

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ANTONIO MANIBUSAN PALOMO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and memorialize the life and achievements of Antonio Manibusan Palomo, who passed away on February 3, 2013. Antonio, best known as Tony, was an accomplished journalist and author, as well as a fervent public servant, and a dedicated community leader.

Tony was born on June 13, 1931 to Vicente Gogo Palomo and Delores Mendiola Manibusan. As a boy, Tony attended the Padre Palomo and Agana Elementary Schools. At the young age of 10, Tony's education was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. Surviving the invasion and occupation of Guam by the Japanese Imperial Army, Tony continued his schooling at George Washington High School, Belmont Abbey Preparatory School in Belmont, North Carolina, and Marquette University, Milwaukee Wisconsin, where he studied Journalism. While continuing his education at Marquette, Tony worked as an editorial aide for the Milwaukee Sentinel, sharpening his journalistic skills. Tony graduated from Marquette University in 1954.

After graduation, Tony returned to Guam to work for the Guam Daily News, then as publisher/editor of the Pacific Profile, as editor of the Pacific Journal, and as editor/publisher of the The Pacifican. During this time, Tony gathered as much information as he could interviewing and speaking to survivors of the Second World War. In 1984, Tony's book, *An Island in Agony*, was published. Tony never hesitated to share his vast knowledge and love of Guam history with many people, speaking on many occasions at different venues, and teaching at the University of Guam.

Tony's ever-expanding knowledge of Guam and its government and his public speaking skills led him into public service in the political arena. Recruited by the Republican Party of Guam, Tony was elected into the 12th, 14th, and 15th Guam Legislatures where he chaired the Committee on Rules. He chaired the 15th Guam Legislature's Committee on Federal-Territorial Relations and was also a member of the Commission on Self-Determination. Always interested in federal-territorial relations, Tony was elected as president of Guam's First Constitutional Convention, tasked with the development of a constitution for Guam, which would also strengthen the island's relations with the Federal government. With all of this experience, Tony was well qualified to serve as the U.S. Department of the Interior's Guam Field Representative until his retirement in 1994.

I am deeply saddened by Tony's death and know that many people on Guam and through-

out the Pacific are mourning the loss of this statesman, diplomat, and friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Margarita Balajadia Palomo, their ten children, Antonio Rafael, Viviana Margarita (deceased), Victoria Maria, Roman Vicente, Juan Pedro, Simeon Francisco, Jose Geraldo, Verona Dolores, Eloy Benigno, and Nicholas Sylvestre; 16 grandchildren; one great grandchild; and one great grandchild on the way, family, and friends. Tony will be missed by all who knew him and his legacy will live on through his family, his work, and his cultural contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN ON SUCCESSFUL SATELLITE LAUNCH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to congratulate our close friend and ally, Azerbaijan, on the occasion of the successful launch of their first satellite (Azerspace-1). Built in the United States, by Orbital Sciences Corporation, this historic event is yet another testament to the expanding relationship between our two countries and will provide important communications services to Azerbaijan, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa. The launch of Azerspace-1 is the culmination of hard work and cooperation between the Government of Azerbaijan and the US private sector. Along with recent purchases of aircraft from Boeing, Azerbaijan has placed their confidence in the United States aeronautics and aerospace sectors to help foster greater economic development. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on this historic event.

JOSHUA BEDELL TO COMPETE IN THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION IN CNC MILLING

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Mr. Joshua Bedell. Through perseverance and commitment to his skill, Bedell will represent the United States at the International WorldSkills Competition in CNC Milling in Leipzig, Germany.

Bedell was recently awarded the silver medal in CNC Milling in November at the WorldSkills America's competition in Brazil. At this event, The United States competed against 23 other countries in preparation for the WorldSkills Competition.

In June of 2011, Bedell won the college/postsecondary gold medal in CNC Milling at the SkillsUSA Championships.

The program, SkillsUSA, strives to impose and teach leadership, citizenship and character development during technical training. The organization highlights their respect for work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship, and safety.

To compete at the international CNC Milling competition, every candidate must complete a project that contains a minimum of three modules. Each module requires the competitor to develop a CNC program from a complex drawing using MasterCam, to set up a machining center that will assemble the final part.

During the WorldSkills CNC Milling contest, Bedell, along with other competitors, must create the CNC program based on drawings while utilizing a CAM system. Competitors, themselves, must select and mount tools for competition.

Every two years, hundreds of young people from 53 member countries, or regions, compete in the prestigious WorldSkills Competition. The contestants are then judged in front of the public in contests that are run and judged by industries that use international standards. Competing in the event truly symbolizes excellence in the craft.

The WorldSkills International has come to symbolize pure expertise in vocational training.

Joshua Bedell is one of only 20 members of the World team, all who must be under the age of 23, who will represent the United States of America at the World Skills competition.

As Bedell prepares to compete at the CNC Milling competition, I offer him my best wishes as he represents our proud nation and proves the dedication to his craft in Leipzig, Germany at the biennial WorldSkills Competition.

ROTA CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to report to Congress on the feasibility and suitability of designating certain areas on the island of Rota as a unit of our magnificent national parks system. This same measure passed the House in both the 111th and the 112th Congresses. I hope that we can quickly bring the bill to the floor in the 113th Congress for passage again and send the measure back to the other body for its agreement.

The cultural and natural resources of Rota merit our persistence. In 2005 a National Park Service reconnaissance survey determined

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that these resources meet the standards of national significance and are not adequately represented anywhere else in our national parks. The next step in the very thorough and methodical process of choosing which areas of our Nation should become part of the system is the determination of feasibility and suitability, which my bill authorizes.

Rota's cultural resources are truly unique. People first arrived on the island some 3,500 years ago. Remnants of their ancient settlements are found at several sites and include the iconic latte stone houses. These consist of two parallel rows of limestone columns with each column supporting a hemispherical capstone upon which a wooden framed house was placed. A quarry for these columns and capstones is also among the archaeologically important sites that could eventually be part of a Rota National Park.

Also of national significance are Rota's natural resources, not least of which is the native limestone forest there that provides habitat to the endangered Mariana crow, the Aga. This rare species is protected under both local and federal laws; and its future could be further assured if areas of its already limited range were incorporated into a park.

The Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act was passed by the House in both the 111th and 112th Congress with broad bipartisan support. One important reminder made then and worth repeating is that passage of the Act gives the Rota study no special preference. There are other suitability and feasibility studies, which Congress has approved and which are waiting in turn for the National Park Service to have the resources to conduct. The bill I am introducing simply ensures that the island of Rota is in that queue.

