

economic benefit of the Lottery to our State by signing Public Act 40 into law, which dedicated Lottery revenues to the Michigan School Aid Fund. Since that time, the Michigan Lottery has implemented many new innovative programs and games to offer Michigan residents a great gaming experience, for which it was just recognized with an award for Best New Instant Game by the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries.

Today the results of the Michigan Lottery's success are evident in the many ways its programs have benefitted the State. Specifically, over the duration of its existence, the Lottery has awarded over \$26.8 billion in prizes to Lottery participants. In addition, it has donated \$17.3 billion to the School Aid Fund over its lifespan. Local merchants have also benefitted with \$3.2 billion in retail commissions. When the merchant commissions are combined with the awards given to participants and schools, it is clear the Lottery has been a significant contributor to stimulating the State economy.

As a former Commissioner of the Michigan Lottery, this milestone is one that I view with a personal point of pride. While serving as Lottery Commissioner, I was pleased to implement a new innovative game, Club Keno, which spurred growth by offering participants the chance to play a fun, fast and action-oriented game that could yield up to a \$100,000 prize off just a single \$1 bet. Thanks to the success of Club Keno and many other Lottery programs, I was honored to oversee record contributions to the School Aid Fund during my time as Lottery Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous contributions that the Michigan Lottery has made to the State of Michigan over the last 40 years. I congratulate the current Commissioner, Mr. M. Scott Bowen, on overseeing the Lottery's continued success and support of public education in Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE VARNADO  
HARDEN

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who has served the citizens of the great State of Mississippi for nearly half a century. Mrs. Alice Varnado Harden was an outstanding teacher, a profound leader and a truly inspiring individual. Senator Harden's unwavering passion for enriching the lives of others and remarkable character and integrity is worthy of recognition by this honorable body, inasmuch as her governing presence will be sorely missed throughout this nation.

Mississippi Senator Alice Varnado Harden was born on April 17, 1948 in Pike County, Mississippi to John Oatis Varnado and Lula Robinson Varnado. She was the third of nine children who grew up in the Washington Addition community of Jackson, Mississippi. A woman of humble beginnings, Senator Harden exhibited extraordinarily strong leadership skills, academic talents and teaching abilities that would later lend to her phenomenal performance as the first African American female to be elected to the Mississippi Senate.

Senator Harden's zeal for education blossomed during her years at Jim Hill High School and Jackson State University. At Jackson State University she earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Health and Wellness. Upon graduating from Jackson State University, Senator Harden began a noteworthy career as a teacher at Calloway High School in the Jackson Public School District where she quickly gained the respect and admiration of her students, colleagues and administrative supervisors.

Recognizing that public schools in Mississippi were failing to deliver on its promise to adequately prepare its students for the challenges and demands of an ever changing world, Senator Harden gradually redefined her passion for educating from being purely a lecturer to being an advocate for quality public education. As president of the Mississippi Association of Educators, Senator Harden, despite the threat of incarceration by the courts, called for a strike in 1985 to fight for salary increases for the state's teachers. The voice for hundreds of teachers and thousands of children, Senator Harden's steadfast commitment to effectuate change from the front to the back of the classroom, was victorious. Her steadfast commitment to the pursuit of change in how Mississippi honored its educators led to a statewide pay increase for teachers.

Mrs. Harden's roles as an activist propelled her into the realm of politics. In 1988, She was elected to represent Mississippi's 28th Senate District, filling a seat vacated by civil rights activist State Senator Henry Kersey. During her 24 years of service as a Senator, Mrs. Harden served as chair of both the Education and the Universities and Colleges Committees. She also served on the Appropriations Committee, Corrections Committee, the Fees, Salaries and Administration Committee, the Housing Committee, and the Interstate and Federal Cooperation Committee.

Across Mississippi Senator Harden was known as a champion not only for public education, but also as a giant for human and civil rights. She was a staunch supporter and defender of legislation protecting workers' and immigrant rights and was successful in enacting laws that required the presence of certified translators in all Mississippi courts. Her efforts in the Senate also resulted in pay raises and free healthcare for state employees. One of her most notable victories during her leadership of the Senate's Elections Committee was the passage of Mississippi's Motor Voter Act. This bill empowered citizens throughout the State of Mississippi with greater accessibility to the election polls.

