The Kaiser Singers. The Kaiser Singers have become a household name for many. Their music has stirred the spirits and hearts of music lovers both young and old.

The group was formed in 1968 by Mrs. Beatrice Kaiser and her daughters, Annie, Hattie and Estella. They had no idea that this would be the beginning of a lifelong inspiration. The group's early years of singing was done mostly in churches around their hometown of Yazoo City, Mississippi. During those years they sang a cappella, learning to make sweet harmony with their voices.

After their first year of singing, the group was joined by Mrs. Kaiser's sister, Francine, and then later by her youngest daughter, Linda. In the early 70's, Ms. Diane Jones and Ms. Christine Burns joined the Kaiser Singers for a short while and Ms. Jones became the group's first musician. Several years later Mrs. Kaiser's son, Mr. Walter Ross, and a friend, Mr. Jamel Barley, joined the group as their musicians for a few months.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Kaiser Singers.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF LINDA SCHIMMEL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement after nearly 36 years of federal service, I would like to recognize a member of the staff of the Congressional Budget Office: Linda Schimmel. Her last day with the agency will be this Friday, October 19. Linda Schimmel has spent almost all of her federal career as the Publications Coordinator at CBO, working for all eight of its directors as well as the several acting directors in between. In that role, she has provided exemplary and faithful service in distributing CBO analyses, making certain to get them into the hands of Members of Congress, Congressional and agency staff, and members of the public in a timely way. Her knowledge and hard work have meant that CBO's publications office has provided customer service to an extraordinary degree over the years, service that goes well beyond what is necessary and expected—to show real devotion to helping customers. For all that she has done, she has earned the admiration and affection of her colleagues at CBO and the gratitude of the U.S. Congress. I am wishing her well in her retirement.

THE DEATH OF MERVYN DYMALLY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my regrettable duty to report the death of a persnal hero and a great American, former Congressman Mervyn Dymally. Mr. Dymally died Sunday, October 7, 2012. He was 86. I was deeply saddened to learn about the passing of my dear friend Mervyn, known to his friends as Merv. I will remember him most for his tremendous work helping African Americans in California succeed in politics at all levels of government.

Merv served as a California assemblyman, state senator, and lieutenant governor and as a Member of Congress for over a decade. However, I will remember him for the role he played in providing leadership, political representation, and for his efforts to increase accessibility to health care in African American communities. He also was a champion for education, social justice, economic opportunity, and an enlightened U.S. policy toward Africa and the Caribbean. He was instrumental in establishing the nursing school at Charles Drew University, which is named after him.

In 2006, I had the great honor of serving with Merv in the California State Assembly. He was a trailblazer who opened doors and mentored the next generation of political leaders, myself included. Merv had the foresight to see the possibility of increasing African American representation in elective offices all around the country. Merv legitimized our efforts and succeeded by establishing the largest Legislative Black Caucus in California history, coined the "Divine Nine."

Just five short months into my first term as a state assemblywoman, Merv was one of the mentors who encouraged me to run for the seat vacated by the untimely passing of the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald. Merv and I often shared many conversations about how to best serve the people of the 37th Congressional District.

Merv was by my side again this year, working to educate the community on the importance of voting and preserving African American representation. Merv has been a steady guide throughout my political career and for that I am blessed for having known him and learned from him.

Merv was a great leader, mentor and friend and he will be sorely missed. I extend my prayers to his family, offer my willingness to assist, and say thank you for sharing life's most precious treasures: time, life and love of a political father to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in memory of Mervyn Dymally.

HONORING MS. KAREN DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable gospel singer, Karen Davis. M. Davis was raised in a musical home in Mound Bayou, Mississippi by her parents Ms. Betsy Jackson and the late Joseph Jackson. Her mother a pianist has a gospel group called the Jackson Starlets formerly known as the Jackson Starters. At the age of 3 years old, Ms. Davis began singing in Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church choir and also at rehearsals with her mother's group. Ms. Davis was active in music classes in junior high and high school where she played the piano and sang with the school choir.

After marrying Mr. Terry Davis and moving to Shelby, Mississippi, she expanded her gospel singing and piano expertise by becoming Choir Director at Mount Layton Missionary Baptist Church in Ruleville, Mississippi, and Mount Moriah Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Ms. Davis has been a pianist for various churches and receives many invitations to sing at numerous Christian and civic events.

