

will require that each service branch employ highly qualified experts to train and advise JAGs to handle and try sexual assault cases effectively. Fourth, it will ensure more complete sexual assault data reporting to better track DoD-wide reports and case disposition. Fifth, it will establish in statute a universal hotline to facilitate victim reporting and provide victims an immediate connection with sexual assault response coordinators.

We must put an end to what our former colleague and previous Army Secretary Pete Geren called “fratricide.” We must keep the pressure on DoD to eliminate sexual assault in the ranks.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KEN BECKER

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Ken Becker of Cresco, Iowa. For the last 34 years, Ken has worked as a journalist for the Cresco Times-Plain Dealer.

Throughout his career, Ken dedicated himself to documenting the stories and photographs of Cresco and its citizens, preserving the events and stories that have helped to make the town what it is today. Whether it was traveling with the high school basketball team to the state tournament, riding a snowmobile, or climbing the town's water tower, Ken was willing to do whatever it took to capture Cresco's history as it unfolded. His articles and pictures helped to keep the town's residents informed and interested in local happenings.

Ken believes the most important aspect of being a good journalist is to remember that “you aren't the story. The story is never about you as the writer. This is about what you're writing about.”

I thank Ken for his strong and diligent work ethic. It is an admirable characteristic found in many citizens of Iowa, and one that I hope to see all Americans embody.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Ken Becker for his decades of service at the Cresco Times-Plain Dealer. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish Ken a happy and healthy retirement.

#### HONORING NURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND METROPOLITAN REGION

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing nurses in the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region during the celebration of National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 2011.

Nurses make up the largest percentage of the healthcare workforce. Washington, DC has the largest concentration of registered nurses. In addition to registered nurses, there are clin-

ical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, and other nurses, who serve patients in our hospitals, community health clinics, doctor's offices, nursing homes, private homes, public and private schools, local and federal government agencies, and private businesses.

Nurses are often patients' primary point of contact, giving nurses the opportunity to get to know patients and their families. Nurses gain patients' trust and are essential to providing high-quality healthcare. Each year, we rightfully celebrate nurses during National Nurses Week for their contributions to patients in particular and to the healthcare system in general.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 83, a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2011, I applaud the nursing professionals who serve the residents of the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region for their continued commitment to patient care. I ask the House to join me in applauding nurses in the District of Columbia, the metropolitan region, and the Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work that federal employees do, day in and day out, to make our country a better place.

Federal employees are on the front lines working to ensure that our government is running as efficiently and effectively as possible to provide the services taxpayers expect. They make our nation a safer and better place. They work in every congressional district of the country and thus it is incredibly appropriate that we honor their service this week.

Whether it's the FBI agent working to find a kidnapped child, the DEA agent keeping drugs out of schools, or the DOJ attorney prosecuting a child molester—all are federal employees graciously serving our nation.

We must also remember that there are intelligence agents risking their lives every day on the front lines side by side with our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other fronts in the Global War on Terror who serve as federal employees. The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. Imagine the dangers a CIA employee or an FBI agent working side by side in Afghanistan with the U.S. military must encounter. A year ago January, I attended funerals for some of the seven CIA agents who were killed by a Taliban suicide bomber at Forward Operative Base Chapman near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Federal employees also put their lives on the line here at home. The Border Patrol agent shot and killed in Arizona this past December who was working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants across our southern border was a federal employee.

The Immigration and Custom Enforcement agent who was killed and the two who were shot this past February outside of Mexico City were federal employees.

Doctors who tend to our veterans and wounded warriors in veterans hospitals and who are developing new prosthetic devices to help them recover, medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and autism—all are dedicated federal employees. These are individuals who could find more lucrative jobs in the private sector, but who are committed to public service. Dr. Francis Collins, the physician who mapped the human genome and serves as director of the National Institutes of Health, is a federal employee. The National Weather Service meteorologist who tracks hurricanes, the SBA staffer who helps a new business start up, the FDA inspector working to stop a salmonella outbreak—all are federal employees.

Though they often receive little praise for the work they do, federal employees provide many of the services that make this nation great. Today I thank them for their hard work and service to our country.

#### HONORING THE JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Joint Baltic American National Committee, an organization founded 50 years ago to advocate for democracy in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and to foster a strong relationship between those countries and the United States.

Founded at the height of the Cold War on April 27, 1961, the Joint Baltic American National Committee has been a powerful advocate for democracy and independence for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. After years of oppression and occupation by the Communist regime in the Soviet Union, the Baltic countries finally restored their sovereignty and regained independence in the early 1990s. Since that time, the Committee has worked to strengthen the relationship between those nations and the United States and to scrutinize Russian policy towards its neighbors in Eastern Europe.

Importantly, the Joint Baltic American National Committee was and continues to be a strong proponent of membership for Eastern European nations into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU). When the Baltic countries became members of both organizations in 2004, the Committee focused more of its attention on promoting democracy in Belarus, where Alexander Lukashenko continues to cling to power and oppress his people. Moreover, because of Russia's use of its energy resources as a weapon against its neighbors and the violation of Georgian sovereignty by the Russian military, the Committee has reinforced its work in support of a resilient security partnership between the countries of Eastern Europe and the United States. Today, the Committee continues to advocate for a strong U.S. role in the region, to promote democracy and human rights worldwide, and to bear witness to the legacy of communism.

Mr. Speaker, the Joint Baltic American National Committee has served the Baltic countries and their citizens with distinction. As we

congratulate the Committee on reaching its 50th year in existence, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring its work on behalf of the free people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the American citizens of Baltic heritage, and democracy for all of those still yearning to be free.

