COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth, commemorated on June 19 each year, marks the date of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by U.S. Army Major Gordon Granger in Galveston, Texas to slaves unaware of the original issuance two years prior.

The date carries significance as the official end of one era in American history that led to the freedom-filled chapter of the next for the millions who were liberated by the Proclamation.

As our Nation evolves toward legally recognizing a more inclusive citizenry of all ethnicities and backgrounds, let us remain ever mindful of the courageous and brave individuals who fought tirelessly, but were not granted freedom and liberty under American law.

Mr. Speaker, we must not take our civil rights for granted, but rather use them to continuously propel our great country forward. History is not meant for mere storytelling, but instead serves as a blueprint from which we learn and expand upon the discoveries we encounter each day.

May we take away from the events of Juneteenth the spirit of resolve and unified commitment of liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Fair. The annual 17-day Alameda County Fair, which takes place in Pleasanton, California, is the largest single event in Alameda County and draws close to one half million patrons each year.

In 1912, the first Alameda County Fair was held at a local racetrack in the Hamlet of Alisal, which is now Pleasanton. The owner of the track, Rodney MacKenzie, organized a group of local business leaders to form a nonprofit organization and pledge their personal assets as collateral to fund the Annual Fair & Race Meet.

This new organization, The Alameda Fair Association, was formed on June 29, 1912 and consisted of fifteen businessmen, agriculturalists and livestock raisers from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Hayward, San Ramon and Irvington. The first fair opened in 1912 on Wednesday, October 23 and ran through Sunday, October 27.

In 1941 the non-profit Fair Association purchased the first 100 acres of what is now the 268-acre Fairgrounds. The 10-day Fair & Race Meet of 1941 was touted by the Oaldand Tribune as "Northern California's Largest County Fair."

The Fair Association subsequently donated the property to the people of Alameda County to guarantee that the residents of this region would have a County Fair & Race Track. Alameda County still contracts with the nonprofit Fair Association to manage and improve the Fairgrounds. The Fair Association continues to provide a significant public benefit without receiving any tax support. The Association has an annual operating budget of roughly $19 million.

On the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Fair, the Fair Association will dedicate an Alameda County Historical Monument, on the Fairgrounds, that represents a slice of the rich history of Alameda County. The Historical Monument represents the many people, businesses and leaders that settled, developed and call Alameda County home.

I join the community in applauding the 100th anniversary of the Alameda County Fair. I also pay tribute to the Fair Association for creating and dedicating a Historical Monument on the Fairgrounds to honor the rich history of Alameda County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 314 I was absent due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no."

TO RECOGNIZE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2012 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards.

For more than 85 years, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce has provided a strategic link between local businesses and the region through participation in community activities, networking opportunities, marketing, support and education. Fairfax County has witnessed extraordinary growth, and the Chamber of Commerce has been a consistent, guiding voice for business. Fairfax County is considered by many to be one of the best communities in the country in which to live, work and raise a family. A significant factor in that distinction is the thriving partnership between the public and private sectors. Corporations, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions work hand-in-hand with their counterparts in local, state and federal government agencies. A thriving business community is essential to maintaining a high quality of life for all residents, just as ensuring strong community institutions and educational opportunities for all residents are essential to fostering continued economic growth.

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and have excelled in their efforts to better our community through social responsibility. More than 65 nominees were considered for the 2012 awards, and each is deserving of recognition and appreciation. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the following recipients of the 2012 Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards:

Emerging Influential of the Year: Amanda Andere, Executive Director, FACETS.

Non-Profit of the Year: Good Shepherd Housing and Family Service.

Executive of the Year: Michael Cardaci, CEO, Global Network Services, Inc.

Woman Owned Business of the Year: Halfaker and Associates LLC.

Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year—Large Business: Deloitte LLP.

Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year—Mid Size Company: Apple Federal Credit Union.

Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year—Small Company: Karin's Florist.

In addition to the Corporate Citizenship Awards, the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce also bestows awards in three unique categories; the Chairman's Awards which recognize extraordinary leadership by companies and individuals within the Fairfax Chamber, the James M. Rees Awards which recognize lifelong leadership and service to the Northern Virginia business community, and the NOVAForward Award which is presented to an individual for extraordinary efforts to move Virginia forward. This year's honorees are:

Chairman's Awards: Julie Simmons, Human Capital Strategic Consulting, Jorge Scientific Corporation, and Northrup Grumman.

James M. Rees Award: Sidney O. Dewberry, Chairman Emeritus, Dewberry, and John Toups, Former CEO, PRC.

NOVAForward Award: Terrence D. Jones, President and CEO, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards and in thanking them for their many contributions that have supported not only our high quality of life but also the robust business community we have in Fairfax County.

H.R. 5855, THE DHS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5855, the FY13 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I regret that this bill, especially during the amendment process on the floor of the House, became a political football. I hope that when the final bill emerges from negotiations with the Senate and the White House, it will reflect the will and priorities of the American people.

Funding appropriated by H.R. 5855 is intended to support and address the vital needs of our men and women working to ensure the country's homeland security. The bill appropriates a total of $46 billion for the Department