That is not to say there is no urgency to completing a study. Rota is very much at a crossroads. Land use changes are taking place that could affect eventual park boundaries. Rare and endangered species, such as the Aga, would be safer with the permanent protection of a park. The economy of Rota, which could be developed around themes of eco-tourism, needs a high value destination that park designation would provide. These are some of the many reasons that the people of Rota support the park study and why I am introducing the bill today.

I want to thank all those Members who are original cosponsors of the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act. And I want to thank the hundreds of House Members who voted in favor of this study in the 111th and 112th Congresses. I ask that you do so again, when this bill returns to the floor in the 113th Congress

ART ON THE BRIX

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alyssa Graves, owner of Art on the Brix for receiving the Business of the Year Award from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

This award is given to an outstanding chamber member that has contributed substantially to the Chamber of Commerce community.

Art on the Brix combines low stress art classes in a playful setting. With the attitude of "go outside the lines", Art on the Brix inspires all types of people to relax and get creative. Alyssa Graves had a dream to bring an artistic experience to Golden and she has achieved just that.

I extend my deepest congratulations and appreciation to Alyssa Graves and Art on the Brix for this well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt her commitment to the people of Golden has made our community a better place for all of us to live.

TRIBUTE TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DES MOINES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Junior League of Des Moines (JLDM) for being selected as the 2013 organizational inductee to the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. The Junior League of Des Moines is being recognized for their efforts as outstanding Iowans who have selflessly given their time and talents to benefit their state.

Obtaining a coveted induction to the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame is the most prestigious statewide honor a volunteer can attain. Members of this exclusive club have changed their communities forever through their volunteer service and will be forever enshrined in the State Historical Museum.

In 1926, Mrs. Ruth Wallace Wijkman founded the Junior Social Service League of Des Moines with a mere 10 members. In 1931, Wijkman's organization of humble beginnings would formally affiliate with the Association of Junior Leagues to become the Junior League of Des Moines. Today, after more than 80 years, the JLDM is stronger than ever with hundreds of members that remain committed to the mission of tirelessly building a better community. Whether the task at hand is education and caring for children, expanding opportunities for young people in Des Moines, or building playgrounds with their bare hands, the JLDM is never shy when it comes to improving the world around them.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this extraordinary group of women demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and service. The Junior League of Des Moines' efforts truly embody the Iowa spirit, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating the JLDM on their award, thanking them for their service, and wishing them future success as they continue to change lives.

ARBOR DAY 2013—CITY OF HOUSTON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret not being able to be here in Memorial Park with all

of you this morning, but I am joining you in celebration today from Washington, DC. Memorial Park is my favorite place to run. The three-mile, crushed granite trail was once shaded and surrounded by the most beautiful trees. As you all know, the 2011 Texas drought took its toll and because of it, there's one thing that is becoming more and more noticeably absent: our Texas trees.

In 2006, I obtained \$28.5 million in funding for beautification, erosion prevention and flood-control programs in the Houston area. One year later, over 20,000 trees were planted along Will Clayton and Highway 59. Thousands more trees have been planted along Houston Freeway, which I call Treeways. Many of the trees were planted by civic groups and non-profits. Apache Corporation was one of the groups that donated thousands of trees. I want to thank the thousands of volunteers who showed up that rainy, muddy morning during a Texas Gully Washer to help plant trees. Today, the trees are maturing and thriving—I smile every time I see them. I now refer to our highways as treeways.

I support the goals and ideals of National Arbor Day, and I wholeheartedly support the planting as well as the management of healthy trees in our community. I would like to recognize the City of Houston, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Memorial Park Conservancy, Apache Corporation and the citizens of Houston as they celebrate the value and beauty of trees in our community. By planting trees today, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure the quality of life for those who come after us.

In 2009, Mayor Bill White started the Million Trees + Houston program. The goal was to plant more than a million new trees in the City of Houston, and today, Houston Parks and Recreation along with Apache Corporation will plant its 3 millionth tree.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANNA MURPHY, OF STAFFORD SPRINGS AND HANNA DE BRUYN, OF OLD LYME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of two Connecticut students being recognized for their contributions to their communities. Anna Murphy, 11, and Hanna De Bruyn, 16, have been selected by the Prudential Spirit of Service awards for their commitment to community service and the impact of their efforts.

First, I recognize state honoree and top-two finalist from the State of Connecticut, Anna Murphy of Stafford Springs. Anna led a fundraising effort through a penny drive to help local families heat their homes during harsh New England winters. So far, Anna has raised more than \$1,400. It is a yearly tradition in Anna's family to collect pennies to donate to families to pay for heating oil. Inspired by that example, Anna organized her classmates and local business to contribute to the fund, so far filling the gas tanks in two homes. For her contributions, Anna will receive \$1,000, a trip to Washington, DC in May and an engraved silver medallion.

Next, I recognize distinguished finalist Hanna De Bruyn of Old Lyme, Connecticut. A student at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, Hanna raised more than \$25,000 for children with rare brain cancers by hosting yearly races beginning in 2010. The funds have been donated through Caroline's Miracle Foundation, a local organization started by the family of a young child suffering from one of these afflictions. For her efforts, Hanna will be awarded with an engraved bronze medallion.

The Prudential Spirit of Service awards have promoted youth volunteer work and recognized students whose efforts have helped families and causes in their communities. The organization reviews a pool of nearly 5,000 candidates from across the nation nominated by elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as other civic organizations. Created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the awards emphasize the importance our Nation places on service to others and encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Hanna De Bruyn, Anna Murphy, and the rest of these distinguished honorees from Connecticut and across the Nation, for their contributions to their communities and for embodying the core value of service that we all share.

HONORING ED MOODY, "MR. FRANKLIN"

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader, a great citizen, and a great man. Ed Moody, "Mr. Franklin," was a dear friend to many and a guiding force to a wonderful community. All those who knew him will miss him.

World War II veteran, owner of Moody Tires, and Elder Emeritus of The People's Church, Ed Moody dedicated his life to the service of others. He was a member of the Franklin Noon Rotary Club, trustee for the Williamson County Hospital, and served on the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce. From the YMCA to the Franklin Rodeo, there are not many areas of life in Williamson County that have not been touched by Ed Moody's admirable dedication.

