonny—with that quick Callahan wit replied without missing a beat—"Tommy that's great . . . unfortunately, I can't talk right now because my other phone is ringing."

Sonny was always one step ahead of most of us. But the light-hearted memories take a back seat to the stories that were never written in the press but were the headlines of Sonny Callahan's amazing life.

I got a call the other day from a lady who said when she heard that Congressman Callahan had been named Mobilian of the Year, she simply wanted me to be sure and mention that had it not been for Sonny, her son . . . who at age two had meningitis which left him deaf and blind . . . would have been institutionalized. When her father arranged for her to go see Sonny to tell him her plight, Sonny promised her that he would help.

And help he did. Sonny found the money to start the area school for Deaf and Blind here in Mobile, patterned after the one in Talledega, and today, some 44 years later, her son was able to graduate from high school, go on to college and is now a successful young businessman. With tears of gratitude, this lady wanted me to say "thank you" to the man who helped give her son a new lease on life.

But that is just one of the many rich sub-chapters of the Sonny Callahan legacy. In truth, they all have a similar storyline.

Also from his days in the Legislature, there was Callahan Tuition tax credit that help Alabama's private colleges, like Spring Hill, Birmingham Southern and Huntingdon, assist young Alabamians with their dream of a college diploma.

Perhaps most lasting, there was also the Heritage Trust Fund that Sonny's leadership helped establish for the oil and gas leases that were being let in the mid-1970s. This fund mandated that the State invest the principal and instead live off the tens of millions of dollars that would accrue in interest every year, assisting dozens of worthwhile state programs over the past 30 years.

When Jack Edwards retired from Congress in 1984 after an impressive 20 years of service, Sonny got in the race to succeed him—with Jack's full blessings and support, no less—and shortly thereafter he began what would become an equally-impressive 18-year-run.

The kind of commitment to helping others that Sonny had become known for in the legislature soon became the hallmark of his Congressional service as well.

About six months after Sonny had taken office, we had the long-awaited dedication of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. It was every politician's dream . . . a beautiful, festive day, thousands of people in attendance, and everyone was in an upbeat mood.

Jack, naturally, was invited to sit on the speaker's platform with the governor, both senators, the mayor and all of the other dignitaries of the day. After all, Jack Edwards had spent practically his entire 20-year-tenure in Congress trying to keep the funding going for what was the biggest public works project in American history.

But true to form, when it came Sonny's turn to speak, the newly-minted freshman congressman took the microphone, thanked everyone for coming out and said, "you know, Jack, you certainly accomplished a lot for our area during your 20 years in Congress. But let the record show that it was during my first six months in Congress that we were finally able to finish the Tenn-Tom!"

Jack likes to tell people that he knew then that he had backed the right man to follow in his footsteps.

While others in Congress have spent their time building monuments to themselves, Sonny quietly went about doing the work that a true member of the "People's House" takes pride in doing for it was always about the "people" that Sonny worked for . . . the

young mother who had that blind and deaf son . . . the veteran whose government had forgotten him long after his service had ended . . . or the worker who toiled in the hot, un-air conditioned plant and never knew what the inside of a college classroom looked like, but who, when he became injured on the job, turned to Congressman Callahan for the help he needed.

As he gained seniority and certainly after his party had taken the majority in Congress with the historic 1994 election, Sonny never let the additional titles and responsibilities that came with those leadership positions change what was important to him.

Sure, when he became the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations—the committee that funds all of America's foreign aid—Sonny would come to the office often to find a line of Kings, Presidents and Prime Ministers waiting for just a few minutes of his time.

But Sonny would remind his staff . . . don't get too impressed, these folks are here to see "the chairman." If it were not me, they'd be standing outside someone else's office.

And never once, when Sonny had control of a budget that was greater than the budgets of two or three states combined . . . did he ever think talking to a head of state was more important than talking to Mayor Shell in Atmore, Judge Biggs in Monroe County or some person who didn't have a title, but who just needed to talk to "my congressman about a personal matter."

If our friend, Mayer Mitchell, were still alive, he would be the first to tell you that when Sonny flew to Israel to meet late one night with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to discuss a new plan that Sonny had conceived to decrease the economic aid to Israel while, at the same time, increase the military assistance to our best ally in the Middle East, neither Mayer nor even President Bill Clinton, who had told Sonny just hours before the trip that this couldn't be done, gave him any chance for success.

But succeed he did. And that's why when President Clinton needed a Republican to step up and provide the crucial support for his administration's plan for Bosnia—back when most Republicans and a lot of Democrats weren't eager to go along—the president turned to Sonny to provide that leadership.

Soon thereafter, others on both sides of the political aisle followed his leadership and this humble, self-described, "back-bencher" in Congress, was fast becoming a major player on the international stage.

From the pages of the Washington Post to the Wall Street Journal, conservative and liberal pundits alike called Chairman Callahan "an unlikely champion."

But once again, the folks in his hometown were always more comfortable calling him Sonny, not even congressman, and to him, that was his reassurance that he had not lost touch with those for whom he worked.

The list of his signature accomplishments throughout southwest Alabama is literally endless. I honestly don't know of a complete assessment.

But here's just a quick stab at some of the highlights . . . Sonny secured the initial funding for what is today the Mitchell Cancer Center at the University of South Alabama . . . he helped make the initial down-payment on the new library at Spring Hill College . . . he found the funding to restore the historic GM&O Building in downtown Mobile . . . he secured the first installment for a new bridge to replace congested tunnels along Interstate 10 . . .

