

students are taught by alternative route teachers-in-training who are deemed "highly qualified" pursuant to 34 CFR 200.56(a)(2)(ii): students with disabilities; English learners; students in rural areas; and students from low-income families.

34 CFR 200.56(a)(2)(ii) is the regulation that allows individuals participating in alternative route programs but who have not yet completed their full state certification to be labeled "highly qualified." This regulation was struck down by the Ninth Circuit in the Renee v. Duncan lawsuit but written into statute in the December 2010 CR.

To produce the report required by this legislation, states and LEAs will be required to compile the data that they are already required to have under Section 1111(h)(6)(A) of NCLB regarding the professional qualifications of all their teachers, including: whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

This data will provide essential information to parents, to educators and to policy makers so that informed decisions can be made to strengthen one of our Nation's most valuable assets, our public schools. We will be in a much better position to look at our neediest students and our neediest rural and urban school districts and determine the extent to which well-prepared teachers are or are not equitably distributed. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to receiving this important report from the Secretary on December 31, 2013.

DEDICATION OF WAR MEMORIAL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on October 13, I attended an event in Leesburg, Virginia dedicating a war memorial to four soldiers who gave their lives in service to their country.

The event would not have been possible without the valuable contributions of event organizer Ben Lawrence, Boy Scout Troop 1910 in Lucketts, Virginia, the Parkview High School Band, the 116th Infantry Brigade of the Virginia Army National Guard, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1177, American Legion Post 34, the Loudoun County Sheriff's office, and Scott Warner, owner of the Downtown Salon.

I have included the full remarks from Colonel John Epperly, commander of the 116th Infantry Brigade, that properly honors the soldiers and Marine honored on the memorial.

Colonel EPPERLY: Congressman Wolf, General Mills, Admiral Kemp, General Forsythe, Honorable Members of the Virginia Legislature, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the Leesburg Town Council, Distinguished Guests and most importantly, families of our Fallen Warriors...Good Morning. On Behalf of the Virginia Army National Guard and the 116th Infantry Brigade Com-

bat Team, it is a profound honor to be with you on this crisp autumn morning in Northern Virginia to pay tribute to our brothers in arms. Loudoun County, Leesburg and the surrounding towns and hamlets have provided Warriors for the defense of the Commonwealth and Nation since the dawn of our Republic.

My own regiment was formed not far from here in 1742 to defend what was then the frontier of the Americas. Since then, men and women from towns like Leesburg, Reston, Purcellville, Sterling, Lovettsville and many more have served in every battle and campaign our nation has fought in. Our generation is no different and today we gather to honor the sacrifice of four extraordinary men who gave the last full measure of devotion in defense of our nation. I'd like to take a moment to introduce you to these men of uncommon valor.

Army Sergeant Scott L. Kirkpatrick fell while serving with the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division. Sergeant Kirkpatrick and his fire team were assaulting a sniper position in Arab Jabour, Iraq when he was lost. Scott was doing what Infantry NCOs do best. He was leading his men from the front in one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. But who was he? Well Sergeant Kirkpatrick was many things. He was a poet, a writer and a leader of men. Indeed, Sergeant Kirkpatrick was a Renaissance Man who felt strongly that his country needed him after the 9-11 attacks. When he fell, he was on his second combat tour in Iraq and he had already become what many aspire to be in this life. Sergeant Kirkpatrick, the Warrior Poet, had earned the undying respect of his fellow warriors, the gratitude of his community and the love of his family. Today we honor a life well lived. Sergeant Kirkpatrick's decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Army Specialist Stephan L. Mace fell while serving with the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment in the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division. Specialist Mace and his platoon were fighting a savage defensive action to hold Combat Outpost Bostick in Kamdesh, Afghanistan when he was lost. Stephan's outpost was attacked by over 200 Taliban fighters and his unit was seriously outnumbered in what would be one of the fiercest actions of the Afghan Campaign. According to his company commander, Specialist Mace fought valiantly from an exposed position with no regard for his own life. Stephan would earn the Bronze Star for gallantry in action that day. Who was this gallant Virginian? Stephan was a multi-sport athlete. He played Football, Basketball, Baseball and he loved Motor-Cross racing. He was a history buff and no doubt had an acute understanding of his difficult mission in the mountains of Afghanistan. Today we honor his courage in a land so far from his Virginia home. Specialist Mace's decorations include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge.