There are those souls, Mr. Speaker, whose lights guide the way even after they are dimmed. Ed Moody's legacy will be one of great influence and will shape the future of Williamson County for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the life and service of "Mr. Franklin" as we offer our sympathies to Eileen and their family.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
CONNOR MULLEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Connor Mullen of

Boy Scout Troop 152 in Adel, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Connor coordinated the construction of a permanent structure for his high school's band director to use for rehearsals during the marching band season. This structure will ensure the director's safety as it facilitates greater instruction through a "bird's eye view." The work ethic Connor has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Connor's remarkable accomplishment represents more than a decade of commitment to the Boy Scouts—and his achievement is made all the more incredible by his triumph over leukemia. I am honored to represent Connor and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING COLT A. NUTTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colt A. Nutter. Colt is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1171, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colt has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colt has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 65 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Colt has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Colt led a crew of 16 scouts and adults in cleaning brush and trees from Keller Cemetery in Clay County, Missouri. Additionally, the team fenced and gated the cemetery and recovered burial stones lost in the overgrowth.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Colt A. Nutter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING F. JOSEPH LOUGHREY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of one of my constituents, F. Joseph Loughrey, the incoming chairman of the board of Hillenbrand, Inc. headquartered in Batesville, Indiana.

This month, Mr. Loughrey will assume the chairmanship of the board of directors of Hillenbrand, Inc. He has served as a director of the company since early 2009. That same year, he retired from Cummins Inc., headquartered in Columbus, Indiana, after serving 35 years in a variety of roles, most recently as vice chairman of the board of directors and as the company's president and chief operating officer. Mr. Loughrey served on the Cummins board from 2005 until 2009 and previously served as a director of Tower Automotive, Inc. and Sauer-Danfoss, Inc.

Mr. Loughrey currently serves on a number of boards, including as chairman for Conexus Indiana and as a member of the boards of AB SKF, Vanguard Group, Lumina Foundation for Education, the V Foundation for Cancer Research, and Oxfam America. He is also chairman of the advisory council to the College of Arts & Letters at the University of Notre Dame, where he additionally serves on the advisory board to the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating Mr. Loughrey for his upcoming tenure as chairman of the board of Hillenbrand, Inc. For more than a century, the Hillenbrand companies have served as a staple in the Indiana and American corporate landscape, premiering innovative products in the funeral services, medical, and engineering industries. Joseph's leadership will continue to be a vital part of that success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP MLK CONTEST WINNERS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Deptford Township Martin Luther King Jr. contest winners. These students, as well as all who participated in the contest, celebrated the life an achievement of one of our nation's most influential leaders. As we advance as a nation, it is of the utmost importance to always take the time to appreciate and reflect upon the figures who sacrificed for the betterment of our country. This annual contest serves as a great reminder of the progress we have made, as well as the struggle that made that progress possible. The following are the winners of this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration contest:

Marcus Henriquez, Charlotte Lawrence, Sabrina Mannino, Cara Murphy, Jazmine Tucker, Julianna Wintersteen, Mackenzie Wurst, Ava Yelverton, Ashley Currie, Ingenue McBeth, Faith McCoy, Landon Sentak, Kennedy Davis, Aidan Doerr, Hanna Shein, Darrin

Bryant, Carl Carter, Isabella Conneaney, Chelsea Moore, Julia Rafferty, Victoria Delgado, Alaina Foy, Emma Fisher, Danica Godshall, Ethan Kindt, Mya Christian, Michael Faulls, Julia Guevara, Yukta Narayan, Simran Kaur, Olivia Voit, Xavier Woods, Briana Culbert, David Maturro, Bellarose Bostwick, Ashlee Jarmen, Malcolm Miller, Zachary Morgan, Morgan Warren, Amaris Bussie, Olivia Jaci, Ileanna Jones, Daisy Schreiner, Jade Rivera, Farrah Sacharok, Ciara Blas, Joshua DeGuzman, Alina Hoover, Jania Long, Juliana Pit, Hailey Fair, Alexandra Lowry, Santos Diaz, Tehya Dickinson, Anaya Jones, Jacqueline Reagan, Emily Reed, Chloe Reyes, Donovan Clement, Brendan Connor, Gianna McIntyre, Tianna Smith, Rocco Laltrella Bruce, Asiya Robinson, Kimberly Sorbello, Marco Viloria, Gianna Wolfe, Olivia Devine, Camryn Ransom, Hunter Young, Colin Schumacher, Angel Mangini, Nicholas Marengo, Hailey Parker, Sydney Shute, Ashley Baresich, Christopher Deeley, Jaiana Ray, Ashley Scheld, John Cooper, Megan Grace, Nathan Jackson, Mariela Dimalaluan, Deziree Faith Johannesen, Devon Moss, Millicent Sannoh.

CONGRATULATING SHRI
NARENDRA MODI ON HIS RE-
ELECTION AS CHIEF MINISTER
OF GUJARAT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, in one of my first acts of the 113th Congress as the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific which has broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including India, I rise today to congratulate Shri Narendra Modi on his reelection as Chief Minister of India's Gujarat state.

Shri Modi's new term as Chief Minister will be his fourth—an historic achievement for the Honorable Narendra Modi and his some 60 million constituents, as no other CM has served Gujarat for as many terms. Shri Modi became the longest-serving CM of Gujarat in 2007.

Since 2001, CM Modi has led a decade of unprecedented growth and development in Gujarat. Because of his extraordinary leadership, Gujarat is now an economic powerhouse with companies like Ford and General Motors also setting up factories in a move that promises to strengthen U.S.-India trade and investment.

I thank Mr. Sanjay Puri, founder and President of the Alliance for U.S.-India Business (AUSIB), for the outstanding work he has done and continues to do in the U.S. Congress to promote U.S.-Gujarat trade and the Vibrant Gujarat initiative which has become an example of CM Modi's visionary approach for inclusive development.

CM Modi's philosophy of bringing development to "the doorstep of every poor person, every farmer, every worker" is a philosophy that resonates beyond the boundaries of Gujarat because it is a philosophy that transcends caste, culture, regional and religious differences.

I believe CM Modi's approach to empowerment is why Gujarat is now the global gateway

to India. His philosophy of inclusiveness is the reason why delegates from more than 121 countries attended the Vibrant Gujarat 2013 Summit to explore business opportunities and forge strategic partnerships. It is the reason why voters support Shri Modi time and again.

Shri Modi's vision is rare. His leadership is remarkable. But his connection to Mahatma Gandhi is what strikes me most. Gujarat is Gandhi's land. By providence or otherwise, it is also the land where Shri Modi serves. As such, it is little wonder that Gujarat State, having historically given leadership to the entire Nation and now ranked first in economic freedom in India, continues to brighten the hopes and dreams of so many.

With such accomplishment, it is my sincere hope that the United States will take a new look at Gujarat and support more openly and fully the ideas of CM Modi as he works for the betterment of the world's economy by creating jobs at home and abroad for purposes of improving the lives of people across the globe.