#### RECOGNIZING TOM BRIAN

### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution to Oregon by my good friend Tom Brian, and congratulate him on his retirement following 32 years of public service to our great state.

Tom's commitment to improving his community, state, and nation were readily apparent from his early days as a deputy sheriff, city councilor, and mayor of the city of Tigard, to his service as a state representative and 12 years on the Washington County Commission.

Tom has deep and enduring roots in Oregon that have grounded his personal and professional life in special ways. He treasures Oregon, where he and his wife, Joene, have raised their three children: Becky, Sarah, and Kevin.

Tom believes in making a difference—and he's backed up that belief with action. Over the last decade, Tom's vision as a commissioner deserves much credit for Washington County's robust job growth. His tireless collaborations with Intel, Solar World, and the many small businesses throughout Washington County have created a business-friendly climate that has made it a magnet for economic development.

Tom grew up in Monmouth, Oregon, where he attended Central High School and graduated from the Oregon College of Education in 1970, now Western Oregon University. After serving as a Polk County deputy sheriff from 1969 to 1973, an opportunity arose for Tom to join the Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency, where he became its executive director until 1979.

In 1979, Tom started a career in real estate and also began his life in elected public office, earning election to the Tigard City Council. He later became the city's mayor.

Tom was recruited to run for the Oregon Legislature in 1988. Tom rose quickly through the legislative ranks and became the chairman of the Revenue Committee and served on the Ways and Means and Judiciary committees. Tom was an innovator and collaborative leader in the legislature. His hard work, steadfast dedication to Oregon, great wit, and solid character earned him respect from both sides of the aisle.

In 1999, Oregon's term limit law ushered Tom from the legislature after 10 years. Still committed to making a difference, Tom ran for and earned a position on the Washington County Commission. Tom served there for 12 years before retiring in January of this year as its chairman.

Mr. Speaker, Tom's leadership has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including the First Citizen of the City of Tigard, the Guardian of Small Business, Outstanding Service to Farm Families, and Transit Legislator of the Year, just to name a few.

Tom has served and continues to serve ably on a long list of boards, commissions, and philanthropic endeavors. As chairman of the Tigard Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, a board member of the Clean Water Institute, and a board member of Willamette Valley Vineyards, Tom Brian stays busy working to make life better in his community.

Tom is a husband, father, leader, and friend. He set a tremendous example for the many Oregon leaders he mentored over the years, instilling in them the core values of commitment to others, self-sacrifice, and decisive leadership.

Max Williams, one of Tom's close friends and a former state representative, said of him, "You taught me not to be afraid of—or avoid—the difficult issues. Being out there 'on the limb' was necessary because that is 'where all the fruit is' when it comes to making meaningful and positive change."

Tom took risks and he pushed for progress; because of that, he made a real and positive difference.

Today I rise to recognize my friend Tom Brian for all that he has accomplished and for his invaluable contributions to his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Tom for his service and wishing him and his family many great and healthy years ahead.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE JACOB POMEROY

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jacob J. Pomeroy for the rank of an Eagle Scout. Travis is a 10th grade student from South Hardin High School in Eldora, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5% of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Jacob's project was to construct a barn-themed sun shelter for the Joyful Noise Preschool and the Waukee United Methodist Church. Jacob also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges.

Jacob has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 11 years ago. Jacob's father, John Pomeroy, is also an Eagle Scout and current assistant Scout Master to Troop 178 from Waukee, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent John Pomeroy and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING CAPT. CHARLES E. RIDGLEY, JR.

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Army Captain Charles E. Ridgley, Jr., who died April 16, 2011, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A Maryland resident, Captain Ridgley was serving in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, and died of injuries sustained from a grenade attack by a suicide bomber on Forward Operating Base Gamberi. Four other brave American soldiers were killed in the attack.

At the time of his death, Captain Ridgley was assigned to the 17th Combat Support Battalion, based in Fort Richardson, Alaska. He had just two weeks left of his first overseas assignment before he was due to come home.

After overcoming a challenging childhood, Captain Ridgley joined the Army after earning his diploma from Walbrook Senior High School. He was inspired by his uncle's military service in the U.S. Air Force and participated in ROTC at Walbrook. He was commissioned a quartermaster officer in January 2007 and was assigned to Fort Richardson. While there, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in business administration with a concentration in global logistics from the University of Alaska. He was working toward his Master's Degree when he was deployed to Afghanistan.

Known as responsible and family-oriented, Captain Ridgley took great pride in his daughter and great care of his mother. Captain Ridgley also worked as a martial arts instructor who enjoyed mentoring the children of fellow soldiers. He deeply valued education and ethics.

Mr. Speaker, many Maryland soldiers have died in support of the global war on terror. Once again, we hang our heads with sorrow at the loss of another life. I ask that you join with me today to honor the life and memory of Captain Ridgley, a true Maryland hero.

Captain Ridgley will be forever remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved his country and faithfully served his fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. He risked his life to serve our country and deserves our unending admiration and appreciation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT OF 2011

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Rep. MAZIE HIRONO, I am introducing the Construction Quality Assurance Act of 2011. This bill is designed to stop bid shopping on federal construction contracts. It would require prime bidders on low-bid projects valued at \$1 million or more to list each subcontractor on work categories of \$100,000 or more with their bid submissions. Substitutions of listed subcontractors after contracts are awarded would be allowed only