RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SSG RAYVON BATTLE, JR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Rayvon Battle, Jr. of the United States Army. Staff Sergeant Battle lost his life in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on November 13, 2012, while trying to stop an explosion.

Staff Sergeant Battle was a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, which is in my Congressional District. In 2005, he graduated from Northern Nash High School and went on to enlist in the Army where he became a squad leader in the 38th Engineer Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2'' Infantry Division.

Staff Sergeant Battle was a source of great pride in his hometown because he epitomized what it meant to serve with honor and distinction. This was demonstrated in the various awards and decorations Staff Sergeant Battle received during his career in the Army. Among them include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the NATO Medal. In only 25 short years, Staff Sergeant Battle accomplished more than most people do in a full lifetime.

Unfortunately, Staff Sergeant Battle perished while serving his country—prematurely ending a promising life and career. He is survived by his wife, Dorris Battle; his father, Rayvon Battle, Sr.; and his grandmother, Dora Harris.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering heartfelt condolences to Staff Sergeant Battle's family, and sincere appreciation for his selfless efforts in defense of our great nation. I pray that his life remains a source of inspiration to the Rocky Mount community and Americans nationwide. We are forever indebted to his family for the ultimate sacrifice he paid on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE MARTIN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Josephine Blocker Martin on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday. Born December 6, 1912 in Montgomery, South Carolina, Mrs. Martin has lived for over eighty years in Columbia, where she has made such positive impacts on so many that she is known to most—relatives and non-relatives alike—as ''Mother Martin.''

She and Mr. Willie Martin were united in Holy Matrimony on October 24, 1928, and they remained married until his death in 1981. Together they had ten children, Florence, James, Thomas, Charles, Curtis, Amanda, Will Jr., Willie Mae, Gail, and Lorraine. Mrs. Martin is now the proud grandmother of 34, great-grandmother of 70, and great-great-grandmother of 16. In the words of her family, ''To know mom is to know true love.''

Mrs. Martin is a dedicated member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Columbia, where she has worshipped faithfully each week for more than fifty years. Her favorite scripture is the first verse of Psalm 91, ''He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.'' Her favorite hymn is ''We've Come This Far By Faith.'' As she completes a century on Earth, it is apparent that she is the living embodiment of both.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Martin on achieving this milestone and wishing her Godspeed and many more to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF IBEW LOCAL 269

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate IBEW Local 269 as its members gather to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. The spirit and strength of the IBEW's founders continues today in Local 269 and its history and service is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The founders of the IBEW fought for the benefit of the workers. The founders strived to create workers' rights, safety measures and apprenticeship training. Today, the IBEW continues the legacy of its founders to make a better life for all, and these principles are evident in Local 269.

IBEW Local 269 ensures that central New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania receive highly skilled and qualified electrical workers. IBEW Local 269 is committed to upholding its expectation of quality craftsmanship and on-budget projects with a 5-year apprenticeship training program. The specialized members work as wiremen, outside linemen, residential wiremen, and telecommunications technicians to help develop and maintain communities. They are experienced in working in a wide range of areas, including airports, educational institutions, military installations, historical sites and monuments, and many others. Since 1912, the members of IBEW Local 269 have provided proficient service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in honoring IBEW Local 269 and its 100th Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED AND GIFTED AND THE SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AT YVONNE A. EWELL TOWNVIEW CENTER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the School for the Talented and Gifted and the School for Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center for receiving the distinct honor of being recognized as an ''Intel School of Distinction.''

Intel Schools of Distinction honors U.S. schools that have demonstrated excellence in math and science education. I am pleased that Intel recognized Townview Magnet School for Engineering and Science School as an institution that provides an innovative learning environment and programs that meet or exceed national math and science benchmarks.

By this recognition, Intel is emphasizing investments in science and math. In order for our country to compete in the 21st century, we as a country need to make sustained robust investments to encourage our children to embrace science and math. These are the jobs and careers of the future.

Located in my district, Townview Magnet is one of the most diverse schools in Texas, with minorities representing over half of the student population. Townview is home to some of the Nation's best and brightest students. Newsweek Magazine has consistently rated Townview's Science and Engineering Magnet as one of the top high schools in the Nation. Townview serves as a model for other institutions of learning across the country and offer insight into the ways we can improve education.

This latest honor exemplifies the values of a good educational environment, as many of the students attending Townview will have opportunities to be the future leaders of this country. This honor will also serve as an inspiration to the faculty, staff and students of Townview Magnet School to maintain a high level of work. I commend the faculty and students for achieving this honor, and lend my support to the future success of Townview.

Mr. Speaker, the students, teachers, principals and parents of Townview Science and Engineering Magnet should all be very proud for achieving this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO MARMO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roberto Marmo for his years of success both politically and professionally in the United States and Italy. For much of his life, Roberto Marmo has enjoyed great success both in politics and his entrepreneurial endeavors.

Mr. Marmo's career in politics spans several decades beginning with his time as a provincial councilor of Canelli in the 1980's. In the following decade, Mr. Marmo served the comune of Canelli as Mayor. From 1999 until 2008, he held the position of President of the Province of Asti. Currently, Mr. Marmo is a member of the Chamber of Deputies serving the people of Italy as a member of the Commission on Budget and Treasury.

In addition to his political successes, Mr. Marmo is an accomplished entrepreneur in the Piedmont region of Italy. He holds the roles of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cantina Sociale di Canelli-Cooperative as well as the President of the Cellars of Canelli