

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DUSTIN PETERSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Dustin Petersen for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Dustin Petersen has been a partner with McGladrey LLP since 2007. His roles at McGladrey certainly keep him busy as a national tax leader for the firm's consumer products group as well as a national practice leader for the alternative energy sector. In 2002, Mr. Petersen started a national renewable practice with McGladrey that today has clients across the country and the world. Outside of work, Dustin serves his community as the chair of Ankeny Economic Development Collaboration Start-up and Entrepreneurial Growth Group, as well as a board member for the Blank Park Zoo Foundation and the Blank Park Endowment Corporation. Raised on a second generation farm in northern Iowa, Dustin now resides in Ankeny with his wife Nicole and their three children, Alex, Megan and Zach. In all facets of his life, Dustin is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dustin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Petersen for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dustin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE
ELIZABETH CHASE BUTLER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler, a fallen Santa Cruz Police De-

TECTIVE who touched the lives of many through her commitment to service in her community.

Elizabeth was born on March 16th, 1974, in Boulder, Colorado, and moved to Santa Cruz, California, after the tragedy of 9/11. Elizabeth joined the Santa Cruz Police Department in 2003 and was constantly challenged to learn new skills and take on new roles within the SCPD. She took great pride in the work she did and wore many hats in her years with the department, serving as a patrol officer and bicycle officer, and also as a member of a special drug task force and hostage negotiation team. Elizabeth had a love of investigating and had earned the rank of Detective in charge of sexual assault investigations at the time of her tragic death. Her compassion for others and commitment to her community only grew as she spent more time assisting with and caring for child and female victims.

Elizabeth is survived by her long-time partner, Peter Wu, and their two sons, five-year old Joaquin, and two-year old Stellan. Her time with her family was filled with trips to the Santa Cruz beach, walks through Henry Cowell State Park, and visits to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. She and her family also traveled to Manzanita, Oregon, every summer to visit with extended family. Additionally, Elizabeth stayed very close with her long-time friends and college roommates, who had traveled to San Francisco for a twenty-year reunion the week before Elizabeth's passing. Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler will be remembered not only for her commitment to her family and her community, but also for her joyful spirit and love of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Elizabeth Chase Butler's legacy as a kind-hearted and dedicated partner, mother, and community servant.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAPPA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Kappa Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The Kappa Omega chapter was the first chapter established in the South Atlantic Region, where it was chartered on March 1, 1923 in Atlanta, GA. The charter members include Founder Marie Woolfolk Taylor, Floy Brown, Eva Conner, Caroline Bond Day, Madeline Smith Davis, Adelaide D. Smith, Alice Rucker, Ruth Prince, Louise Shivery and Hattie Watson. I honor their commitment to their community, particularly to promoting and cultivating high scholastic achievement and social unity amongst girls and women of color.

For the past nine decades, Kappa Omega has distinguished itself as a guiding torch in

servicing others by implementing programs that impact communities around the world. Their current international program initiatives focus on Global Leadership through Timeless Service. The women of Kappa Omega certainly know leadership. Several notable chapter members have become leaders on the local, regional and international level. At the regional level, A. Cathryn Johnson, Sujette F. Crank, Dr. Mary Shy Scott and Dr. Lucretia R. Payton-Stewart have all served as South Atlantic Regional Directors, while Dr. Scott has also served as the 23rd President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Members of this chapter have also served on and chaired several international committees.

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority deserve to be commended for the thousands of hours of volunteer work they contribute every year. Their efforts at the local level to encourage young girls to go to college, and to help them succeed after they get in, are laudable and must continue. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor their hard work and service, and I encourage my fellow colleagues to do the same.

IN CELEBRATION OF GREGORY KONDOS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Gregory Kondos, a friend and renowned artist, as we celebrate his extraordinary career and his upcoming 90th birthday. Gregory is often noted as one of the finest California landscape artists, receiving a number of awards for his exquisite ability to capture beauty. As his family, friends, colleagues and fellow artists all gather to honor his remarkable career, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Gregory Kondos.

A resident of Sacramento for over eight decades, Gregory began his career and artistic training at Sacramento City College, later to receive both his Bachelor's and Master's in Art from California State University in Sacramento. He would later return to Sacramento City College to teach within the Art Department for 27 years, and served as the director of the campus gallery.