HONORING JORDAN K. DONNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan K. Donner. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan K. Donner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN
VOLUNTARY PROTECTION
PROGRAM ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, Rep. GENE GREEN and I are introducing the bipartisan Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Act to make permanent one of the federal government's most successful workplace health and safety programs.

This legislation would codify a successful program, the Voluntary Protection Program, operated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that recognizes and rewards employers who voluntarily work to improve the health and safety of their workplaces. The program is currently operating but has never been authorized in law and was proposed to be cut by the Obama administra-

tion's fiscal year 2011 budget. While the administration backed away from those cuts in its more recent budget proposals, this legislation would put the program on a more solid foundation by specifically authorizing it in law.

Since the VPP was created in 1982, it has grown to include more than 2,200 worksites and more than 921,000 employees. A 2007 report noted that federal VPP worksites saved the government more than \$59 million by avoiding injuries and that private sector VPP participants saved more than \$300 million. Participating workplaces have an illness and injury rate that, on average, is 50 percent below that of their industry.

Business owners in my district have reported to me that the relationship between OSHA and businesses has become more adversarial over the past couple years. While OSHA does have a responsibility to enforce workplace safety laws, it has been my experience that most employers want to run safe workplaces. The VPP program provides a mechanism for OSHA to build a more constructive relationship with employers who have demonstrated a willingness to invest in workplace safety. This creates an incentive for other employers to follow suit, improving safety and saving money on enforcement costs at the same time.

I hope that our colleagues will join us in authorizing this bipartisan and successful workplace safety program.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INDO-
NESIAN FAMILY REFUGEE PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleagues, Rep. FRANK PALLONE JR., Rep. CHRIS SMITH, Rep. LUIS GUTIERREZ, Rep. MADELEINE BORDALLO, Rep. RUSH HOLT, which would simply allow Christian Indonesian citizens fleeing persecution, many of whom arrived during a five-year timeframe (January 1, 1997–November 30, 2002) and were denied asylum solely for missing the one-year filing deadline, the opportunity to reopen their claims during the two-year period following enactment.

Beginning in 1997, many Indonesian Christians fled religious persecution in Indonesia, where extreme violence and destruction of churches drove them from their homes. These individuals came to this country, seeking relief from extreme violence and persecution for their religious beliefs, but were unable to make the one-year filing deadline. They deserve the opportunity to have their claims heard.

The United States has long sought to protect refugees fleeing persecution and provide a process to fairly consider their claims. This bill does not, in itself, grant asylum, but merely removes a procedural barrier to their claims being considered. These individuals seeking asylum deserve a second chance to avoid the persecution they have fled and remain united with their families.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY
OF PORTAGE, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the City of Portage, Michigan—A Natural Place to Move.

On February 18, 1963, residents of Portage Township voted 3,762 to 2,315 in favor of becoming a city. On December 31, 1963, the City of Portage was formally incorporated. From just over 20,000 residents in 1963, Portage is now home to over 46,000. Historically, Portage grew as a crossroads for traders in the 19th century and benefitted from fertile farmland and abundant natural resources.

Today, Portage is a vibrant community with affordable, safe housing in well-maintained neighborhoods; hundreds of successful commercial and industrial businesses; and is the retail crossroads of southwest Michigan. This strong, diverse community is family-focused and proudly boasts over 2,000 acres of park and recreational space, 56 miles of bikeways, three nature preserves and seven lakes that connect its citizens and visitors to each other and the natural world.

The City of Portage is a robust community that excels with an accredited public safety department, low tax rate, accredited senior citizen center, comprehensive and efficient city services, diverse employment opportunities, an excellent public school system, award-winning district library and world-class healthcare that together facilitate an economic climate that allows Portage residents to thrive. Quite simply, it is a great place to live, work, and play.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the City of Portage and applaud the city on its 50th anniversary. A momentous milestone for a remarkable community.

HONORING ADAM E. COCKRIEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adam E. Cockriel. Adam is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Adam has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Adam has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Adam E. Cockriel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL YOUNG
REPUBLICANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last November, we once again witnessed a remarkably low turn-out among this nation's youth. Sadly, the majority of the youngest demographic group, our nation's future, Republican and Democrat alike, failed to take part in the democratic process. I met a group of young high school students trying to buck that trend.

The Bellaire High School Young Republicans, led by Michelle Knesbach, Jennifer Knesbach, and Michael Scheinthal, push to create a spirit of activism at their high school, in the city of Houston, and around the state of Texas. At the age of fourteen, these three students began working on local campaigns, block walking on weekends and helping fundraise on school nights. Soon after, the three started the High School Republicans of Texas, an official auxiliary of the state party which focuses on giving a voice to those too young to vote, and encourages activism among their schoolmates. Through voter registration drives and get out the vote campaigns in their community, the Bellaire High School Republicans engage young people in the political process, making a difference on Election Day.

I met this group at a dinner I spoke at and was impressed by their initiative. I was invited to speak at their school, and when I walked into the building, taking me back to the days of too much homework and pop quizzes, I was surprised that around 300 students came to the event during their lunch break. We had a discussion, about Hamas, about drug cartels, about policy and bipartisanship, topics that I often find bore people twice their age; yet they were intrigued. An age group, often overlooked, often deemed to not care, was just as fascinated, cared just as much, about these vital topics as anyone. The Bellaire Young Republicans and the High School Republicans of Texas are changing the status quo by inspiring their classmates to avoid being a part of another disappointing statistic.

Campaign events of the future will be full of young faces. Students too young to vote learn that they can make a difference, impact their state, and impact their country. Further merit should be credited to the Bellaire Young Republicans as they fight for ideas that are widely rejected by their peers as they work to end the "youth involvement drought" slowly eroding the Republican Party and the Conservative Movement. Looking into the young crowd, I knew there was hope for my party and for my country.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce legislation that would reestablish the

legal public holiday for Washington's Birthday from the third Monday of February to the actual date of George Washington's birth on February 22.

I have long admired President Washington and have found inspiration in public service from studying his life. Unfortunately, I have found that students today have a dearth of knowledge about our nation's beginnings and the man from Virginia who led the colonies to form the union known as the United States of America.

In 2011, two-time Pulitzer Prize winning history author David McCullough observed, "We're raising young people who are, by and large, historically illiterate." How can we adequately explain the importance of George Washington to our children when we do not even take time to recognize his actual birthday? We must reestablish Washington's Birthday on the 22nd to honor his legacy and in doing so call upon schools across the nation to focus on Washington as the soldier, legislator and president who shepherded our young nation through war, political turmoil, rebellion and expansion as no other single individual was capable of doing.

I believe Congress has unwittingly contributed to this lack of historical understanding by relegating Washington's Birthday to the third Monday of February to take advantage of a three-day weekend. We need to change the focus from celebrating sales at the mall to celebrating the significance of President Washington's birth to the birth of our nation.

