

NAACP, and a member of the Trade Leader Membership Council. Deeply committed to education, he prepared his three daughters, Dr. Debra Robinson, Attorney Rachel Robinson, and Yvette Robinson, a Social Worker, to work hard and achieve their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to take a moment of silence to remember the life of C. Frederick Robinson. My condolences go out to his family and friends. I deeply mourn his passing and will miss his enthusiasm, his outspoken passion for justice, and his love of life. May his legacy of compassion for those less fortunate live on after him for many, many years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 472, final passage of H.R. 2021 "to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activities," I mistakenly voted "nay" when I intended to vote "yea." I have always supported efforts to expand American oil production.

ASIAN AMERICAN HOTEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION APPRECIATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Asians have a rich tradition of entrepreneurship, self-improvement, and family values. After India's independence in 1947, many of that country's young people immigrated to the United States to pursue their education and "the American Dream." The hospitality industry was a popular career choice because it offered immediate housing and cash flow, as well as the opportunity to assimilate into society despite any cultural differences.

Soon, the name "Patel" became synonymous with the hotel business. In ancient India, rulers appointed a record keeper to keep track of annual crops on each parcel of land, or "pat." That person became known as a "Patel." At first, many of these hoteliers met with resistance, especially from bankers and insurance companies who discriminated against Indians, specifically those with the last name Patel.

To resolve this issue, a group of hoteliers formed a hospitality association in 1985 and grew its membership nationwide. Eventually the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) was born from the merger of similar groups. Last week, AAHOA held its annual national convention at The Sands Expo Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was hosted by the 2010–2011 AAHOA Board of Directors made up of Chairman Hemant (Henry) Patel, Vice Chairman Alkesh Patel, Treasurer Mukesh (Mike) Patel, Secretary Pratik (Prat) Patel, Executive Chandrakant (C.K.) Patel, and President Fred Schwartz. I was accompanied by Second Congressional District Communications Director Neal Patel of Nichols, S.C. Rep-

resenting over 40 percent of America's hotels and motels, AAHOA is the voice of owners in the hospitality industry. It is now one of the fastest-growing organizations in the industry, with more than 10,000 members owning more than 20,000 hotels that total \$128 billion in property value. AAHOA is dedicated to promoting and protecting the interests of its members by inspiring excellence through programs and initiatives in advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community involvement.

I am proud of AAHOA's growth and look forward to its continued success in the future creating jobs for the people of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK BERG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, due to emergency flooding in my home state of North Dakota, I will be unavoidably detained for the remainder of the week (Beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 23). I ask that everyone please join me in keeping these residents who are fighting for their homes and their communities in your thoughts and prayers, and to stand with Minot and other communities up and down the Souris River to ensure a strong recovery.

HONORING ROBERT AND ELEANOR HOLMES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY IN THE ADOPTION AND PARENTING OF THEIR 5 GREAT GRANDSONS.

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize Robert and Eleanor Holmes, retired couple in their 70's who adopted and are raising their five great-grandchildren. On September 15, 2006, a Family Court judge declared the boys' home life unsuitable, yet despite their retirement, Robert and Eleanor volunteered to nurture and provide for these children. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes provide their great-grandchildren with an environment that includes love, support, direction and discipline.

Robert formerly worked as a drug educational counselor for the Utica and Syracuse schools systems. Much of his work involved motivational speeches encouraging students to make safe, healthy choices, establish strong self-esteem and model citizenship values—all of which he has now passed on to his great-grandchildren.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, these brothers were able to transition together into a safe and happy family environment. It is truly exceptional for the boys to have two positive role models in their lives. Each of the five boys have become excellent students. They participate in athletics and are well-known for being polite and courteous. A true happy family, Robert and Eleanor can be seen cheering for the boys at almost every one of their sporting events.

Exemplary citizens such as Robert and Eleanor Holmes should be appreciated and acknowledged by our society. It is fitting that the Family Nurturing Center of CNY, Inc. has selected the Holmes as its Family of the Year. There is no greater gift than that of a stable and safe home, which is the gateway to a bright future. Robert and Eleanor Holmes are ideal Americans whose story should be celebrated. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring Robert and Eleanor Holmes for their exceptional generosity and kindness.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER ROB WARREN OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Rob Warren of the U.S. Coast Guard for his exemplary service over the past two years as the Coast Guard's Liaison to the House of Representatives.

Commander Warren, a 1992 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, has personified public service throughout his operationally distinguished nineteen year career. Having served on three Coast Guard Cutters, including a tour as the Commanding Officer of TYBEE, Commander Warren arrived here in Washington in the summer of 2009, having just completed a successful assignment as the Chief of Response Operations in Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico. He quickly learned to navigate the rocky shoals of Capitol Hill and has become a trusted voice on all things pertaining to both the Coast Guard and the maritime domain. His passion, candor, and intellect are second to none and earned him a coveted seat at the Army War College's Senior Service School, where he will spend the next year studying National Security Strategy and the principles of senior command.

I would like to thank him for his service to both the Congress and the nation and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE TOWN OF CARMEL, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Carmel, Maine as it celebrates its 200TH Anniversary.

First purchased in 1695 by Martin Kinsley of Hamden, Carmel was later founded by the Rev. Paul Ruggles, his wife Mercy and his brother Abel. The three first settlers named the town for the biblical prophet Elijah's experience on Mt. Carmel.

Located in the heart of Penobscot County, Carmel grew from 387 people at incorporation in 1811 to nearly 1,400 people by 1870. It is a town steeped in the history of Maine, growing from a small farming village into a mill town renowned for its textiles, boots and shoes.