

fallen tree when it snapped and hit Mr. Gilford. A fellow colleague said of Richard, "He loved his job and always gave 110 percent at everything he did, including putting in 16 hours of overtime during the week of the storms."

Mr. Gilford leaves behind his wife of 13 years, Elisha, and two sons, parents, brother and sisters. He was a Tennessee Titan fan that could often be seen playing in the yard with his children. Richard Gilford, like many unheralded public servants, spent his working life helping the people of Crockett County by making sure their travel back home was always safe. We are forever thankful. The Gilford family can rest assured that the thoughts and prayers of a grateful community are with them during this time.

Please join me in honoring the life, sacrifice, and commitment of Mr. Richard Gilford.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.  
DISTRICT JUDGE ALEX T. HOWARD

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to acknowledge the loss of a dear friend and a remarkable public servant, U.S. District Judge Alex T. Howard, Jr., who recently died in Mobile following a battle with pneumonia at the age of 86.

Judge Howard grew up in Mobile and graduated from Murphy High School as one of its best and brightest students. He then attended Auburn University, but his studies were cut short by the outbreak of the Second World War. He enrolled in the 106th Infantry division and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. By his 20th birthday, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He carried that formative experience with him the rest of his life, and the lessons he learned during war allowed him to excel at practically everything he undertook throughout his life.

Upon his return to civilian life, he attended the University of Alabama, and graduated in 1950 from Vanderbilt University School of Law. He eventually settled in private practice in Mobile at the firm now known as Johnstone, Adams, Bailey, Gordon & Harris.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Howard's character, years of service and his wide-ranging experiences in law led him to a nomination by President Ronald Reagan for a newly created position on the federal bench in 1986. He was confirmed by the Senate just 15 days after the President's nomination. From his first days on the bench, his influence was felt throughout southwest Alabama.

Cecily Kaffer, a Mobile lawyer who clerked for Judge Howard from 1988 to 1999, recently told the Mobile Press-Register that Judge Howard was an insightful lawyer and an evidentiary genius.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge Howard taught Sunday School at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church for many years and attended services with his family.

My condolences go out to his wife, Anne Boykin, his daughter, Catherine Dawson, and his son, Alexander. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR JANECKA

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the achievements of Arthur J. Janecka. This month Arthur will retire after spending more than 45 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Arthur, or as his friends refer to him, "Art" serves as the Deputy District Engineer, Chief of Program and Project Management for the USACE's Galveston District. As the congressional representative of a large coastal district, I have had the privilege of working with Art on a wide range of coastal navigation issues. Like so many others, I have always been deeply impressed with his dedication to his job. His retirement, though richly deserved, will be a tremendous loss for both the Army Corps and the people of south Texas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District was established in 1880 to create deep-water ports along the Texas Coast. Today, the Galveston District's boundaries extend through the entire coast of Texas and 150 miles inland.

As a dedicated servant with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Art has carried out its mission of protecting the environment, reducing flooding, and ensuring that the nearby waterways are easy to navigate.

Art began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an intern in 1964, after graduating from Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. In 1966, he was assigned to the Texas Coast Hurricane Study in the Planning Branch of the Engineering Division. And in 1969 he became a member of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Art joined the Programs Management Branch in 1973 and became Chief of the Branch in 1987. In 2000, he moved to the Project Management Branch of the Program and Project Management Division to serve as chief. In 2005, he was assigned to his current position.

Throughout his career, Art has been involved with many Corps projects along the coast of Texas, including Brazos Island Harbor; Corpus Christi Ship Channel; Freeport Harbor; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; the Houston and Galveston Ship Channels; and the Sabine Neches Waterway.

It is clear that Art Janecka has been a tremendous asset to not only the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but the entire State of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to thank Arthur J. Janecka for more than 45 years of service to this country.

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HONORING COLONEL JOHN  
RAWLEY, DECORATED VETERAN  
AND OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF  
THE CAMDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John Rawley for his dedication

to protecting our country, both as a member of the United States Armed Forces and as a member of the Camden County Sheriff's Office.