There is a reason the birthday of President George Washington is the only legal federal holiday observed for a president of the United States. He is called the "father of our country" because he is without compare in our nation's history.

Washington's Birthday has been celebrated since the final days of the Revolutionary War. French and American troops paraded through Newport, Rhode Island, in 1781 and celebrations were held in Richmond, Virginia, in 1782. Organized by French General Rochambeau and others who knew him personally, these celebrations drew special attention to the bravery, courage, leadership and perseverance of the Revolutionary War hero.

From the beginning of our country, the importance of this day has been recognized. As President James Buchanan said in 1860, ". . . when the birthday of Washington shall be forgotten, liberty will have perished from the earth." In response, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed legislation in 1879 that made Washington's Birthday a holiday for District federal workers. The holiday was extended to all federal workers in 1885.

This legislation I reintroduce today is not without precedent. In 1975, Congress amended the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation into law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in November to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.

The Uniform Holiday Bill signed in 1968 and effective in 1971 was intended to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day. Originally called Armistice Day to mark the signing of an Armistice on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918 that ended World War

l, the date of November 11 holds historic and patriotic significance as a day of thanks and remembrance for all veterans. The law change brought widespread public protest and 46 states refused to recognize any day other than November 11 to honor the sacrifice made first by World War I veterans and subsequently by all veterans.

The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day as a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Likewise, we need to restore the observance of Washington's Birthday to February 22 to preserve the date of his birth for history and to focus attention on his life of service and duty to his country. Even George Washington's home state of Virginia, where he was born and raised, which he served in elected office, where he accepted General Cornwallis' surrender, and where he is buried, celebrates Washington's Birthday in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. I believe all school children in every state should dedicate February 22 each year to learning about our greatest leader, foremost patriot, first president and the only six-star general in the nation's history.

Posterity has shown that the traditions he started, including civilian control of the military and presidential term limits, have distinguished our government from so many failed countries born in revolution from the colonial powers of the 18th century. President Washington exemplifies the best that America and Americans have to offer the world; principled leadership, personal bravery, a sense of duty and public service, patriotism, recognition of our unique role in world history, and a reverence for his Creator. His enduring service deserves to be remembered on his actual birthday.

My legislation is supported by George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Executive Director Jim Rees said, "The holiday was far more meaningful when it revolved around George Washington, and schools were able to focus on his sterling example of character and leadership."

I am extremely pleased that David McCullough supports my legislation as well. His letter, copied below, says "Celebrating George Washington's Birthday on February 22 is a simple, solid, self-evident statement of respect for one of the greatest of all Americans, for his whole founding generation, and for so much that we owe them."

The legislation is also supported by other prominent authors and scholars that have published extensive works on Washington's life. Scholar and history professor Gordon Wood stated "I agree wholeheartedly that Washington's Birthday ought to be separated from the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. He is unique as a president and founder." In addition, my legislation is supported by noted Washington historian Ron Chernow, historians Peter Henriques and Richard Brookhiser and history professors from the University of Georgia, LaSalle University, James Madison University and Brandeis University.

Mr. Speaker, it is only right that we hold February 22 as a date of reverence to commemorate the unique person without whom the tide of American history may well have

taken a different turn. I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this legislation to forever honor President George Washington's Birthday.

JANUARY 19, 2012.

DEAR MR. WOLF: The place of George Washington in the American story, his all-important example of courage and integrity in leadership, can hardly be overstated and must never be taken lightly.

Nor should we celebrate his birthday on any day but February 22, any more than we would wish to move July 4 about to suit some convenience of the moment.

How can it reasonably be argued otherwise?

Celebrating George Washington's birthday on February 22 is a simple, solid, self-evident statement of respect for one of the greatest of all Americans, for his whole founding generation, and for so much that we owe them.

Sincerely,

DAVID McCULLOUGH.

WE MUST TAKE STRONG ACTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, John F. Kennedy said, "When written in Chinese, the word 'crisis' is comprised of two characters. One represents danger and the other represents opportunity." Those words ring true with regard to perhaps the greatest crisis facing our world: climate change. We face imminent and continuing danger, but we also have an opportunity to change course and leave behind a better planet for future generations.

Global warming is happening. The ten hottest years on earth since 1880 have all occurred since 1997. According to the New York Times, 2012 was the hottest year ever in the continental United States, a full degree hotter (in terms of average temperature) than the previous record. More than 60 percent of the country, including much of the Midwest, experienced severe drought. Wildfires spread throughout areas of the western United States, and severe storms ravaged the east coast.

We face serious danger. Over the next few centuries, sea levels could rise an average of 12 feet, swallowing coastal areas in the U.S. and around the world. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, drought and famine could lead to decreased water availability, increased starvation, and new instability in many regions of the world—particularly Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

This crisis presents an opportunity. This Congress has a unique ability to take leadership in addressing what is a planetary problem for us right now. We can act now, or we can let our opportunity pass by. The choice should be clear.

I support a comprehensive approach to climate change. I was a strong proponent for the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which passed the House in 2009. That legislation would have introduced a renewable energy standard, subsidized important research and development of clean technologies and energy efficiency, and created a cap and trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It would have had a significant impact in curb-

ing the warming of our planet, and I believe it should be the model for action taken in the current congress.

As a member of the Environment and the Economy subcommittee and of the Waxman-Whitehouse climate change task force, I will continue to push for comprehensive and immediate action. I promise to collaborate with anyone from either side of the aisle to work toward constructive and meaningful solutions. We must act together to forge a legislative solution to this crisis while we can still do something about it.

The time is now. This is our moment—all of us—Republicans and Democrats. We must act to preserve and protect the planet for our children and grandchildren, and for their children and grandchildren. We cannot afford to be on the wrong side of history.

HONORING CHASE LEE BEELER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chase Lee Beeler. Chase is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chase has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chase has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Chase has led his troop in various positions including Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Foxman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Chase has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Chase designed and constructed six benches out of recycled telephone poles and installed a flag pole for Hillcrest Transitional Housing in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chase Lee Beeler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LTC WILLIAM ANTON

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize the exemplary service and outstanding achievements of LTC William Anton, a member of the Army Ranger Hall of Fame and a resident of southern Nevada.

LTC Anton was recently awarded the prestigious Knowlton Award—an honor recognizing significant contributions in the field of Army intelligence—by our nation's Military Intelligence Corps.

After serving with distinction in Vietnam, service which earned him a 2009 induction

into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame, Bill began a career in Army intelligence.

