we are united, that as long as we walk this Earth we are committed to protecting one another and in so doing we will realize the promise of a better world. In their brave and selfless actions Chip and Tomasz lived this promise to each other, and now it is our turn to do the same.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOHN MARKOWICZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor a fierce and passionate advocate for southeastern Connecticut, John Markowicz.

John was well known in southeastern Connecticut for the many hats he wore over the course of his life. Graduating the U.S. Naval Academy in 1965, John achieved the rank of captain in the Navy where he served in the submarine force in a variety of posts, including the USS *Pargo* (SSN 650) and USS *Guitarro* (SSN 665). Following active duty service, John continued in the Naval Reserve to achieve 34 years in the service of our Nation. In his life in the private sector, John helped found Sonalysts in 1976, a defense contractor in Waterford, Connecticut that is one of the region's largest employers today. Following his time at Sonalysts, John served in a number of positions to promote economic development in eastern Connecticut, most notably as Executive Director of the Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer).

As impressive as these achievements are, he is best and rightly remembered by the southeastern Connecticut region as the leader of the fight to save Naval Submarine Base New London from closure during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

When the submarine base was placed on the BRAC list in 2005, John activated a nonpartisan and diverse group of experts tasked with the seemingly insurmountable challenge of overturning the Pentagon's recommendation. John and his team burrowed into the data, found critical flaws, and constructed the airtight argument against closing this unique and irreplaceable naval asset.

Although I was not in Congress at the time, I vividly remember attending the Boston regional meeting of the BRAC commission in the summer of 2005. With John and his case at the lead, Connecticut's delegation picked apart the misguided decision to close the base—stressing the economic harm, the strategic impact and, most importantly, the various flaws underpinning the case to close the base.

It worked. In September 2005 the base was removed from the list and spared closure. While there were many involved in the successful effort to save the base, it was John's leadership, attention to detail, and unsparing devotion to the mission that was rightly credited with making it possible.

As importantly, John understood that the work of promoting and defending the base did not end with the decision to remove the base from the BRAC list. In the years following, John stressed the need for the creation of a state Office of Military Affairs and a historic new partnership between Connecticut and the Navy to invest in the infrastructure of the base—both of which are in place now and under way. He also worked closely with my staff and me in monitoring the latest rumors about new BRACs and following Congressional debates about submarine production like a box score.

In my years of knowing him, I always found John to be a quiet but effective professional. He never pursued the spotlight, never wanted the glory—he sought only to accomplish the mission. In his passing, eastern Connecticut has lost a fierce advocate for the "Submarine Capitol of the World" and all of us will long remember all he gave to our region and our state. His memory will live on in the thousands of people at work every day at a more modem submarine base that he helped to save—and the countless businesses and employees across the region that rely on it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of John Markowicz and sharing our condolences with the family he leaves behind.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF MINOA, NEW YORK

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to the Village of Minoa on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration. I am honored to join the Central New York community in celebrating Minoa on this historic occasion.

The Village of Minoa's founding tells an interesting story about the character of the people who have lived there and about Central New York as a whole. In 1913, during the incorporation of the Village of Minoa, a group of Minoa women banded together in solidarity to vote for incorporation in the village election. Although national law prohibited these women from voting, village law afforded them the ability to do so in this local election. These united women were able to have their voices heard several years before the 19th amendment was passed. As a result of this group's support and solidarity, Minoa officially became incorporated on January 12, 1913. The Village of Minoa demonstrates how then and now, Central New Yorkers have unlimited potential when every person has a fair shot.

For 100 years, Minoa has served as a vital part of Onondaga County and Central New York. It was a prominent railroad community for many years and continues to be a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I am grateful and fortunate to have such a vibrant community within the district I represent.

Once again, congratulations to the Village of Minoa and I wish its residents the best of luck in the next 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO DAPHNE MAYOR BAILEY YELDING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a beloved public servant who defined leadership in his community by reaching out to all points of view. I am speaking of Daphne, Alabama Mayor Bailey Yelding, who passed away on January 22, 2013, after a brief illness.

Born and raised in Daphne, Mayor Yelding loved his community so much that he never really left it. He was always proud of his home town, noting to the Mobile Press-Register, "You live and work in a place where it's all been great for you, why not love it?"

And he gave back so much to the community he loved. After graduating from the Baldwin County Training School in Daphne in 1957, and receiving a degree from Alabama State University, he set his sights on helping young people in Daphne. He soon began a career in local education that would encompass 39 years of his life, changing lives and racking up an impressive record as both a football and basketball coach.

At Baldwin County Training School, Coach Yelding earned a 49–16–1 record at the helm of the school's football program. After he transitioned to Fairhope High School in 1970, he went on to become the first African American coach of an integrated high school team in Baldwin County. As head varsity basketball coach, he led the team to a 302–130 record.

After nearly four decades of educating the young people of Baldwin County, Coach Yelding then turned his attention to a different challenge—serving his community in elected office. In 2000 he ran for and was elected to the Daphne City Council. For the next 11 years, Councilman Yelding was a reliable voice for all the people of Daphne, reaching out to his fellow councilmen and the community to put the city first.

In 2011, the Daphne City Council appointed Yelding to serve the unexpired term of Mayor Fred Small who retired early from office. In 2012, Mayor Yelding ran for a full term on the platform of experience and stability. He survived a lively campaign and a runoff in October 2012 to become Daphne's first popularly elected African American mayor.

To everyone who knew him and worked with him, Mayor Yelding was more than the chief executive of the city. He was a pillar of integrity and a consensus builder. In short—a leader. It's not surprising that he was successful in public office. He took the skills he honed as a winning football and basketball coach to city hall, forging teamwork while motivating city employees and the community to greater heights.

Mayor Yelding will be remembered not only as a trail blazer, but also as a wise and steady hand at Daphne City Hall.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I wish to extend my condolences to Mayor Yelding's family, many friends and to the people of Daphne. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.