Gregory's art is simply breathtaking, capturing California's beauty like few others ever have. I have long been an admirer of Gregory's work, and am thankful to have one of his paintings of the Sacramento River in my office. In Sacramento our rivers are our identity and the painting reminds me of Sacramento's ties to water and the benefits and challenges that brings. His California and Sacramento landscape pieces are amazing works of art that truly capture the essence and beauty of the region. After decades of work, Gregory and his art continue to be great ambassadors for the Sacramento region.

• 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.

His collections have been on display in numerous museums including the Monterey Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn in Washington D.C., Yosemite Museum and the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in Manhattan. Additionally, Gregory has been recognized by a number of awards and accolades including being elected to the National Academy of Design.

To celebrate Gregory's 90th birthday and his career as both an artist and teacher, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento is displaying over 70 pieces of his work in an exhibit, "A Touch of Blue: Landscapes by Gregory Kondos."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the many contributions made by Gregory Kondos to the people of Sacramento and our nation. As Gregory, his wife Moni, friends, and colleagues celebrate his achievement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions and in celebrating his birthday and exceptional artistry.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHIFER
MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude to the members of the Phifer Middle School student council, concert band, chorus and cheer squad for their welcoming reception during a recent visit. I enjoyed the cheer performance by Zoe Dillard, Irez Ramirez, and Jeanny Valerio Disla, as well as the assembly of talented young students who sang and performed music, making my visit quite memorable. As these Middle School students continue their education, I hope they choose to cultivate and develop their talents, as they have done at Phifer.

Participants in the assembly included members of the Phifer Middle School student council, made up of Davina Nguyen, Natalya Portobanco, Medina Talebi, Carmen Rosario, Alejandro Rodriguez, Franshayla Matias, Krystian Duong, Monica Van, Nicole Alfino, Michael Zuckerman, Zach DiPietro, Jennifer Luu, Grace Pietzsch, Kaitlyn McGowen, Maresha Morton, Kiara Banchs, Yesarie Rivera, Brianni Lugo, Daisy Anyanwu, Maryann Dwomor, Laura Espailat, Christina Van, Areli Olarte, Jasmine Magalong, Asia Davis, Michael Nguyen, Yasmeir S, Marcellus Edwards, Alyssa Edelman, Xavier Molina, Kyla Green, Emilie Reustle, Michelle Olivares, Christian Alvarez, DaJone Saunders, Alina Ayala, Selena Carter, Alyza Alix, Alexis Taylor, Angel Davis and Jadae Turlington.

Members of the 7th and 8th grade concert band, accompanied by the 8th grade chorus performed America the Beautiful, the Star Spangled Banner and "Plaza de Toros" by Mark Williams. Members of the 8th grade concert band include: Johnny Almonte, Isaac Amato, Daniel Ball, Nicholas Camacho, Michael Camacho, Asia Davis, Toni Deliso, Jude Dizon, Sarah Eisenhower, Kyle Faraghan, Emily Gmyr, Dimitri Hicks, Jose Jimenez, Ryan Lam, Nicolette Markakis, Xavier Martinez, Elijah Medina, Kristina Mitchell, Isaac Munoz, Christian Nicdao, Alexandra Pasamihalis, Talisa Prince, Irez Ramirez, Ali-

son Rosado, Mario Sagliocca, Micheal Sculley, Jake Urena, Vivian Vu, Aaliya Ware and Steven Williams.

Members of the 7th grade concert band include: Carlos Acevedo, Ariana Alameda, Nicole Alfano, Briana Allende, Jonathan Almonte, Tyler Barrett, Karoline Cedano, Nicole Chin, Desiree Colon, Angel Cruz, Megan Flaherty, Joshua Hall, Destiny Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Paige Hickman, Eric Hoang, Kaitlyn McGowan, Jamil Morris, Gabriella Pavel, Jesse Pringle, Deanna Rodriguez, Serenity Sanders, Sydney Slaton, Gina Stone and Irene You.

Members of the 8th grade chorus include: Dezeray Adams, Amanda Alicea, Alina, Ayala, Irisell Baetz, Teyonna Balkman, Michelle Bello, Selena Carter, Flarissa Crawford, Angel Davis, Courtney Dixon, Josh Echeverria, Janiskaliz Espada, Lucas Figueroa, Jurnee Gabri-El, Toni Glatz, Bobbi-Sue Godwin, Michael Hartka, Vivian Hnyh, Elias Horiates, Krystiana Jalosjos, Talia Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Kayli Jones, Alexis Laboy, Kimani Lawson, Tyler Lee, Zephenia Lindsey, Saniyah Mack, James Marchese, Kinaya McEady, Emma Muller, Kiara Munoz, Jessica Ngeth, Areli Olarte, Hannah Pietzsch, Kaitlyn Pratt, Jose Ravelo and Tyiya Richards.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW OSTANIK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew Ostanik for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Matt Ostanik is the President of Submittal Exchange LLC, his own online construction communications software company he founded in 2003. Today, Matt has overseen Submittal Exchange grow to 40,000 users and 35 employees with an annual year-over-year revenue growth rate of 350 percent over five years. Architecture is one of Matt's passions, as he helps others grow professionally through his business and his roles on the board of directors for the American Institute of Architects' Iowa chapter and with the Iowa Architectural Foundation. In all facets of his life, Matt is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matt in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ostanik for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matt

