

positions within their neighborhoods. Specifically, he played a momentous role in the campaign of Mary Brown, a woman who became the first elected African-American Pinellas County School Board member.

Although he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2004, he never let his illness deter him from doing that which he truly loved. He was admired by the Tampa Bay community, and those who knew him, revered him.

As I join with Mr. Davis's family and friends in mourning the passing of an outstanding individual, I know they are incredibly proud of the contributions he has made to the Tampa Bay area. The entire Pinellas County community honors and remembers the 76 year life of Vyrle Davis. Mr. Vyrle Davis molded the lives of generations of students through his dedication to education and to the community as a whole. His example will continue to live through those that worked with him and those who learned from him. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community and our State.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB"
ABRAMSON OS SONOMA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to recognize and honor the life and tremendous social contributions of my late friend, Mr. Robert "Bob" Abramson of Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Abramson was an exemplary and outstanding member of his community and a longtime resident of the Northern California region. After his extraordinary, storied career as a B-29 bomber pilot during WWII, flying as many as 30 missions over the Pacific, he would be decommissioned from the military in 1945.

He would go on to graduate from University of California, Berkeley with a Masters in Philosophy and Social Welfare. He then worked as a parole officer in Oakland before taking a job at the University of Southern California through which he was stationed in Pakistan for a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. This led to larger diplomatic posts with the United Nations and the World Bank.

Mr. Abramson cared deeply for his community and the people in it. He was an open book and loved talking to new people, always looking to learn new things and always going into every conversation with an open mind. He was especially active with the World War II Pilots Association, the Prostate Cancer Support Group and the Democratic Clubs of Petaluma and Santa Rosa. He was liked by all who knew him in the community.

Mr. Abramson never lost his love for international public service. Despite retirement and an extremely active role in his local community, he accepted special consulting contracts in Maldives and Sri Lanka. He consistently represented the American people with grace and civility.

His family however, always came first. Mr. Abramson is survived by his wife Barbara, his

son Bruce, his daughter Julie Morrison, his brother Albert, his sister Carol, and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Abramson served his country with distinction both as a member of the armed services and as a civilian. He was an active, vital member of his community and it is therefore appropriate that we celebrate and honor his life and committed service and extend our deepest condolences to his friends, family and community.

HONORING SPENCER HARRISON
GRANGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Harrison Granger. Spencer 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.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Spencer has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer constructed nine disc golf tee boxes for a public disc golf course at Fox Hill Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

HONORING JERRY PRICE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Jerry Price, an important figure in Central Valley law enforcement, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jerry graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 1983 and was assigned to service in his hometown of Santa Ana. In 1986, he was transferred to Bakersfield where he patrolled the eastern part of the city and began aggressively seeking DUI drivers.

In 1988 Jerry transferred to Hanford, where he served for 24 years. Jerry was appointed the PAO/Court liaison in 1997 and held this position until December of 2012.

Jerry was a member of the county's first gang task force established in 1998, where he served as an Intelligence Agent.

Jerry has a passion for education and was instrumental in the establishment of many educational programs for local students. He is

credited with reorganizing high school senior ethics days in all local high schools and starting "character conferences" in junior high schools. He also helped launch "Every 15 Minutes" programs in high schools across Kings County to educate young people about the dangers of drunk driving.

Jerry enthusiastically spread this safety message at Lemoore Navy Air Station for over 18 years. He led more than 550 safety presentations for approximately 200,000 Navy personnel.

In addition to his CHP service, Jerry has been heavily involved in numerous community service commitments including Relay 4 Life, the March of Dimes, and the Central California "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive. He has coached several youth sports teams and taught at Kings Christian High School, College of the Sequoias, and West Hills College.

Most recently Jerry assisted the co-founders in organizing the "Buckle Up for Itzy" Fest, an event to raise seat belt safety awareness.

Jerry has mentored many local youths and has dedicated his life to improving the safety of the people of Central California. He has given his time and effort to numerous nonprofits and charities over the decades. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Price on his invaluable service to the Central Valley, as he retires from the California Highway Patrol.

HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY, MISS
ROSE RUSH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Miss Rose Rush of Clintwood, Virginia, who celebrated her 108th birthday on Thursday, February 7.

Miss Rush was born in 1905 in the house her father built in Dickenson County, the very home she lives in today. She was valedictorian of her graduating class at Honaker High School, and attended the University of Virginia, Emory and Henry College, my alma mater, and she also attended Vanderbilt University so she could receive her teaching license.

Miss Rush taught various subjects in different school systems in Virginia until her retirement. She didn't rest for long, though—the year after she "retired," Miss Rush returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher.

To this day, Miss Rush remains up to speed on current events and politics. I have been told Miss Rush is a huge fan of our political system, and that she particularly enjoys voting on the new voting machines.

She has never been seriously ill or hospitalized, nor has she been married or had children. Some in Clintwood even say that's the secret to her longevity!

Miss Rush has been approached from time to time for interviews or photos since she turned 100. The Coalfield Progress notes that she has refused them all, "stating with a sense of humbleness that she has done nothing to receive recognition."

Well, here's to Miss Rose Rush, and to her family, friends, and students in Virginia whose lives she changed. Happy 108th birthday, Miss Rush.