

the American Legion Post #220 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. In 2009 he was elected to serve as Vice Commander of VFW Post #220.

Mr. Scott is married to Ms. Lucy Chatman-Scott and they are the proud parents of seven children and three grandchildren. A proud veteran and family man, he lives his life by the motto: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Isaac Scott for his dedication to serving our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE TEACHERS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Teachers Federal Credit Union, a financial institution dedicated to the continued success of its members and to promoting financial literacy throughout the community.

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to the TFCU on the occasion of their 60th anniversary and the opening of its new headquarters in Hauppauge.

Since its founding in 1952, Teachers Federal Credit Union has grown from a tiny credit union with seven members and \$35 to an institution with over 200,000 members and \$4 billion in assets. Along the way, TFCU and its members have found time to demonstrate a continued commitment to efforts aimed at preserving the environment and improving the quality of life enjoyed by Long Islanders.

I would also like to commend TFCU on its continuing dedication to the promotion of financial literacy. In recognition of that dedication, the Teachers Federal Credit Union has been awarded the Desjardins Youth Education Award, given in honor of significant commitment to youth financial education, six times.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to convey my sincere thanks to the Teachers Federal Credit Union, and my hopes for their continued success at their new Hauppauge location.

RAY AGUILERA TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of outgoing Pueblo, Colorado City Council President Ray Aguilera. Mr. Aguilera's last day representing Council District 4 was December 31, 2011.

Ray Aguilera knows the City of Pueblo well thanks to his roles as a student recruiter at Pueblo Community College and as manager of both Pueblo Boulevard Liquors and Fiesta Used Cars. This extensive business and educational experience has served him well during his two stints with the Council, first in 2003 and then beginning in 2007.

A graduate of Pueblo Catholic High School, Mr. Aguilera attended Southern Colorado State College, St. Michaels College, and Pueblo Junior College. In addition to his Coun-

cil responsibilities, he has been a member of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments, Carving for Colorado Board of Directors, and Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo Board of Directors, as well as many other outstanding civic organizations. He is the president and founder of the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation.

Mr. Aguilera's numerous local awards have included Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year, Latino Chamber Member of the Year, and the Latin-American Educational Foundation Annual Salute Award. His daughter, Andrea Nicole Aguilera, is a senior at Colorado State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Councilman Ray Aguilera. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT
JOE NATHAN WILSON FOR HIS
DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO
OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable veteran, Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson. Sergeant Wilson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and desire.

Sergeant Wilson, a lifelong resident of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, was born on October 7, 1973 to Joseph Johnson and Maxine Adams.

He graduated from Crystal Springs High School in 1993. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served until the Chinook helicopter he was aboard went down on November 2, 2003, in Al Fallujah, Iraq. In 2002 he married Erica Beatty and to that union they had a daughter, Yasmin.

Sergeant Wilson's attitude was always positive, whether serving in the army or competing on the football field at Crystal Springs High. He attended White Oak Baptist Church in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. As a member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, Staff Sergeant Wilson received several honors including the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson for his unwavering dedication to serving our great country.

LGBT RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly agree with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she declared on December 6, 2011, that LGBT rights are human rights. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the speech she gave in recognition of International Human Rights Day in Geneva, Switzerland, when she passionately and persuasively de-

scribed the importance of the LGBT struggle for basic human rights.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Good evening, and let me express my deep honor and pleasure at being here. I want to thank Director General Tokayev and Ms. Wyden along with other ministers, ambassadors, excellencies, and UN partners. This weekend, we will celebrate Human Rights Day, the anniversary of one of the great accomplishments of the last century.

Beginning in 1947, delegates from six continents devoted themselves to drafting a declaration that would enshrine the fundamental rights and freedoms of people everywhere. In the aftermath of World War II, many nations pressed for a statement of this kind to help ensure that we would prevent future atrocities and protect the inherent humanity and dignity of all people. And so the delegates went to work. They discussed, they wrote, they revisited, revised, rewrote, for thousands of hours. And they incorporated suggestions and revisions from governments, organizations, and individuals around the world.

At three o'clock in the morning on December 10th, 1948, after nearly two years of drafting and one last long night of debate, the president of the UN General Assembly called for a vote on the final text. Forty-eight nations voted in favor; eight abstained; none dissented. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. It proclaims a simple, powerful idea: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. And with the declaration, it was made clear that rights are not conferred by government; they are the birthright of all people. It does not matter what country we live in, who our leaders are, or even who we are. Because we are human, we therefore have rights. And because we have rights, governments are bound to protect them.

In the 63 years since the declaration was adopted, many nations have made great progress in making human rights a human reality. Step by step, barriers that once prevented people from enjoying the full measure of liberty, the full experience of dignity, and the full benefits of humanity have fallen away. In many places, racist laws have been repealed, legal and social practices that relegated women to second-class status have been abolished, the ability of religious minorities to practice their faith freely has been secured.

In most cases, this progress was not easily won. People fought and organized and campaigned in public squares and private spaces to change not only laws, but hearts and minds. And thanks to that work of generations, for millions of individuals whose lives were once narrowed by injustice, they are now able to live more freely and to participate more fully in the political, economic, and social lives of their communities.

Now, there is still, as you all know, much more to be done to secure that commitment, that reality, and progress for all people. Today, I want to talk about the work we have left to do to protect one group of people whose human rights are still denied in too many parts of the world today. In many ways, they are an invisible minority. They are arrested, beaten, terrorized, even executed. Many are treated with contempt and violence by their fellow citizens while authorities empowered to protect them look the other way or, too often, even join in the abuse. They are denied opportunities to work and learn, driven from their homes and countries, and forced to suppress or deny who they are to protect themselves from harm.

I am talking about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, human beings born