The money to replace the 14 mile rail road bridge, funding for towns like Fairhope, Bayou La Batre, Jackson and Thomasville

. . . Sonny got the money to help refurbish the historic old Monroe County Courthouse, just as he secured the funding for the Foley Beach Express.

When they start construction on the new VA cemetery in Baldwin County, it will be because of Sonny Callahan's determination—and leadership—several years ago, that this dream will one day soon become a reality.

But as I have said before, Sonny never did any of this for personal gratification or recognition. He did it because it was what the people of his district needed and wanted.

After he retired from Congress, grateful communities and groups alike began the naming process . . . a tiny little bridge near Foley, the airport in Fairhope, a building at Mercy Medical, a Boys and Girls Club in West Mobile.

No one did more to help make sure Mobile Bay was included in the National Estuary Program, or build on the work started by his predecessor to help expand and protect Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and Weeks Bay Estuary.

A few years ago, The University of Alabama was able to complete work on the finest child development center in the nation, thanks solely to Sonny Callahan's leadership.

At about the same time, the University of Alabama Birmingham established an endowed student scholars program in his honor because, as they said, his creation of the Child Survival and Diseases program—back when he was in Congress—guaranteed that children and adults—"from the Black Belt of Alabama all the way to Bangladesh—today enjoy cleaner water, safer food and a lower incidence of disease because of Sonny's labors."

In 2004, our local veterans made him the "Patriot of the Year," Governor Riley appointed him to serve on the board of the Alabama Port Authority . . .

And I'm telling you . . . I literally could go on and on.

There were also the gaffes . . . we've all made them and most of us, when we do, it eats us to the core. Not Sonny. He always kept things like that in perspective . . . like the time he admitted to being in the desert when Operation Desert Storm commenced. Sonny was in the desert . . . at a luxury hotel in Palm Springs playing golf . . . but that wasn't the sand most people were thinking about at the time.

Or the time that he told both President and Mrs. Clinton that they needed to slow down the money spigot going to other countries . . . you can imagine how much fun the press secretary had at the time trying to explain his comment "it's Halloween in Washington and if you want to get some treats, just put a turban on your head and go knock on the White House door."

The Washington press corps loved that line, Sonny got the President's attention but I got a migraine dealing with that one.

And of course, when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was in Mobile, he meant it as a compliment when he said, "Madeleine, you are like a flamingo in the barnyard of politics."

She has actually told others that she couldn't have had a more supportive chairman to work with than Sonny Callahan so, congressman, I think she knew you were paying her a compliment.

But I'm going to close by saying this to tonight's honoree . . . and I want to say this as all of your friends and family are listening on . . .

As I've been reflecting back over our almost 3 decades together, your story really isn't like most everyone else's . . . for when you were given the opportunity . . . an opportunity that few people in life are really

ever afforded . . . to do great things and to make your mark, you did—and I truly mean this—you always did it with humility and with humor . . . without the malice and nasty partisanship that is so prevalent in Washington today . . . you did it because of the greater good that would accrue to the benefit of untold numbers of people that you might not ever meet or know . . . but you did “it” . . . whatever “it” was . . . because “it” was the right thing to do at the right time to do it. Thank you, Sonny, for always being our champion.

Before I turn the microphone over to Mayor Jones, I would be extremely remiss if I did not thank two other groups of people who deserve special recognition . . . first of all, to Sonny’s family . . . certainly his brothers and sisters and countless cousins, but most especially, his beloved Karen . . . wife, partner, soul-mate and mother to their six children.

Sonny used to say that Karen must have been the inspiration for the song, “Wind Beneath My Wings,” because she was always there for him, standing off in his shadow, never having the sunlight on her face . . .

but he could fly higher than an eagle, because she was the wind beneath his wings.

I must admit that until I was elected to Congress, myself, in 2002—thanks in no small part to Sonny and the incredible reputation he had earned—you know, when Sonny retired he had the highest approval rating of any sitting member in the entire U.S. Congress at 92 percent—contrast that today with an approval rating for Congress, as a whole, at an embarrassing 13 percent nationally—and I don’t know that even I fully appreciated the demanding, difficult—and yet absolutely critical roles—that the spouse and family of a public figure play.

But Karen, for all sacrifices that you, Scott, Patrick, Shawn, Chris, Kelly and the always close-to-our-heart, Cameron, have made . . . for the nights, the days, the weeks and the years that y’all have shared your wonderful husband—and daddy, and now granddaddy—with everyone else . . . thank you.

Mobile—and indeed the entire state of Alabama—is a better place to live because of the man you love and tonight, the man we honor.

Finally, and I know Sonny would be the first to agree with this, but I must also thank the tremendously dedicated, loyal and extremely talented staff that Sonny brought together during his many years in the public arena.

No one person can answer all the mail, return all the phone calls, make all the contacts that are required to be made and do everything else that is expected of a person who has 635,000 constituents—as well as a national responsibility—and while Sonny was the best I have ever seen in this often-misunderstood job, he was able to do what he did because he surrounded himself with a team that was second-to-none.

Together, his family and his staff can take great pride in knowing that the lives Sonny has touched . . . and the legacy Sonny has built . . . is a living testament to your unselfish love, loyalty and admiration of a man known by kings and presidents . . . movie stars and musicians . . . truck drivers and ditch-diggers . . . simply as our friend, Sonny Callahan.