In 1979, while in command of an electronic warfare company, Bill developed a key intelligence-gathering tool that was still being used a decade later during Operation Desert Storm.

The details of the intelligence system Bill developed are still considered classified but rest assured it was an asset to our troops in battle and may have saved American lives as it gathered intelligence on our enemies.

The Knowlton Award was named after Revolutionary War hero LTC Thomas Knowlton of Connecticut who was commissioned by George Washington to raise a regiment to perform desperate and delicate intelligence services and LTC Bill Anton has exemplified this tradition with his service to our country.

I congratulate LTC Bill Anton on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF RICHARD SCHNELLER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great solemnity to share with you the recent death of Richard Schneller.

Richard "Dick" Schneller, a tireless Connecticut resident who celebrated his 90th birthday just last March, leaves behind a storied life of service to his family, his state, and his country. A native of Essex, Dick attended Mount Hermon School and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale University in 1943. Following graduation, Dick served his country with the United States Navy as a Lieutenant and participated in several South Pacific D-Day island invasions. After his military discharge, Dick applied his skills to his family's business, becoming President of The Verplex Company in 1952 and serving until 1972.

Dick proudly served his community and his government as a five-term State Senator representing Connecticut's 20th Senatorial district. From the time he entered the State Senate in 1975 until his departure in 1984, Dick maintained a fierce dedication to service of his state and his community. As a State Senator, Dick served successively on a number of committees, including the Education Committee and the Appropriations Committee. He served as chairman of the State Urban and Development Committee. Dick also held the title of Senate Majority Leader for the final three years of his tenure in the State Senate.

In addition to his commitment to the betterment of Connecticut government, Dick also played significant administrative roles in a broad range of local institutions. In his home town of Essex, Dick served for seven years as Chairman of the Essex Democratic Town Committee, was a member of the Essex Board of Finance, and was a member and chairman of the Regional District #4 Board of Education. He was also Charter President of the Essex Rotary Club and Founding Treasurer of the Essex Community Fund. Some of his other involvements in local organizations

include his work as Trustee of the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Conservation Association, Middlesex Hospital, Connecticut College, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Mount St. John's School and the Middlesex County Y.M.C.A.. Dick proudly served as the President and Chairman on the Board of the Goodspeed Opera House.

Dick recognized the importance and inherent value in serving in a community, through his commitment to service in government, and also through his devotion to his local congregation, the Congregation Beth Shalom, of which he was a lifelong member.

On a personal note, Dick was a generous mentor for me and many others of a younger generation, serving in the Connecticut General Assembly. He imparted experience and good judgment to us all and was a great inspiration for those of us thinking about entering public service.

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

HONORING JIM SWEENEY

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Representative COSTA and Representative VALADAO, to honor the life and career of Jim Sweeney, who passed away on February 8, 2013. Mr. Sweeney was the legendary coach of the Fresno State football team, leading the Bulldogs for nearly two decades and leaving an indelible imprint on his team, his school, and his community.

The son of a hardscrabble miner, Mr. Sweeney worked in the mines during his college summers. Afterward, he coached high school football for several years in his native Montana and then became an assistant coach of the Montana State Bobcats in 1960. Appointed head coach in 1963, he served five years in that position and eight years as head coach of the Washington State Cougars before becoming head coach at Fresno State, the position that would define his career.

During his nineteen years at Fresno State, interrupted by a two-year stint on the coaching staffs of the Oakland Raiders and St. Louis Cardinals, Mr. Sweeney elevated the Bulldogs to national prominence. A charismatic, no-nonsense leader, he brought an infectious enthusiasm to the entire community and inspired fierce loyalty in his players. He implanted an enduring team spirit with his resounding renditions of team fight songs and his inception of the "Bulldog born, Bulldog bred" chant that players still invoke today. In Fresno, Mr. Sweeney won eight conference titles and five bowl games on his way to amassing 144 victories, the most of any head coach in Bulldog history. Among his many well-deserved accolades, the team's football field was renamed in his honor.

Personifying excellence, hard-work, and integrity, Mr. Sweeney was well-loved in his

community and is a true California icon. His trademark wit and unceasing passion will be missed by the legions of fans and admirers he has left behind.

HONORING CRAIG SCOTT
GRISWOLD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Craig Scott Griswold. Craig is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 345, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Craig has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Craig has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Craig has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Craig designed and constructed new stairs and landings for the One-Room Schoolhouse operated by the Putnam County Historical Society at the City Park in Unionville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Craig Scott Griswold for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MIKE WALKER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the mark of a great community is found in its leadership. Hard working, always professional, and dedicated to long-term vision are the key qualities of a strong local leader. For the past 23 years, Brentwood, Tennessee has had the great honor of Mike Walker's leadership as City Manager.

Mike Walker has a strong history in leading and leading well. Serving as the administrative head of Brentwood's municipal government, Mike has been responsible for full service government including a \$60 million annual budget and 250 employees. In addition to his outstanding service to the City of Brentwood, Mike's legacy of excellence reaches to Oak Ridge, Knoxville, and the International City/County Management Association.

It takes a great number of talented people to keep a city running. Keeping such an excellent city like Brentwood on the right track requires more than talent; it requires excellence, dedication, and leadership. The City of Brentwood has been lucky to have Mike Walker leading the way. I ask my colleagues to join with me, Linda, Lauren, Evan, and Travis, in celebrating Mike's outstanding legacy of service and commitment.

NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the National Guard State Partnership Program, SPP, Enhancement Act which strengthens and expands this critical capacity building program. The National Guard provides unique capacity building capabilities to Combatant Commanders and U.S. Ambassadors via 65 comprehensive partnerships between National Guard units across the United States and partner nations. The SPP directly supports the broad national interests and security cooperation goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels. The program's public diplomacy effectiveness lies in its ability to leverage the full breadth and depth of U.S. defense and interagency capabilities from within the state-country relationship.

The goals of the program reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard emphasizing its unique state-federal and civil-military characteristics to interact with both the active and reserve forces of foreign nations, interagency partners, and international nongovernmental organizations. The value of the SPP lies in its ability to concentrate a small component of the U.S. defense structure—a state's National Guard—on a single country or region in support of U.S. Government policies and objectives. This concentrated focus supports the development of long term personal relationships and interagency coordination mechanisms that would not otherwise exist.

The SPP has the potential of being increasingly more important tool for Combatant Commanders and U.S. Ambassadors in achieving long-term US objectives. The program has developed from assistance and partnership with primarily Eastern European nations to a program that supports all the non-CONUS combatant commanders. Of particular interest to me are the opportunities that SPP poses for our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. I believe the SPP brings unique capabilities to US Pacific Command in expanding and strengthening bilateral relations with many Asian and Pacific nations. The program can help to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to the region and our allies.