Ms. Davis' family lineage includes renowned blues legend Nellie "Tiger" Travis. Her ten siblings, Jorgen, Clinton, Patricia, Audrey, Debra, Metra, Glynis, Almeta, Sonya and Bethina all sing and play the piano.

Ms. Davis believes gospel music is a ministry because it ministers to the soul of people. She has received many accolades from congregations and people who are fortunate to hear her sing. Her daughters, Sharita, Sharlette and Simone have developed a love for gospel music. Sharita sings alongside her mother at events and sings as a soloist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Karen Davis as an inspirational gospel singer.

CONGRATULATING VETERINARY SERVICE INC. (VSI)

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Veterinary Service Inc., VSI, which will be inducted as a member of the Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California, on November 8, 2012.

VSI is a success story some fifty-two years in the making. Headquartered in Modesto, VSI provides a diverse supply of animal health products. The company was founded in the late 1950's when Frank Sweetman, a local sales representative for a chemical supply company, invited two veterinarians, Dr. Willis Woodward and Dr. Donald Rosenberg, to join him in establishing an animal health and nutrition distributorship. John Pugliese then teamed up with Sweetman to form the new company's sales team. These four leaders' decision to band together would forever change their lives.

Poultry was a major focus for the company during its first 20 years. Dr. Woodward became a renowned poultry pathologist, spending much of his time developing innovative products for the poultry industry. The company gradually expanded its offerings from poultry nutrition, to feed additives, to sanitation products and more. As the company continued to succeed, it explored ways to expand the business to meet the needs of more agricultural industries. In 1979, John Scheuber was hired to be the General Manager for the company—which by this point, included locations in Modesto, Fresno, Perris and Petaluma. Soon thereafter, VSI expanded to the retail feed store business.

In the 1990's, the company set out on an ambitious expansion plan that included establishing a distribution center in Oregon. In 1995, VSI ventured in to dairy sales in the southern San Joaquin Valley; and four years later, it purchased Merced Dairy Supply to improve sales to dairies throughout Central California. Over the years, the dairy market has provided the company with great growth and

continues to be a major share of the company's sales.

As part of the company's expansion efforts, it diversified its product offerings to include pet products. Seeing increased opportunity in the pet segment, VSI purchased LA Pet, a primary pet food distributor, in 2001. With the acquisition, VSI became a one-stop supply option for all pet items needed by any retailer. VSI also expanded its efforts internationally when it teamed with a Chinese customer, Alix Co., to establish ASI, Animal Supplies International, which imported products into the U.S. VSI then became the owner of ASI and its sister company, JC Logistics, JCL—a freight forwarding company which moves containers for importing and exporting. With involvement in ASI and JCL, VSI became internationally connected.

In 2004, Dr. Woodward passed away, and John Scheuber succeeded him as the President and CEO.

The focus on innovation by VSI's founders established a solid foundation for the company, as well as a culture for success that remains today. The company not only supports the growing agricultural industry, but it has established a standard of employee relations which has greatly contributed to the company's success and positioned it for strong growth in the future. The four original stockholders established a company that thrives because of its successful strategy to retain talented employees. It introduced an innovative and motivational Profit Sharing Plan in 1972; and in 1991, it developed an Employee Stock Ownership Program, which enables each employee to own corporate stock.

Today, at 52 years strong, VSI and its 220 employee-owners continue to provide quality products and customer-driven service for all segments of the animal health industry. VSI continues to be a strong supporter of the community, as well as a leader in the agricultural industry.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising VSI, Veterinary Services Inc., for their significant contributions to agriculture and to the people of our local community.

HONORING MS. SYLVIA JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young woman, Ms. Sylvia Jones. Sylvia was raised in Belzoni, Mississippi, by her parents, Marvin and Timaka Jones.

Sylvia has always strived for excellence. Her committed determination has earned her the Principal Scholar awards. Her high school grade point average is 3.70, putting her at the top of Humphreys County High School Class of 2012, and earning her the title of Valedictorian.

