

was named to succeed him, he was proud that she and another former student were among the final candidates. Moreover, upon my father's death, she faithfully supported and assisted my mother, Mrs. Minnie S. Bishop, a "Delta Dear," during the sunset years of her life.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Dr. Yvonne Kennedy certainly made a life worthy of emulation. We are all blessed that she gave so much to the Mobile community, the state of Alabama, and our great nation. The world is better because she passed this way. She will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Kennedy's family and friends during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

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#### WALL OF HOPE

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, although the newborn babies at Texas Children's Hospital are being cared for by high quality, experienced doctors, this does not ease the emotions that the parents are experiencing.

Their delicate newborn child is being examined, poked at, and operated on. As they sit there helplessly, the parents are given updates on their baby's complications and, consequently, their low odds of survival.

When the only news these parents hear is bad, it is difficult to remain hopeful. The environment created in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, NICU, is disheartening. Nevertheless, Texas Children's Hospital has found a way to inspire a light of hope for these parents and families.

The center's Family Advisory Committee has created a "Wall of Hope" to encourage families that have a baby staying in the NICU.

This wall presents pictures of the hospital's "miracle babies" and includes a writing of their unique stories. For future parents at the NICU, instead of pacing up and down the hallway worrying, they can now read success stories and hope that their child will be one of them, too.

Hope can provide a sense of strength. And for these parents, hope is the only thing that makes the situation bearable. To know that others have been in similar situations and now have beautiful, healthy children that survived against all odds.

And that's just the way it is.

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#### DEPARTING MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished group of Democratic

California Members whose terms will expire at the close of the 112th Congress: HOWARD BERMAN, JOE BACA, Bob Filner, LAURA RICHARDSON, PETE STARK, and LYNN WOOLSEY.

HOWARD BERMAN and I met in 1960 and were active members of the Young Bruin Democrats at UCLA. He has been one of my closest friends and confidants and it has been an honor to serve in the House of Representatives with him for the last thirty years. HOWARD is one of the smartest, hardest working, and most effective members of Congress. As the chairman and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he has used his unique skills to enhance America's security, strengthen our alliances, and advance the cause of peace between Israel and its neighbors. As the second most senior member of the Judiciary Committee, HOWARD is an expert on the complicated intricacies of copyright law and he has championed strong copyright protections to ensure the vitality of our nation's film, television, and music industry.

JOE BACA is the realization of the American Dream. The youngest of fifteen children, JOE worked as a laborer, served in the Army, and later earned a college degree. He was the first Latino elected to the Board of Trustees for the San Bernardino Valley College District and was later elected to the California State Assembly and the California State Senate. He came to Congress in 1999 and has served on the Agriculture Committee and the Financial Services Committee.

Bob Filner, who was just elected as Mayor of San Diego, also has a long history of public service. He was first elected to the San Diego Unified District Board of Education and served on the San Diego City Council and Deputy Mayor of San Diego. He was elected to Congress in 1992 and served on the Committee on Veterans Affairs, which he also chaired from 2007–2011, and was most recently the Committee's ranking member.

LAURA RICHARDSON has also devoted her career to public service. She started on the Long Beach City Council and was elected to the California State Assembly in 2006. She won a special election to Congress in 2007 and has worked hard during the last three years on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security.

PETE STARK'S experience and knowledgeable voice on health care is leaving a void on the Ways and Means Committee that will be hard to fill. A champion of quality health care for four decades, PETE has been a strong partner in protecting the Medicare program and getting the Affordable Care Act enacted into law. PETE has never wavered in his commitment to the interests of seniors, the unemployed, children, and the disabled and our nation is stronger because of his service.

LYNN WOOLSEY has devoted her congressional career to the improving the lives of families and children in our nation and ending our wars abroad. As a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, LYNN has been a strong advocate for paid family leave, adequate child care, pre-school education, and a universal school breakfast program.

California and the nation owe a debt of gratitude to Reps. BERMAN, BACA, Filner, RICHARDSON, STARK, and WOOLSEY for devoting their careers to public service and working to improve the lives of others.

#### HONORING RUSSELL LIBBY, MAINE ORGANIC FARMING LEADER

### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent passing of an influential leader in the sustainable agriculture movement, whom I have had the privilege to call a friend and colleague.

For over 30 years, Russell Libby worked to create and support a food system in Maine that is healthier for our bodies, Earth, and communities. He spent 17 years of that serving a critical post as Executive Director of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), the largest organization of its kind in the country.

During his tenure, the organization was instrumental in recruiting and mentoring the next generation of farmers, providing support for organic, sustainable agriculture practices, and connecting more consumers to local food and the people who produce it. A testament to MOFGA's success is its annual Common Ground Country Fair. The event now draws crowds of 60,000 people who want to learn about sustainable living, connect with local farmers and craftsmen, and enjoy Maine-grown food.

As someone who started a small farm 40 years ago, it's been a pleasure to watch Maine's revitalized agricultural economy over the last decade. Today, our farmers markets are thriving, our restaurants receive national acclaim for their focus on local ingredients, and two trends have arisen in contrast to the national picture. Our acres of land in agricultural production are rising and the average ages of our farmers are declining. Much of this is due to Russell's leadership.

But Russell's impact has not been contained to Maine. He was an effective and tireless advocate for national policy change. I was honored to invite him to Washington last May to testify before the House Agriculture Committee on the importance of passing a Farm Bill that better supports small, diversified farms.

As an economist, farmer, and poet, Russell knew what he was talking about. He could point to the numbers to show positive effects smaller-scale food systems have for our economy. He could speak from experience of the difficulties of operating a small farm. And he could clearly illustrate the good things that happen when we have a closer connection to the land and each other.

Earlier this month, we lost Russell to cancer at age 56. It's a tragic loss for our state and country, considering all we still have to do. Personally, I will deeply miss his friendship, wisdom, and advice. It's my hope that this body will do well by him and take his vision to heart. "I'm really not interested in standing over here in the local and organic corner for the rest of my life and waving, 'Hi, we're having fun over here,'" Russell said. "I'm really interested in this kind of food being available to everybody under the basic principle: enough for everyone, always."