

of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church. Great numbers assembled to listen to his sermons, and many converts joined his congregation. He also served as an agent and professor of elocution and belles-lettres for La Orange College, Alabama from 1836–1837, but resided chiefly in the Atlantic cities.

In 1841, Maffitt was sworn in as Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he continued the tradition established by the Continental Congresses of each day's proceedings opening with a prayer.

After his service to the U.S. House, Maffitt went on to edit a literary and religious monthly, called the "Calvary Token," and authored reflections of his life and religious experiences including, Tears of Contrition, Pulpit Sketches, a volume of poems, an oratorical dictionary, and an autobiography.

Reverend John Newland Maffitt died near Mobile, Alabama, on May 28, 1850. It is noteworthy that his son, also named John Newland Maffitt, would become one of North Carolina's great historical figures, first as a Naval Surveyor, charting much of the Atlantic coastline, and then as a blockade runner for the Confederate Navy. I paid tribute to him in the House of Representatives on May 5, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend John Newland Maffitt was a man of faith and duty who served the U.S. House of Representatives honorably. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his contribution to our tradition of faith and service.

HONORING CAPTAIN DAN GRIFFIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Captain Dan Griffin for his dedicated service in the U.S. Army, and to commemorate his safe return home to his friends and family in Oak Lawn, IL.

Captain Griffin recently completed a tour in Afghanistan with the First Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. Stationed in the Ghazni province as an Army attorney, Griffin utilized his experiences from working as a State's Attorney at the Cook County Criminal Court-house in Chicago. He provided legal insight on rules of engagement to U.S. Commanders and also advised troops on personal legal issues. In this role, he was pivotal in helping other soldiers to do their jobs effectively.

His homecoming celebration will be held this upcoming Saturday, December 15th, at St. Linus Catholic Church in Oak Lawn, IL, where Captain Griffin has been a parishioner his whole life. He will be welcomed home by his mother and father, Ginny and Jim, brothers, Ed and Jim, and sister, Coleen.

Please join me in recognizing Captain Griffin's service and dedication to our country. His expertise and skill have contributed significantly to our nation's effort in Afghanistan, and I am happy to welcome him home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOSTER
YOUTH HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my good friend and colleague, Senator JOHN KERRY (D-MA) in sponsoring the Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act.

This bipartisan proposal is simple and straightforward. The Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act directs the U.S. Department of Education to ensure that foster care youth know about specific programs and benefits for which they are eligible. The bill will also require that the Department highlights specific federal education initiatives for foster youth on their website.

As a Member of the Ways and Means Human Resource Subcommittee, I listened to testimony from countless former foster care youth in our hearings. Witnesses over the years included two of my constituents—Anthony Reeves and Shalita O'Neale; both young people "aged-out" of Georgia's foster care system, and fought hard to beat the odds and become successful adults.

Mr. Speaker, this is a long, hard road. The transition from foster care to adulthood and independence is very difficult, and there are countless obstacles facing them. It breaks your heart to listen to their stories about how hard it is to find housing, health care, education, livable wage jobs, security, and stability.

The Foster Youth Higher Education Opportunities Act is a small bill, but it is an important one. Every Member of Congress knows that education is the key. This basic, common-sense bill helps to tear down just one of those barriers.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in support of this goodwill effort.

HONORING GEORGIA INDUSTRIES
FOR THE BLIND

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an organization working hard throughout my home state, Georgia Industries for the Blind. This organization is a part of the AbilityOne Program, a Federal purchasing program that enables more than 50,000 Americans who are blind or severely disabled to work and provide products and services to Federal and commercial customers.

Today in America, roughly seventy percent of blind and visually impaired working-aged adults are not employed. Federal opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have played an important role in bringing people with disabilities into the workforce. For example, Georgia Industries for the Blind—employing over 100 blind individuals throughout the state—has been the door of opportunity for economic independence and professional growth for its associates.

Recently, I visited the GIB operation at Robins AFB, and I was impressed by the opportunities the organization provides their associates to develop personally and professionally. A great example of one of GIB's associates is Stanley Parham. Stanley is both hearing impaired and legally blind. He is a 1996 graduate of Jordan Technical School in Columbus, GA. He has been employed at the Robins Air Force Base site under Georgia Industries for the Blind for two years where he has been recognized as Employee of the Month from Vocational Rehabilitation of Georgia in October 2010. Prior to joining GIB, Stanley worked for ten years at Sign Graphic Printing in Dalton, where as a screen stretcher, he cleaned frames and remade or hung new mesh on the screens. An accomplished artist, Stanley has been honored at the White House for his previous work. In 1993, as a middle school student, his art teacher nominated him for an art contest with President George H. W. Bush. He won the opportunity and produced a chalk drawing of Mrs. Barbara Bush removing her husband's portrait from the wall of the Oval Office. As one of five employees at Robins Air Force Base that sanitizes or cleans pasteboard boxes for reuse in shipping parts/supplies that maintain C-5, C-17, C-130, F-5, F-15 aircraft Stanley exemplifies the skill and professionalism that is common among AbilityOne associates.

This organization focused on his skills and abilities, giving him the chance to serve those who serve our country. It is a place that truly lives up to its mission.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. It affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receives good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. It is for this reason that I stand in support of the work Georgia Industries for the Blind does each day to open doors of opportunity for Americans who are blind.

TRIBUTE TO CHAD BOYER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to express my gratitude to Chad Boyer who served as my Congressional Fellow this year. I want to thank Chad and commend him, for a job well done. After a year on my staff, he is now a seasoned veteran on the appropriation's process.

Chad served as my point person on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and was responsible for all energy related issues in my office. His engineering background and construction management experience provided me with unique technical knowledge of nuclear power and other energy issues.

In the appropriations process, Chad developed well-researched and insightful positions, which properly prioritized the spending on energy projects based on their potential impact. His astute political insights and his willingness