Sylvia has worked hard and has been active in different sports and organizations since she was in elementary school. During her high school years, she played basketball and served as a leader among her peers. She also played, softball, tennis, and ran track, which led to many athletic awards including the Coach's Award, Best Offensive Player, member of the All-District team throughout the Delta, and named the #2 player in the Delta. Sylvia is a member of the Senior Beta Club, Student Council Association, and Students Making a Change (SMAC). In August 2012, Sylvia plans to attend Jackson State University and major in Mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sylvia Jones for her determination and strive for excellence in education and leadership.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TWIN LIGHTS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Twin Lights Historical Site in Highlands, New Jersey on the occasion of their 150th anniversary celebration. The current structure, built in 1862, was commissioned by the United States Light House Board in the 1850s to provide the waters surrounding New York Harbor with a more permanent structure and to replace the existing structures which had fallen into disrepair.

Prior to the 1820s, the only lighthouse in the area surrounding New York Harbor was the Sandy Hook Lighthouse. However, with the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, Congress realized the need for an additional structure in the area of New York Harbor to ensure ships had an additional tool they could use to safely navigate the treacherous waters off Northern New Jersey. In 1828, two structures were constructed on the current site of the Twin Lights, but in the 1850s, the U.S. Light House Board realized there was a need for a more permanent structure in the location of Highlands, New Jersey. In 1862, the permanent structure as it stands was completed. The Twin Lights, named for the dual Fresnel lenses which were placed in two adjacent towers, began to emanate light from the hillside of Highlands, New Jersey.

In addition to its significance as a navigation tool for ships in the New York Harbor, the site was also home to several important and historical moments in U.S. history. In 1893, the site was chosen for the first reading of the pledge of allegiance. In 1898, the south tower of Twin Lights was electrified, and became the only on-shore lighthouse in the U.S. to have its own generator. Guglielmo Marconi in 1899 tested his telegraph technology at the site, where it became evident that this new form of communication would revolutionize the way people communicated. By the 1930s and 1940s, the role of Twin Lights began to diminish, as new technologies began to emerge. However, during the 1940s, Twin Lights was chosen by the U.S. government as the primary location to test radar technology, something which played a pivotal role in helping the U.S. and its allies obtain victory in World War II. In 1962, the Twin Lights Historic Site was transferred to the authority of the State of New Jersey, and is currently on the State and National Registry of Historic Places. Although the towers of Twin Lights were decommissioned in 1952, the light of the south tower still shines today as a navigational tool for private navigators.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in celebration of the Twin Lights Historic Site's 150th anniversary celebration. The Twin Lights Historic Site has played a pivotal role in American and New Jersey history, and it is with great pleasure that I am able to join them in their celebration.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE WORKS OF MRS. NORMA SIAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Mrs. Norma Sias. Mrs. Sias is a living testament to what can be done through hard work, perseverance and dedication.

Born July 24, 1943 to parents Leodis and Ukele York in Leona, Mississippi, Mrs. Sias is a graduate of Jordan High School in Carthage, Mississippi and current resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi.

Norma obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Literature in 1966 from Jackson State University after which she began teaching at Henry Weathers High School in Rolling Fork. After four years of teaching English, Mrs. Sias became Librarian at Henry Weathers in 1970 and then later returned to Jackson State University to continue her studies in Library Science.

After completing her work at Jackson State University, Norma then ventured on to receive her Masters in Library Science from Delta State University, to shortly thereafter become Librarian of Anguilla High School, until she retired after 34 years of service in 2004.

In addition to her work as Librarian, Mrs. Sias serves as the president of the South Delta Retired Education Personnel office, secretary of the Issaquena Credit Union and secretary of St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church.

She is also an active member of Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she continues to work as a civil servant, participating in countless public service activities.

Mrs. Norma Sias has been married to Mr. Melvin Sias for 41 years to their union they have one daughter, Melanie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Norma Sias for her dedication to serving our great her community and Sharkey County Schools.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BRIAN ROTHSCHILD

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Brian Rothschild on his receipt of the 2012 Prince Henry Society Award. On October 20, he will be recognized for his contributions to the maritime and fishing industries.

Dr. Rothschild has long dedicated his life in pursuit of better science and instruction. He