Senator Alice Harden's professional associations, achievements and awards are numerous and impressive. They speak volumes with regards to her service and vision for Mississippi communities. Senator Harden was a lifetime active member of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Women's Political Network, the National Council of Negro Women, the League of Women Voters and a life member of the NAACP. Additionally, she was a member of NOBEL Women, the National Conference of State Legislators, and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and chaired the Southern Legislative Conference's Education Committee and the Mississippi Advisory Council to the United States Civil Rights Commission. She also represented

Mississippi on the Education Commission of the States.

In striving for academic excellence, Senator Harden pursued her doctorate in Educational Administration at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, until her health began to fail. Senator Harden served her state and community faithfully until her death on Thursday, December 6, 2012.

Ms. Harden was married for 37 years to Dennis Lambert Harden. Dennis and their son Sachem brought the greatest and most abundant joy and love to her life. She was often heard talking long hours about Dennis' undying love and his support for every facet and every endeavor that enriched both their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and paying tribute to the outstanding life, achievements and legacy of Mississippi State Senator Alice Varnado Harden. Her passion for public education, human and civil right and voter empowerment is laudable and worthy of recognition by the United States Congress. She will be celebrated forever as one of Mississippi's greatest leaders.

SEQUESTRATION AND THE  
CHESAPEAKE BAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the potential damage that sequestration could cause to vital efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is our nation's largest estuary, with a 64,000 square mile watershed that crosses six states and the District of Columbia and is home to 17 million people and over 3,600 species of animals and plants. In 2004, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel estimated the economic value of the Bay at over \$1 trillion annually.

This vast resource presents unique challenges—the health of the Bay has been threatened by nutrient runoff, population growth and development, overfishing, and even natural factors like rain and snowfall. For nearly thirty years, the Federal government has been a partner in Bay restoration through the Chesapeake Bay Program, an innovative regional partnership that fosters collaboration among the multiple state and local governments, agencies, and advisory groups in the watershed.

In 2009, the President, with the support of those of us in the Bay states, signed an Executive Order to accelerate Bay clean-up by improving targets and coordinating resources. It's an ambitious plan, and states and localities are working hard on implementation. But they cannot do it alone. The federal government must be an active partner, providing financial support and technical assistance.

For example, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund finances capital projects for wastewater treatment upgrades and helps local governments manage stormwater projects, curbing runoff pollution into the Bay. In Maryland, it will cost over \$2 billion between 2010 and 2017 to make the necessary stormwater improvements to meet its pollution reduction targets. Sequestration would cut nearly \$196 million from the Clean Water and Safe Drinking

Water funds, limiting resources for these vital repairs and breaking faith with our state and local partners on this collaborative effort.

Chesapeake Bay clean-up is at a critical juncture. As state and local governments are working to implement ambitious plans, the federal government must maintain or increase its funding support, not cut it.

Sequestration's meat-ax approach jeopardizes the years of planning and collaboration that have led to this moment, arbitrarily and unwisely slowing progress on what should be a national priority. We must replace sequestration with a balanced approach that includes revenue increases and targeted cuts while maintaining investments in initiatives like Bay restoration that preserve our national resources. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and an economic engine for the Bay states. It must not fall victim to sequestration's ill-advised cuts.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF PASADENA CITY COUNCILMAN CHRIS HOLDEN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Holden for his 23 years of service on the Pasadena, California, City Council. A graduate of Pasadena High School and San Diego State University, Chris was a basketball star in school and played professionally overseas. He then returned to California to give back to his community by spending the great majority of his life in serving the city he loves.

He was first elected to the Pasadena City Council in 1989 at the age of 28 as the youngest member of the Council, and served until he resigned in November 2012, upon his election to the California State Assembly. In 1997, Chris was chosen by his colleagues to serve a two-year term as Mayor of Pasadena, the first African-American man to hold that position.

During his years on the City Council, Chris served his Pasadena district with distinction, championing efforts to establish a living wage in Pasadena, crack down on slumlords, create drug-free zones, and bring development, jobs, and services to Northwest Pasadena. Chris has also been a strong supporter of deregulation of Pasadena's municipal utility, a leader of charter reform that created a city-wide elected mayor, and a proponent of policies and projects that have revitalized Pasadena, such as the Paseo Colorado, Old Pasadena, and the Pasadena Convention Center.