Colonel Rawley began his distinguished career in the military in 1954 at the age of 20, when he joined the United States Marine Corps as a Private First Class. In 1957, he joined the United States Army and served over 30 years. During his illustrious career, Colonel Rawley earned numerous decorations, including the Soldiers' Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Parachute Badge, the Army Service Ribbon, and countless others. He retired from the United States Army on August 8, 1987, after more than 30 years of protecting our country.

After his decades of military service, Colonel Rawley's patriotism and dedication were continued when he joined the Camden County Sheriff's Office in 1997. Colonel Rawley, known affectionately as "The Colonel" or "Ranger John," worked 13 years for the Camden County Sheriff's Office, mentoring and training officers throughout the department. He retired on December 1, 2010 as a respected and distinguished member of the department.

Colonel Rawley's selfless dedication to our Nation demands recognition. His decades in the military and the Camden County Sheriff's Office should serve as an inspiration to others. I thank him for his service, and extend my sincere best wishes to Colonel Rawley in his retirement.

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HONORING ELIZABETH BICKFORD

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Elizabeth Bickford, director of financial aid and scholarships, at the University of Oregon for her years of service.

Ms. Bickford is retiring after 30 years at the university. Since 2000, she has led the university's student aid programs. During her time as director of financial aid and scholarships, Elizabeth Bickford has been a pioneer and leader, including helping to make the University of Oregon one of the Nation's first direct lenders in the early 1990s. I had the privilege of working with Ms. Bickford on many student aid issues including implementation of my contributions to the University of Oregon Presidential Scholarship Fund. I commend her for making a priority of promoting financial literacy for students and parents as well as meeting the financial needs of students and their families. Ms. Bickford has led UO's financial aid programs with an eye to compliance with federal rules. A member of the Cherokee Nation, Ms. Bickford has contributed to a host of efforts throughout our state to support and promote student access to institutions of higher education.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I was briefly absent from the Chamber on June 2, 2011,

during rollcall vote 398 and rollcall vote 407. On rollcall vote 398, I would have voted "aye" and on rollcall vote 407, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 408 and 409 on June 2, 2011. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 408 and "no" on rollcall vote 409.

CONGRATULATING NISWONGER  
FOUNDATION

Tennessee in the House of Representatives

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Niswonger Foundation as last month it celebrated its 10th year of service to Northeast Tennessee this month.

The Foundation's work is known by an ever growing number of students and teachers in my district. Its school partnership and scholarship programs are aimed at educating and improving our region through the betterment of its young leaders. Niswonger scholars are chosen based on their proven leadership in the community, strong academics, character, and a pledge to return to our area to work, and lead, in their chosen profession. This need-based scholarship offers students the opportunity to attend the college or university of their choice.

Likewise, the Foundation established the Northeast Tennessee College and Career Ready Consortium, an ongoing partnership with public high schools that will eventually touch 29 high schools and 26,100 students. This program gives county schools best practices, provides additional resources for Northeast Tennessee's dedicated teachers, and gives students a challenging and engaging academic atmosphere in preparation for college or a career.

Again, I commend the Niswonger Foundation and its founder Scott Niswonger on ten years of life-changing service to Northeast Tennessee.

RABBI TOMER AND EFRAT  
GROSSMAN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Tomer and Efrat Grossman moved to Riverdale from Israel three years ago as Jewish Agency Shlichim of Bnei Akiva. Rabbi Grossman worked as the main Shaliach of Bnei Akiva in North America, and helped run Bnei Akiva activities at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale.

In response to the warmth of the HIR community and its strong connection and commitment to Medinat Israel, Rabbi Grossman organized an Israeli Seder, an Israeli Minyan for

Simchat Torah and two fundraisers—one after the Carmel Fire and another for poor families in Israel.

During his stay in Riverdale, Rabbi Tomer was appointed by the Jewish Agency as the Head of Formal Educational Shlichim in North America and as the main organizer of the National Bible Contest. He is currently the rabbi at Brandeis School in Long Island.

