

ended its weeklong period of same-day voter registration. Florida, Illinois and Texas passed laws restricting voter registration drives, and Florida and Wisconsin passed laws making it more difficult for people who move to stay registered and vote.

Reducing early and absentee days. At least nine states introduced bills to reduce their early voting periods, and four tried to reduce absentee voting opportunities. Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia succeeded in enacting bills reducing early voting.

Making it harder to restore voting rights. Two states—Florida and Iowa—reversed prior executive actions that made it easier for citizens with past felony convictions to restore their voting rights, affecting hundreds of thousands of voters. In effect, both states now permanently disenfranchise most citizens with past felony convictions.

IN HONOR OF MRS. GAI HOA RYAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Gia Hoa Ryan as she celebrates her 40th anniversary since coming to America from Vietnam in 1971.

Born in Vietnam, Mrs. Ryan worked as a secretary and interpreter for the United States during the Vietnam War. She immigrated to the United States in 1971. Since immigrating, Mrs. Ryan has been an active community leader in the Greater Cleveland area. She is a teacher and lecturer of Asian culture, food, and society. She has been active with the Lorain International Festival, and hosted the 1995 Festival which honored Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. Mrs. Ryan also served as the coordinator for the Asian Community Project at Bridgeway from 1997 to 2003. This Project provided mental health care to hundreds of Asian, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian families.

Mrs. Ryan has truly been a leader to Cleveland's Asian community. She started the Asian Women's Support Group in early 1980s. In 1993, she created the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. The organization has provided humanitarian services to the people of Vietnam by furnishing scholarships, building houses and schools, providing medical services, educational materials, food and clothing, and raising funds for the poor. She has also founded the Asian Community Mental Health Services as part of the West Side Community Health Center to provide mental health services for Asian families, senior citizens, and young people. Furthermore, in 2005, Mrs. Ryan established the Sai Gon Plaza. The Plaza serves as a community center in Northern Ohio for Asians, immigrants and various community groups. Mrs. Ryan has sponsored forty members of her family who have come from Vietnam and helped them establish homes and businesses.

Mrs. Ryan has also served on many community boards including the Lorain County Community Alcoholism Board, various boards in the Detroit-Shoreway area, and the Mayor's Community Relations Board of the City of Cleveland. Most importantly she has raised her two children, Lynda Mia Ryan Shea and Thomas Joseph Ryan.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Ryan as she celebrates her 40th anniversary since coming to America. Her advocacy work continues to improve countless lives both in Cleveland and Vietnam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3rd, I missed rollcall vote 823, for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 823, "no" (Velázquez of New York Part A Amendment No. 4).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2011, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 816 and 817.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FERNDALE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its 75th anniversary.

Beginning in 1934 as a small, localized Chamber, the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce has grown over the last 75 years to become one of the most innovative business organizations in Oakland County with nearly 300 members, ranging from sole proprietorships to the local offices of Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to the incorporation of the City of Ferndale, the first acknowledgement of a "Board of Commerce" was made in the minutes of a Village of Ferndale commission meeting in 1918. Comprised of local businessman, known as the Ferndale Boosters, the group worked to promote programs for the betterment of the business community.

On May 14, 1936 the "Ferndale Board of Commerce" was officially incorporated as a non-profit in the State of Michigan. The organization became the "Ferndale Chamber of Commerce" sometime between 1951 and 1965. In 2009, to reflect the growing geographic diversity of its membership, the Board of Directors of the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce voted to change the name to the "Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce." This name change became official in 2010 and is more reflective of the Chamber's current membership, which includes 40 percent non-Ferndale businesses, a large number coming from sur-

rounding communities such as the Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge.

As the Chamber notes, many of its goals and ambitions following its creation in 1936 after the Great Depression have been revived as the State of Michigan recovers from its deep recession. As a testament to the Chamber's ability to evolve and strengthen with time, they have partnered with a number of neighboring Chambers to form collaborative relationships that capitalize on the strengths of each Chamber. Today, as in 1936, they are a strong advocate for the betterment of the businesses, communities and residents they serve.

The Chamber's mission over the last 75 years has been simple: to support the interests of businesses and the community through dynamic member-driven partnerships and activities.

I have witnessed firsthand the success the Chamber has with accomplishing this goal. From morning coffee hours and after hour events for member networking, to educational workshops and large, community-wide events such as the Hilton Fall Festival, the Chamber remains a vital part of the community it serves. As we have all worked together to move Oakland County forward, the Chamber has been on the forefront working with multiple partners across the community toward common goals, such as rapid transit along the Woodward Avenue corridor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its 75th anniversary and wishing them many more years of effective service to the Oakland County business community.

IN HONOR OF MR. CHUCK COLLIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of radio D.J. Chuck Collier, a man who entertained Cleveland's country music fans with tunes and colored commentary for decades.

Mr. Collier was born on May 6, 1946 in Greenfield and raised in New Vienna, Ohio. He attended New Kenton High School, where he was his class president. During his time at the University of Cincinnati, he began his career in radio with a job at WSRW in Hillsboro, Ohio in 1963. His graduation brought new opportunities, and he began working at WMWN in Wilmington, WONE in Dayton, WSAI in Cincinnati and WCBS in New York. The dedication it took to handle all of these jobs led to Mr. Collier landing a career at WGAR. For forty years Mr. Collier was WGAR's premiere radio personality for country music, adult contemporary music and AM programming. While WGAR has changed its programming over the years, Chuck kept listeners tuning in throughout the changes.

In 2005, the Ohio Radio-TV Broadcasters inducted Mr. Collier into their Hall of Fame. His fame over the radio brought him the National Association of Broadcasters' Marconi Award as Large Market Radio Personality of the Year in 2007. In 2009, an especially rewarding year for Mr. Collier, he was inducted into the Country Music Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Chuck Collier. I offer my condolences to his wife, Joni; daughter, Melanie; son, Jason; and sister, Carolyn Taubenheim.