Army Specialist Douglas J. Green fell while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment in the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division. Specialist Green and his platoon were engaged by Taliban forces with small arms fire and IEDs in Sperwan Ghar of Afghanistan's Kandahar Province when he was lost. Specialist Green was on his second combat tour, with his first being in Iraq. In the cold and rugged mountains of Afghanistan, Doug was known for his warmth and the gift of bringing humor and hope to his brother infantrymen even in the toughest of times. Doug was one of those truly inspirational people who could raise the spirits and fortunes of others

through the strength of his personality and positive attitude. He is remembered for his selflessness and care for others. Indeed, while stationed in Alaska he volunteered many hours of his time with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. There can be no doubt that his selflessness and courage were on full display in Kandahar as well. Today we honor a hero with a unique gift to lift the spirits of those around him regardless of the circumstances. Specialist Green's decorations include the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Marine Captain Michael M. Quin fell while serving with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469 of the 3rd Marine Air Wing. Captain Quin, a UH-1 Yankee Pilot was flying a combat training mission in Yuma, Arizona one month prior to an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan when he was lost in a helicopter crash. Captain Quin was a 2006 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. His loss reminds us of the risks our warriors take in training before they reach the combat zones they are destined for. Captain Quin lived life with a zest few can muster. He was a notable athlete playing soccer as well as track and field. His was also a life of service rarely seen. Michael became an Eagle Scout with Troop 29 and the Gazebo he built for his Eagle Project still stands today at Arndt's Lutheran Church. Mike was proud to be a U.S. Marine and wear the Gold Wings of a Marine Aviator. This morning we honor a gallant life of service from one of our Nation's best and brightest. Captain Quin's awards include the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal.

These four exceptional American warriors and patriots remind us that it isn't how long we live, but how we live. With this monument, we commit the valor of these four men to immortality. Fifty or a hundred years from now on another cool October morning, people will stop and read the names of:

Sergeant Scott Kirkpatrick

Specialist Stephan Mace

Specialist Douglas Green

Captain Michael Quin

And their Legend will live on . . .

Thank You and God Bless America.

HONORING RONA RAMON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Rona Ramon, a teacher, healer, mother, friend and partner. Originally from Tel-Aviv, Rona served as a medic in a parachute unit with the Israeli army before earning a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education at Wingate Institute and becoming a respected teacher. In 1986, Rona married Ilan Roman, an Israeli fighter pilot who later became Israel's first astronaut.

Logging over 4,000 flight hours over his 14-year career, Ilan was a highly respected Colonel in the Israeli Air Force. In 1981, he was the youngest pilot flying in Operation Opera, the successful Israeli mission to destroy a nuclear reactor being constructed in Iraq. Ilan continued to dedicate his life to science as a Payload Specialist astronaut by using a multi-spectral camera to record and study desert dust among other research projects. His commitment to the advancement of science has positively impacted the people of Israel, the

United States, and space exploration programs throughout the world.

The couple moved to Houston, TX, in 1998 and started a family. As Ilan trained for his space missions, Rona continued on a new adventure of her own: holistic medicine. The new surroundings gave Rona the opportunity to expand her knowledge of holistic medicine by studying new techniques, including the treatment of astronauts.

On February 1, 2003, tragedy struck when the space shuttle Columbia, carrying Ilan and 5 others, disintegrated upon re-entry. Columbia was commanded by Rick Husband, an alumnus of my alma mater, California State University, Fresno. Facing not only a personal, but also a national loss, Rona found herself in the midst of international events and memorials, representing not only herself, but the entire nation of Israel.

While still coping with the passing of her husband, Rona also lost her brother in a battle against leukemia. Shortly thereafter, Rona and her four beautiful children, Asaf, Tal, Yiftach and Noa, returned to Israel, where she found solace in her holistic healing practice and earned an MA in Holistic Health at Lesley College.

In 2009, Rona's eldest son Asaf, a gifted pilot, was tragically killed in an F-16 training accident. Once again, Rona was forced to deal with the death of a loved one, yet found the strength to continue her passion for helping others.

Today, Rona continues to inspire people across the world with her public speaking on loss and healing. She works with several organizations and foundations including her own Ramon Foundation, an organization that promotes educational and communal values through space and scientific studies.

On October 20, 2012, a film honoring Ilan titled "An Article of Hope," will be shown in Palo Alto, CA, with Rona speaking in memoriam of her husband. This special event will be held in remembrance of the Columbia disaster nearly 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the strength and compassion of Rona Ramon, a woman who has turned tragedy into an opportunity to promote good throughout the world, and who continues to be an inspiration to myself and others.