on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, peace and stability in the Caucuses is in the national interest of the United States and our European allies. That means achieving a peaceful resolution to the rising tensions between the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan. A final status of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute must be achieved without resorting to war and must be in keeping with democratic principles, the rule of law and the protection of individual human rights.

Decades of Soviet rule and the continuing dispute over Nagorno Karabakh have decimated the economy of Armenia. In stark contrast, Azerbaijan now enjoys a growing economy from the extraction of natural resources. This economic imbalance is further aggravated by the fact that both Turkey and Azerbaijan have sealed their borders with Armenia, with Azerbaijan pursuing an aggressive military build-up.

The United States must continue to press for resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh dispute through the good offices and mechanisms of international actors such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We must be ever vigilant in decrying actions that undermine such efforts. I concur with the Obama administration's demand for an explanation of Azerbaijan's pardoning of Ramil Safarov. Azerbaijan's decision to pardon Ramil Safarov after he was convicted by a Hungarian court for the murder of an Armenian soldier while participating in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is not only unconscionable, it is a direct affront to NATO and its efforts to bring peace and stability to conflict regions through the Partnership for Peace program.

FIRST THE SATURDAY PEOPLE
THEN THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Lebanon and Egypt where I met with State Department officials, civil society actors, including prominent religious leaders and humanitarian aid organizations, and Syrian refugees. The trip (February 18-21, 2013) came at a critical time, as events in the broader Middle East over the last two years have been both historic and tumultuous.

One of the main purposes of the trip was to spend time with the Syrian Christian community. As a brutal civil war, which has taken nearly 70,000 lives, rages in Syria the plight of the sizable Christian community is often overlooked. While from the outside it appears as though President Bashar al-Assad's brutal regime will ultimately fall, the eventual outcome,

including how many will perish in or be displaced by the continuing violence and who will step into the ensuing power vacuum, is far from certain. Moreover, what that will mean for the Christian community in Syria is largely unknown and, unfortunately, rarely addressed by Western media or church leaders.

I wanted to hear firsthand from Syrian Christians about their concerns and what the future might hold and to put this issue in the larger context of an imperiled Christian community in the broader Middle East, specifically in Egypt and Iraq.

Coptic Christians and other minorities in Egypt have increasingly been marginalized with the ascendancy of the Muslim Brotherhood. The newly drafted constitution is viewed as highly problematic by many Egyptians. A February 5 Associated Press article reported “[p]rovisions in the document allow for a far stricter implementation of Islamic Shariah law than in the past, raising opponents’ fears that it could bring restrictions on many civil liberties and the rights of women and Christians.”

Egypt is the recipient of billions of dollars in U.S. foreign assistance. A thorough assessment of the conditions in Egypt and the evolving political situation is critical, especially in these tight budgetary times.

THE SUNDAY PEOPLE

These issues must be viewed not simply as today’s news but rather through the lens of history. A phrase not often heard outside the majority Muslim world is “First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people.” The “Saturday people” are, of course, the Jews. Their once vibrant communities in countries throughout the region are now decimated. In 1948 there were roughly 150,000 Jews in Iraq; today less than 10 remain. In Egypt, there were once as many as 80,000 Jews; now less than 100 remain. It appears a similar fate may await the ancient Christian community in these same lands.

Consider this observation by author and adjunct fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom, Lela Gilbert, who recently wrote in the Huffington Post: “Between 1948 and 1970, between 80,000 and 100,000 Jews were expelled from Egypt—their properties and funds confiscated, their passports seized and destroyed. They left, stateless, with little more than the shirts on their backs to show for centuries of Egyptian citizenship. . . .”

Meanwhile, with the fall of Hosni Mubarak, Coptic Christians, numbering roughly 8–10 million, are leaving in droves. A January 8 National Public Radio, NPR, story reported “Coptic Christians will celebrate Christmas on Monday, and many will do so outside their native Egypt. Since the revolution there, their future in the country has looked uncertain and many are resettling in the United States. Their population in the U.S. may have grown by nearly 30 percent, according to rough estimates.”