The bill I introduce today helps the SPP by codifying the program's use of funding and spells out the roles that National Guard units can play in their capacity building. The legislation is needed to ensure the program meets its intended goals. The legislation first establishes the process through which funds appropriated to the National Guard may be used to support the program's goals. This is merely a codification of Department of Defense guidance and National Guard Bureau process. Additionally, the legislation outlines the mechanism through which partnerships may be requested and approved. The bill ensures that Department of Defense, a state National Guard and Department of State's equities are considered in the context of broader program goals. Finally, the legislation expands the roles

that a National Guard may perform when in support of the State Partnership Program. The capabilities and missions outlined in this legislation leverage the very unique capabilities inherent in the National Guard which would strengthen our relations with allies and nations across the globe. The dual role of the National Guard provides them a unique opportunity to support Combatant Commander as well as an Ambassadors needs in a given country. I believe this legislation is necessary to codify current practices and enhance the program's positive impact.

Finally, I would note that a version of this legislation passed by voice vote, last year, during consideration of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The program has broad support in Congress and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,498,229,961,731.67. We've added \$5,970,268,665,801 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING NATHAN T. ITAO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan T. Itao. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan T. Itao for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LESSONS FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE

HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker I submit the following paper on lessons learned from the

Roman Empire from Rachel Castellani, a 6th grade student from Southside Christian School in Simpsonville, SC. Rachel wrote,

I believe that what I have learned can help me with politics and economics. I think that if the Romans had not gone and taken some of the risks they had taken and maybe had been less violent, the empire might still be alive today. A topic I want to talk about is the economy. If you are trying to encourage the lower class citizens (plebians) why do you raise tax rates higher? This is the same thing happening to America, I don't want to be left in the same situation. Let's lower taxes and form new business in America. Don't let our nation crumble like Rome's!

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE REVIEW ACT

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing, along with a number of our colleagues, the National Wildlife Refuge Review Act. This legislation is necessary because under current law, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can administratively create a national wildlife refuge regardless of size, location or support from the local communities without any input from the Congress.

There may have been some logic in granting this federal agency an unfettered ability to establish a national wildlife refuge in 1903 when the first was created by President Theodore Roosevelt. However, with our national debt exceeding \$16.5 trillion, it is now imperative that the Congress carefully review each significant expenditure of our tax dollars.

During the past four years, the Fish and Wildlife Service has administratively established more than ten national wildlife refuges including two in Kansas and Florida that involve more than 1 million acres of private property and a price tag exceeding \$1 billion. Under current law, the Service first establishes these refuges and then comes to the Congress seeking funds to actually obtain the lands through either fee title or conservation easements.

On October 25, 2011, the Service testified before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs and stated that requiring a Congressional authorization would "Impede the Service's ability to be strategic, flexible, nimble and responsive to strategically grow the Refuge System."

Mr. Speaker, this is the same federal agency that has an operations and maintenance backlog exceeding \$3 billion, with dozens of refuges infested by invasive species, with overgrown trails and full of potholed roads. By their own admission, they lack the financial resources to fix more than 3,300 mission critical projects. During the past two years, it has become increasingly clear that the Service is incapable of effectively managing what they already own. The Congress has a responsibility to curb their insatiable appetite for property acquisition. For far too long, this agency has placed too much emphasis on growing the refuge system rather than maintaining it.

What I am suggesting is neither a new or radical idea. In fact, under current law, no Administration can create or expand a national

park, a wilderness area, a national forest, a Wild and Scenic River, a National Heritage Area or a National Conservation Area; construct a Bureau of Reclamation Water Recycling project; modify the Coastal Barrier Resources System; or remove property from the National Wildlife Refuge System. The House Natural Resources Committee routinely considers dozens of these types of bills each year.

It is also important to note that Congress has legislatively created more than 60 national wildlife refuges throughout the United States. In my own Congressional District, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge was established by an Act of Congress. In fact, including public hearings, Committee markups and action in both the House and the Senate, it took exactly six months to get this legislation to President Bill Clinton, who signed the bill into law on October 13, 2000. Even by the standards articulated by the Fish and Wildlife Service, this period of time demonstrated that the Congress can act swiftly when there is public support for the establishment of a specific refuge.

Under my bill, all new national wildlife refuges established after January 3, 2013 would require a Congressional authorization. This bill does not affect the existing 560 refuges, nor does it require that additions to these units obtain Congressional approval. This is a modest and commonsense solution. It is past time for the Congress to exercise its oversight responsibility before the Fish and Wildlife Service creates huge new financial burdens on taxpayers.

As the Chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, I can assure my colleagues that there is nothing inherently unique or urgent about the establishment of a new refuge that requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to unilaterally act on its own, while putting our taxpayers on the financial hook for billions in land acquisition costs.

I urge my colleagues to join in this important effort to protect the taxpayers of the United States by cosponsoring the National Wildlife Refuge Review Act.

IN HONOR OF TROOP 127

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding community service efforts of Boy Scout Troop 127 of the Riegelsville, Bucks County Council, Pennsylvania.

As a father of three boys who are involved in Scouting and as an Eagle Scout myself, I understand the principles and values that scouting has to offer. In 2012 alone, Troop 127 has accomplished a number of activities that embody that embody what it means to be a Scout.

Some notable examples of service in the last year include: Reaching out to help others during the hardship that took place after Hurricane Sandy by assisting the American Red Cross for two days at Palisades High School shelter. They honored their country by assisting with the Eagle Scout project of Brandon Youpa, a project that was two years in plan-

ning and resulted in the honoring of veterans both past and present within their community. They even worked to preserve the environment by cleaning up a staggering eight miles of the Delaware Canal.

The members of Troop 127 are prime examples of what it means to be a Boy Scout. They are conscious of country, the values of their country, those less fortunate than themselves, and of their faith. The members of Troop 127 have shown maturity and are valued members of our community. Becoming a Boy Scout bestows a great level of responsibility on the young men who are willing to take up Scouting's values. The community looks to the young men of Troop 127 as leaders now and in the years to come.

I sincerely hope that the scouts of Troop 127 continue down the challenging and rewarding path that the Boy Scouts has to offer. The Scouts commitment to the betterment of oneself and the pursuit of something greater are something any young man can benefit from. I applaud them on their service accomplishments this past year, extend my best wishes for their continued success and service.