HONORING MRS. OMEILA
MCKINNEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable librarian, Omeila McKinney. Omeila was born and reared on a plantation in Bourbon, Mississippi, to John Fred and Nancy Johnson. In January 1964 she and her family of five brothers and five sisters relocated to Mound Bayou, Mississippi where she resides today. She is a member of St. Mark Church of God in Christ in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Her maternal grandparents Lem and Elsie Frye passed on a legacy of holiness that left the family without excuse when it comes to salvation. Her paternal grandparents Marshall, Sr. and Sarah were also devout people of God.

Omeila always liked to read even as a small child. Her dad taught her to read when she was three years old. He was a great supporter of his children obtaining an education even though he did not get his high school diploma until 1966. Her love for books led her to reading centers in elementary school where she read every book she could get her hands on and later to the library where she read so many books that the librarian gave her special permission to check out as many books as she liked. Upon graduating from Coahoma Junior College, in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1969 with an Associates of Arts Degree in Social Studies, she furthered her education at Delta State College where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. She taught in Social Studies in the Quitman County School District while pursuing a master's degree at Delta State University in library science.

After receiving a master of library science degree in 1974 from Delta State University, Omeila McKinney began her career as a high school library media specialist at John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She was a professional library media specialist who has a broad understanding of the educational system and works closely with teachers, administrators and students in selecting and evaluating materials to support the instructional program.

Omeila was dedicated to the children of John F. Kennedy High and made great strides toward educating them in the use of media such as reading, research, audiovisual production and many other useful instruments that would assist the students to succeed. Students were also given comprehensive test to measure their skills which they did excel.

In the early 1990s, she wrote a mini grant which she used to purchase the first multimedia computer in the Mound Bayou School District. Upon receiving the computer she was aware she did not know what to do with it. However, she was determined to learn and solicited two students who were avid computer users to give her lessons. She took that knowledge and later became one of the best computer users in the district using her knowledge to help her co-workers as well as many students.

After serving the Mound Bayou Public Schools for 26 years, she applied and Was accepted to the North Bolivar School District in Shelby, Mississippi as their high school library media specialist. She continued the job she loved so much for another three years until her retirement in 2004. A year after retirement she took a position as branch librarian in Shelby, Mississippi at the public library. There she was helpful in bringing great improvements to the public library. After leaving the Shelby public library, Omeila returned to Broad Street High School in 2006 to work as a part time library media specialist. Her plan and goal was to help children improve their reading and research skills by utilizing the great resources of the library through fun and interactive activities.

Omeila uses her skills as a library media specialist in her role as the reading fair coordinator for the North Bolivar School District. Students she has worked with have won district, regional, and state honors for the past four years. She enjoys her job, students and her co-workers.

Omeila's profession as a librarian has had a positive impact on her husband of 37 years,

Claude McKinney. During Mr. McKinney's tenure as an educator he utilized research and other knowledge to enhance his students learning abilities. The couple has four children, Desmond, Sheri, Preamiller and Tanjanikia McKinney.

NORTHEAST COUNSELING
SERVICES

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Counseling Services, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary of service to our community.

Northeast Counseling Services, founded on July 1, 1972, is a professional organization dedicated to improving quality of life by providing comprehensive and effective behavioral health services through a caring and responsive partnership with individuals, families, and the community. They serve our community as one of the largest providers of behavioral health services in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Northeast Counseling Services offers a wide range of psychiatric services for children, adolescents, and adults including crisis intervention, intake and evaluation, inpatient and outpatient services, and intensive case management, among others. Northeast Counseling also offers emergency service available twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays. They have office locations in Nanticoke, Hazleton, and Lehighton.

Mr. Speaker, for the past forty years, Northeast Counseling Services has proudly served the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I commend the group on its 40th anniversary and wish it continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE WATSONVILLE
WETLANDS WATCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 20th Anniversary of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, which is a remarkable community organization in my district. Dedicated to the protection, restoration, and appreciation of the wetlands of the Pajaro Valley, this group engages members of the Watsonville community and students of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, drawing public attention to the rich uplands and dependent area wildlife.

Fed by the waters of the Pajaro Valley watershed, and linked together by nine species of fish and 250 species of birds, including many that are threatened or endangered, the six Sloughs of the Watsonville slough system form one of the largest remaining freshwater marshlands in the state's coastal zone. These Sloughs provide nursing grounds for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants filter out impurities in the water, sequester carbon dioxide, and provide a buffer from land to sea—protecting water quality from impacts of soil erosion and