IN HONOR OF U.S. MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL JASON NICHOLAS
BARFIELD

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fallen American hero. U.S. Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl.) Jason Nicholas Barfield was killed on October 24, 2011, while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Reports indicate that LCpl. Barfield died as the result of traumatic injuries received when his patrol was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was only 22 years old.

LCpl. Barfield, from Ashford, Alabama, was assigned to the 3d Combat Engineer Battalion, 3d Marine Division, Twenty Nine Palms, California. He is survived by his parents, Raymond and Kelli Barfield, and seven siblings.

LCpl. Barfield delivered the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Undoubtedly, his loss will be most felt by his loved ones and friends. Today, and each day following, my family and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to those close to him.

I recently had an opportunity to speak to LCpl. Barfield's father, Raymond. It was a moving conversation that I will forever remember. Mr. Barfield was gracious in spite of his grief, immensely proud despite his pain. During our conversation, I learned that, LCpl. Barfield recently proposed to his girlfriend, Joyanna Champlin. So, today, I stand here not only to pay tribute to Jason's sacrifice, but also to recognize the memorable people who held prominent positions in this patriot's life. The family and friends of our heroes are indeed heroes themselves.

We are blessed that our nation is protected—day after day, year after year—by courageous American service men and women. Those in uniform standing on the front lines risk everything in order to defend and serve. Their commitment to our country is demonstrated through their selfless sacrifices and unwavering courage. We owe them, and their families, our most eternal gratitude.

We will forever honor LCpl. Barfield for his selfless actions. His legacy will be memorialized in American history so every generation will know of his selfless acts.

America remains a free nation because of the men and women in our Armed Forces who serve and protect us each and every day—just as LCpl. Jason Nicholas Barfield so bravely did. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to go out to his parents and loved ones during this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. BURKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael J. Burke, a former law enforcement officer, instructor and director of training in the State of Iowa, and express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the great people of Iowa.

For the past 22 years, Mike has contributed his time to the safety of the citizens and first responders in the state of Iowa since beginning his career as a detective with the Webster County Sheriff's Department in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Mike's law enforcement career had many highlights, most notably being recognized for outstanding service and meritorious acts by the United States Attorney's Office for his efforts behind the investigation and prosecution of a methamphetamine trafficking organization.

Upon leaving law enforcement, Mike initiated and coordinated the criminal justice program at Iowa Central Community College. During his time with ICC, Mike grew the program to new levels by initiating "hands-on training" for future criminal justice professionals. As coordinator and instructor of the program, Mike was recognized on two separate occasions for being a "Master Presenter" by the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development.

In 2003, I had the privilege of being involved in the creation of Homeland Security Training Center at Iowa Central Community College of which Mike was appointed Director. Until his retirement from the training center in August of 2011, over 35,000 responders in Iowa received critical homeland security training through this program including thousands of law enforcement officers training to keep Iowa's streets safer.

Mike has truly made a significant impact on the quality of life for citizens in the State of Iowa with the qualified training he ensured Iowa's responders would receive. His leadership and dedication will be missed, but the blueprint he leaves behind will be a model for the program's continued success far into the future.

I consider it an honor to represent Mike and all of ICC in the United States Congress. I wish Mike, his wife Cindy and their two children, Megan and Robby, the best of luck as they enter this new chapter of their lives together. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike for his stellar career.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE
SCHUSTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elaine Schuster, as she is honored with the Believe in Girls Award from the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on November 12, 2011.

Elaine was—and is—never afraid to speak her mind, and that trait has proven invaluable

to the various causes and constituencies for which she has fought. Through her important work with Big Sisters—one of the oldest and most established youth mentoring programs in the country—Elaine has advised, coached, and helped numerous girls and young women make healthy choices in their lives.

Elaine has been a role model to many, exhibiting these qualities on a daily basis through her good deeds, passion for helping others, and generous nature. Never one for holding back, she has dedicated herself to helping young girls, including her grandchildren, believe there is nothing they cannot do, become or achieve. To reflect on her work for our community is to reflect on a life of selflessness, devotion, drive and, above all, care for her fellow neighbor.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Elaine Schuster as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative, and I urge others to learn from her leadership and guidance.

NATIONAL UNDERSERVED
VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, in Congress we have an obligation to care for our veterans in return for their financial challenges face them long after their conclusion of active service and while we have service and dedication to our Nation. For many veterans lifelong physical, psychological and made important strides towards improving care for veterans, there is still much to do. The most recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that in 2009, approximately 76,000 veterans were homeless on any one particular day and 136,000 veterans were homeless at some point during the year.

The stark reality is that veterans are more likely than their civilian counterparts to suffer from homelessness. In fact male veterans are 1.4 times as likely to be homeless than non-veterans and female veterans are two to four times as likely to be homeless. Col. Darryl C. Hunter, M.D., founder and director of the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance has stated that "by conservative estimates, up to 30 percent of the homeless population is comprised of those who have worn the uniform of our Nation's military." In addition to homelessness, research has found that troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are at an increased risk of developing mental health problems, with over 15 percent already diagnosed with depression, anxiety, or PTSD. Many of these veterans are not aware of the available Department of Veterans Affairs health programs and services that can be a critical component of reintegration into the community.

It is important that we work together to reduce the incidence of homelessness among veterans and repay, in what small measure we can, their service to this great country.

As part of this effort, I along with Representative DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California are proud to cosponsor the resolution supporting the designation of the week of November 6–12 as National Underserved Veterans Awareness Week. The week will have a particular