HONORING COLLINS ALAN BEATTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Collins Alan Beatty. Collins is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Collins has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Collins has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 36 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Collins has led his troop in various positions including Assistant Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is an Arrowman in the Order of the Arrow. Collins has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Collins removed old landscaping and planted new shrubs along a walking trail at Chinn Elementary in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Collins Alan Beatty for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL C. REESE AND HIS APPOINTMENT TO CHAIRMAN OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER'S COUNCIL ON GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Mr. Daniel C. Reese of Tennessee's First District, who has been appointed Chairman of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails. This council is an organization that encourages our communities to utilize green spaces, promotes volunteerism in the community, and works hard to preserve our natural and cultural resources. Through his efforts on the council, Dan has set a great example for East Tennessee.

A graduate of East Tennessee State University, Dan has dedicated his career to working for the people of the Great State of Tennessee. He is a member of the Tennessee Department of Transportation Depot Restoration Demonstration Project, and continues to volunteer his time and expertise to develop additional green spaces within our community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Daniel for his selfless contributions to our state and wish him the best as he continues to exemplify the Volunteer spirit.

HONORING RAY J. HILLENBRAND

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of one of my constituents, Ray J. Hillenbrand, chairman of the board of Hillenbrand, Inc. headquartered in Batesville, Indiana.

Mr. Hillenbrand has been chairperson of the board of Hillenbrand, Inc. since 2008 and previously served as director of Hillenbrand Industries, the company's former parent corporation, from 1970 to 2008 and as chairman of the board from 2001 to 2006. Mr. Hillenbrand was employed by and active for 19 years in the management of Hillenbrand Industries prior to his resignation as senior vice president and member of the office of the president in 1977. On February 27, 2013, Ray will retire from his duties leading the strategic vision of the company as chairman.

For more than a century, the Hillenbrand companies have served as a staple in the Indiana and American corporate landscape, premiering innovative products in the funeral services, medical, and engineering industries. Ray's leadership has been a vital part of that success.

Ray Hillenbrand will forever be a friend and inspiration to people across the Hoosier state. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in thanking Ray for his excellent service to his business and community and in congratulations for his successful tenure as chairman of the board of Hillenbrand, Inc.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. CORBIN

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a respected community leader and a dear friend from my congressional district, Mr. Robert L. Corbin. He is part of our "Greatest Generation" who fought in the Second World War—an ordinary American who did extraordinary things to serve our country and protect the freedom we cherish today.

As a young man, Bob answered his country's call to duty, at a time when his fellow countrymen needed him the most. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, and was deployed to Europe, assigned to the 84th Infantry Division. Bob was a 22-year-old Army second lieutenant when he was captured by the Germans and sent to a POW camp for American officers in Poland. After escaping during a botched rescue attempt from the Stalag 13 POW camp, Bob and two other officers endured nine harsh winter nights on the run, to avoid recapture. He wrote a novel chronicling his experiences as a prisoner of war titled, "Captured! The POW Saga of Frank Battle." Looking back on this experience, Bob said: "I absolutely believe that a number of times God, or a divine being, was looking over our shoulders because the difference between life and death was whether we took the left trail in the woods or the right trail in the woods."

After his return home, Bob contributed generous amounts of his time and energy to better our community. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Otterbein College, and entered the food service industry. He became CEO of Foodcraft Management Company, and served as president of the Ohio Restaurant Association and the Miami Valley Restaurant Association. He served for 24 years in the Ohio State House of Representatives, from 1977 to 2001. As chair of both the Commerce Committee and the Labor and Finance Committee, Bob earned a reputation as a voice of reason and fairness.

After retiring from the legislature, Bob served a four-year term as a member of the Centerville City Council, where he applied his wisdom and guidance to help make the city a better place to live and raise a family. Bob's career in public service set an example for all of us who work to serve our communities and our nation. At age 90, he recently retired as a member of the Board of Trustees at Sinclair Community College. Bob and his wife Ede have been married for 62 years, and he is the father of two daughters, Lynn and Carol.

Bob Corbin is one of the most honorable men it has been my privilege to know. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a truly outstanding citizen for his lifetime of service to our country and to the people of Ohio.

HONORING JAMES ALLEN BIBENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Allen Bibens. James is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 36 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, James has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. James has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. James designed and constructed a large cook box for food storage and cooking utensils for campers at Heartland Presbyterian Center in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Allen Bibens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BOB ALLEN—A KTRK LEGEND

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I'm honored to recognize a Houston legend, Bob Allen who recently signed off from the sports desk at KTRK Channel 13 after nearly forty years. Bob's last broadcast was Thursday, January 17th after the Houston Texans' closed their electric 2012 season. The timing of his exit was no coincidence; he had high hopes of a Super bowl for the Texans just like the rest of us. Bob has brought sports into our homes for decades. His outstanding career at KTRK may have come to an end but for many of us Houston sports will always be synonymous with Bob Allen.

KTRK hired Bob as a weekend sportscaster all the way back in 1974, but his passion for sports and the news began long before that. Legend has it that when he was just ten years old, Bob took off on his bike from his West University house to the KTRK studios just to get a peek at the newsroom. In those days Guy Savage was the sportscaster. Young Bob was shown the exit that day, but little did they know that this bright eyed young boy would be the future face of sports in Houston.

After Bob joined KTRK it took just six months for him to be named sports director. And the rest is history. Bob has been in our living rooms through some of the greatest

sports moments of the last half century; the Rockets championships in the '90s and the Love Ya blue oilers in the 70s just to name a few. I spent many nights after supper watching his sports casts after the Oilers and Astros games with my son Kurt. Bob has told the story of sports to generations of Houstonians. He has interviewed some of the greatest sports legends, including Nolan Ryan, Stan "the Man" Musial and George Foreman. Bob even tested out his acting skills with roles in the ABC TV movie Murder at the World Series in 1977, and another sports mystery thriller, Night Game, in '89. He played a sportscaster and an announcer for the Houston Astros, of course.

Bob has also given back to the Houston community in other ways through his charitable work with the Special Olympics and the Sunshine Kids, which helps children struggling with cancer. His commitment to service earned him recognition from the Special Olympics, who awarded him the Spirit of Special Olympics award.

Bob's departure from KTRK marks the end of an era for Houston but it also marks a new beginning for Bob. He dedicated forty years to a fantastic career in sports broadcasting. Now that this chapter is over, he's looking forward to pursuing new projects. He insists that he is resigning, not retiring. He won't stop, that's just the kind of guy he is. When asked about his future he said "I'll probably end up being busier than I was at 13." I don't doubt that one bit. He plans to start a media company that includes public speaking engagements and radio, and he will write a book about working on TV with some of the world's greatest athletes. Bob is a credit to the broadcasting profession and a credit to Texas. We will miss him in our homes but wish him well on his next adventure. Congratulations, Bob, on a fantastic career. And that's just the way it is.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.