His service as a long-time Board member of the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority and supporter of the creation and expansion of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line clearly demonstrates his commitment to the entire region.

I know that Chris will be missed in Pasadena City Hall, but I am pleased that he has chosen to bring his unique talents on our behalf to Sacramento. I join my colleagues in thanking Chris for his service and wish he, his wife Melanie, and their children, Nicholas, Alexander, Austin, Mariah, and Noah the best in this new chapter of their lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK VENNER III

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during the Christmas Season we remember people far and near and reminisce about those who are no longer with us. I rise to remember Frank Venner, who passed from this life in the summer of 2012 at age 85 years.

Frank Venner was born March 8, 1927, in Baltimore, Maryland. After living in Providence, Rhode Island and Binghamton, New York, the family moved to Toledo when Frank was a teenager. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1944 and from the University of Notre Dame in 1949. He served in the Army Air Corps. Frank and his wife Ruth married in 1952 and together raised six children. Their children, along with their eleven grandchildren, were his pride and joy.

While in college, Frank began working in radio on the college station. Back in Toledo he embarked on a career over four decades in broadcasting. He started at WSPD, Toledo's local radio and television station. Later, the television component became WTVG. Frank Venner was a news fixture at the station, his journalism respected in the community. His signature features were the popular "Weather-in-the-Weather" show which was broadcast from atop the former Commodore Perry Hotel, the High School Quiz program which he hosted for a quarter century, and the Venner-Ward Report which he co-anchored with another longtime Toledo newsman Gordon Ward. Mr. Ward recalled, "Integrity was primary in all that he did. His word was his bond." Frank Venner also served as editorial director and news director at the station.

Frank Venner's imprimatur on Toledo news is solid. A true journalist, his impact on television from its earliest days into the 21st century is remarkable. He leaves a lasting legacy. He was a man who often reported what others did, but also went beyond his profession and left our community and its institutions stronger for his presence. His resonant voice became synonymous with Toledo.

A more important legacy is his family. His presence will be missed by his children and grandchildren, relatives and friends. Yet, he lives on in them and in the media he was so much a part of shaping.

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IN HONOR OF THE LT. WALTER SOLENSKI

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a beloved officer of the Coventry Police Department. Lt. Walter Solenski will retire on December 31, 2012 after 37 years of service to his town. A lifetime resident of Coventry, Connecticut, Walter's compassionate attention to the community is known by young and old. Police Chief Mark Palmer described Lt. Solenski as an "every day hero." He is someone who is steady and

reliable; he is always there for the residents of Coventry when they need him.

Following his graduation from Coventry High School in 1970, Walter joined the United States Navy. Upon returning home from a four-year tour of duty he was hired as a Class D Patrolman in his local police department. Walter quickly proved his dedication to his work by actively pursuing training and certification courses. He continued to seek out ways to improve his service to the town throughout his career. This professionalism and diligence allowed Walter to rise to the rank of Lieutenant in April, 1995.

Throughout his time on the police force, Lt. Solenski received many accolades and letters of gratitude from those whom he had helped. Coventry residents appreciated his timely response and attention, especially to emergency situations. Last summer he was chosen by a local committee to be a parade marshal at Coventry's 300th Anniversary Parade—a testament to his importance in the town.

I ask that my colleagues join with me to honor Lt. Walter Solenski and the work he did for the people of Coventry. As he prepares for his retirement with his wife Yvonne, I am confident that Walter will continue to play an active role in the community. His commitment to the Coventry Police Department and to his town will not soon be forgotten.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 30, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on vote No. 612 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 6429 with instructions); and "no" on vote No. 613 (on passage of H.R. 6429).

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RECOGNIZING LISA SANTERAMO

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise to recognize a departing member of my original district staff, Lisa Wieber Santeramo.

Since I opened my first district office in Coram, New York, Lisa has distinguished herself as among the most competent and hard working members of my staff. Over the course of this past decade, I watched her develop and rise from a staff assistant answering the telephones at my reception desk to her ultimate position as the highest ranking member of my district staff, District Office Director.

Lisa was born and raised in Holbrook. She attended Sachem High School, the largest high school in the township, where she first developed her talent for public affairs as a leader in student government. She brought her enthusiasm and passion for leadership to my first campaign and to my congressional office after graduating from Stony Brook University where she was also involved in student leadership. While an undergraduate at Stony