

American Memorial Park on the neighboring island of Saipan.

American Memorial Park was established to honor the 5,204 U.S. military personnel and Northern Mariana Islanders, whose lives were lost during the Marianas Campaign, one of the most strategically significant events of World War II. The Park houses a museum that affords residents and visitors alike an opportunity to learn about the vital role of the Northern Mariana Islands in the United States' successful effort to bring World War II to a close.

The Marianas Campaign was so important because capture of the islands placed U.S. bombers within range of the Japanese homeland. B-29s were deployed from both Saipan and Tinian; and, eventually, the atomic bombs that ended the War in the Pacific were launched from the airfield on Tinian, which was at the time the largest facility in the world.

Despite the critical role of Tinian and its airfields, today there is no repository on the island for artifacts recovered from the vast military sites that were quickly abandoned at the end of the conflict. Nor is there any location at which residents and visitors to Tinian can obtain adequate information about the historically significant events that occurred there.

The proposed Tinian Annex would fill this gap. The Annex would have both a curatorial and an interpretive function. And, as conceived, the Annex would accomplish these purposes by building on National Park Service resources and infrastructure already established to manage the American Memorial Park and largely supported by a trust fund. Although the Department of Defense has said that it will seek additional funding to support a historical center on Tinian, the proposed Act also respects the limitations on federal financial resources by encouraging the use of public lands, provided by the local government, as the site of the Annex.

The need for the Tinian Annex is pressing. For decades after World War II the historically significant areas of the island remained relatively undisturbed. The U.S. military leased two-thirds of Tinian and there were only occasional training exercises on these lands. But more recently, as U.S. forces have begun to be reconfigured and realigned in the Pacific region, the tempo of activity on Tinian has increased. Lands are being developed for firing ranges, encampments sites are being enlarged, and the airfields of the 1940s are being reconstructed as part of the military's on-going readiness exercises.

Although the people of the Northern Mariana Islands certainly support this increased activity and are proud to have a role in our Nation's defense, we are also concerned that historically important artifacts that may be unearthed over the coming decades of stepped-up training will be discarded and lost without a nearby repository for their preservation. We are concerned, too, that because this military activity will at times necessarily limit physical access to large parts of the island Tinian residents and visitors will need some alternative, virtual means of learning about the role of Tinian North Field, where the atomic bomb carrying B-29s, Enola Gay and Bock's Car, lifted off and about other sites of historic significance. We are concerned that we may be losing a little bit of our Nation's and our islands' history, day by day. The purpose of my bill is to remedy this.

This is not solely the concern of those of us who live in the Northern Mariana Islands. I

would like to share with you the perspective of U.S. Marine Corps Chaplain Lt. David Jeltema who was on Tinian last September. He accompanied a Marine expeditionary unit training there. Lt. Jeltema said the visiting Marines were in awe to be in such a historically significant location and viewed Tinian as "hallowed ground." Tinian's North Field is one of those places he said he wished more people could see, "so that we can remember the tremendous power the military has and realize what an incredible responsibility it also has."

That is certainly one of the many important lessons that could be drawn by any visitor to the Tinian Annex of the American Memorial Park, which the bill I introduce today would authorize.

I want to thank the House Natural Resources Committee, which favorably reported this same legislation in the 112th Congress. I thank all those Members who are original co-sponsors of the measure today. And I ask the House to move quickly to approve the American Memorial Park Tinian Annex Act for the benefit of the future and in honor of the past.

HONORING THE LONG ISLAND REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL WINNERS FROM HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a team of talented and dedicated students from Huntington High School in my Congressional District that recently won the Long Island Regional Science Bowl held at Brookhaven National Laboratory. These students are the future of our nation's excellence in the sciences and I am so proud to recognize them today.

Captain Brian Gilbert and teammates Aron Coraor, Marc Feldman, and Jacob Roday attend Huntington High School in Huntington, NY and on Saturday January 26, 2013 were named the Long Island Regional Science Bowl winners. The young men competed against twenty other teams from high schools around the region in a Jeopardy style contest. These students will compete in the National Finals for the Science Bowl in Washington, DC in April 2013.

This success reflects the hard work of these students, but also of their mentors, Huntington High School teachers, Ms. Dame Forbes and Ms. Lori Kenny. Ms. Forbes and Ms. Kenny coached the team and helped make this success possible. It is dedicated teachers like them that make a difference in lives of students and the well being of this country. I am sure there were many long days and hours of practice that made this all possible so both of these women deserve credit for their contribution to the team as well.

The National Science Bowl is one of the largest science competitions in the country and being recognized as a finalist is an extraordinary honor. I know that Brian, Aron, Marc, and Jacob have a bright future ahead of them and I wish them nothing but success in the National Finals this spring. They should be proud of all they have achieved so far and I know they will continue to excel.

JAMIE STRONG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jamie Strong for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year Award.

Jamie, the Event Designer at Three Tomatoes Steakhouse and Club at Fossil Trace, was elected as Chair of the 2012 Golden Young Professionals and did a superb job in overseeing the development of the organization, particularly focusing on professional development and community service for members. Her dedication and ability to work with Chamber staff was fantastic.

When not at work, you will find Jaime involved with the Golden Chamber, at the Golden Community Center, or enjoying all the local hiking trails.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jamie Strong for her well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING MRS. ERMA MABRY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, eighty years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Gwinnett County, Georgia on October 29, 1932; and

Whereas, Mrs. Erma Mabry was born Erma Lyons to Mr. Willie Golden and Mrs. Bessie Ragsdale Lyons, she was educated in the local school system in Georgia, married Mr. German William Mabry and through their union was blessed with three children, one daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and one great grandchild; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mabry has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mabry along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 80th birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Mabry on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 29th, 2012 as Mrs. Erma Mabry Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of October, 2012.