Tomer was born in Petach-Tikva and learned at Yeshivat Hagolan in Hispin. He served in the army as a tank commander and as a Division Rabbi in the Reserved Forces, in addition to working as a programming manager at Motorola.

Efrat, as a designer, immediately fell in love with the HIR community's creativity and open mindedness and participated in last year's Shavuot programs and gave a lecture in Hebrew.

Efrat works as a Hebrew literacy teacher at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls as well as a pottery artist. Efrat was born in Jerusalem, and continues a dynasty of more than 10 generations in Israel. In Israel, she was head of the Visual Arts Department of Ariel University after serving as the Head of the Jewish Education Faculty at Emunah High School in Tiberias.

They have two daughters: Ayala, 8, and Hallel, 8 months old.

This marvelous couple is being honored by the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale with the Community Service Award, and I join HIR in congratulating them and thanking them for all their good work in our community.

HONORING MAYOR HENRIETTA  
BLACKMON OF CAMDEN

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a citizen turned public servant who has earned the admiration and respect of her Southwest Alabama community.

In 2000, Henrietta Blackmon made history as Camden, Alabama's first female mayor. While a newcomer to politics and the campaign trail, Henrietta was by no means a stranger to the people of Wilcox County.

For some three decades before taking office, Henrietta Blackmon was recognized as an invaluable partner in her husband's local medical practice. She administered the business while her husband, Dr. Sumpter Blackmon, treated the sick. In fact, she never relinquished that role even after becoming Camden's chief executive.

Mayor Blackmon came to office on a mandate to take the city in a new direction and she certainly did. Over her three terms as mayor, she revitalized the downtown, balanced the city budget, secured block grants to upgrade the city sewer system and obtained funding that will be used to build a new city hall.

After 10 successful years guiding Camden, Mayor Blackmon surprised many of her friends and supporters when she announced on February 7 that she was stepping down.

However, anyone who thinks the mayor intends to slow down had better think again. She will not only continue to administer her

husband's medical practice, but she has also agreed to help run her son's new local construction business.

Camden has progressed under the progressive leadership of Mayor Henrietta Blackmon and her presence at the helm of the city will be sorely missed. I join with her many friends in wishing Mayor Henrietta Blackmon, her husband, Dr. Sumpter Blackmon, and their family the very best in the days and years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ALZEN FLOYD

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of Alzen Floyd. He was born March 15, 1919 and passed away on May 20, 2011.

As a young man, Floyd showed leadership by helping his mother in the purchase and renovation of their home while he was just sixteen years of age. In 1937, he joined the U.S. Army and he retired in 1960 as a Sergeant First Class.

After serving his country Floyd returned home and became a prominent member of his community though several entrepreneurial ventures. He owned and operated "Al Floyd's Soul Food," "Al Floyd's Photo Service," and "Al's Security." He would go on to open Broward County's first Black-owned security corporation, "Floyd & Associates Protection Corporation." This company would grow to half a million dollars in assets.

Floyd was a lifetime member of the NAACP and a faithful member of First Baptist Church Piney Grove since 1929, where he was a member until he could no longer attend.

Mr. Speaker, Alzen Floyd's motto was "If I can help somebody." His life was an example of dedicated service: service to his family, service to his country and service to his community. It gives me great honor to recognize his life and his service.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. FRANCIE  
MOORE HANSELL

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mrs. Francie Moore Hansell. Children across the country are excitedly looking forward to their last day of school and summer vacations filled with friends and family. While they are focused on their vacation plans, they are also looking ahead to the next school year and wondering who their teacher will be. At Rocky Heights Elementary School in Hermiston, Oregon, students and parents alike will be disappointed when they learn that Francie will not be among next year's teachers because, after 26 years at Rocky Heights, she is retiring at the conclusion of this school year. Over her long career at Rocky Heights, Francie has launched more than 650 second-graders onto their next level of instruction.