Gilbert echoes this reality, writing “. . . today, hundreds of thousands of Copts have already fled—those able to afford airfare and lawyers have sought asylum in the U.S. and Canada. As for the others . . . the options are few and fraught with danger.”

Similarly, Iraq’s Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to roughly 500,000 today. Churches have been targeted, believers kidnapped for ransom and families threatened with violence if they stay. In October 2010, Islamist extremists laid siege on Our Lady of Salvation Catholic Church in

Baghdad, killing over 50 hostages and police, and wounding dozens more.

Turning to Syria, in the midst of devastating bloodshed and civil war, the Christian population is particularly vulnerable. A recent Associated Press story reported “[Christians] are fearful that Syria will become another Iraq, with Christians caught in the crossfire between rival Islamic groups.”

Over the span of a few decades, the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, has virtually been emptied of Jews. In my conversations with Syrian Christian refugees, Lebanese Christians and Coptic Christians in Egypt, a resounding theme emerged: a similar fate awaits the “Sunday People.”

AN EXODUS

While it remains to be seen whether the historic exodus of Christians from the region will prove to be as dramatic as what has already happened to the Jewish community, it is without question devastating, as it threatens to erase Christianity from its very roots.

A recent study on Christian persecution released by the London-based think tank Civitas found that “[p]arts of the media have been influenced by the logical error that equates criticism of Muslims with racism, and therefore as wrong by definition. This has further distracted attention away from the hounding of Christians, helping to cement the surprisingly widespread idea that Christianity is a ‘Western’ faith.”

This idea could not be further from the truth. The Middle East is the very cradle of Christendom.

Consider Iraq. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac’s bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq, and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion’s Den. Furthermore, many of Iraq’s Christians still speak Aramaic the language of Jesus. In fact a February 2013 Smithsonian Magazine story noted “[a]s Jesus died on the cross, he cried in Aramaic, ‘Elahi, Elahi, lema shabaqtani?’ (‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’)” In Egypt, some 2,000 years ago, Mary, Joseph and Jesus sought refuge in this land from the murderous aims of King Herod. Egypt’s Coptic community traces its origins to the apostle Mark.

If, as appears to be happening, the Middle East is effectively emptied of the Christian faith, this will have grave geopolitical implications and does not bode well for the prospects of pluralism and democracy in the region, which is especially disquieting in the aftermath of the “Arab Spring.” These developments demand our attention as policymakers.

Similarly, these realities demand the attention of the church in West. As already noted, ancient faith communities have inhabited these lands for centuries and are a vital part of the fabric of global Christendom.

LEBANON

Upon arriving in Beirut on the evening of February 18, I met with the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Maura Connelly, and senior embassy staff. One of the many issues addressed was the impact the substantial—and

growing—Syrian refugee population is having on Lebanon.

Just over four million people live in Lebanon, which is about the size of Connecticut. Since the fighting started in Syria in the spring of 2011, thousands of refugees have entered the country, putting a strain on the people and government of Lebanon. Complicating this is the fact that Lebanon has its own sectarian issues, and there is concern that the spillover from Syria could lead to instability in Lebanon, given that roughly half the population supports the Assad regime and the other half supports the rebels.

A February 23 New York Times story described the precarious balance this way: “As they flee increasingly sectarian killing, Syrians layer their fears onto those of a country deeply scarred by its own generation-long sectarian civil war. They are testing, yet also relying on, the fragile yet flexible balance that has endured here, punctured by occasional fighting, since Lebanon’s war ended 22 years ago.”

On February 19, I met with Lebanese President Michel Sleiman, the only Christian president in the region. I also met with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Wael Abou Faour. Lebanon’s leaders—and its people—should be thanked for what they are doing to help address the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Lebanon is hosting more Syrian refugees than any other country, and all three expressed concern that the situation is growing more tenuous by the day as greater numbers of refugees pour over the border and resentment among Lebanon’s poorer communities grows, not to mention the underlying sectarian tension. Criminal activity is also on the rise.

Following the initial meetings with government leaders, I spent the rest of my time in Lebanon meeting with religious leaders, civil society representatives, non-governmental organizations, NGOs, and Syrian refugees—both Christian and Muslim.

JOHN AND MARY

My first meeting was a moving encounter with a Syrian Christian and his wife who, despite the risks, had driven from Syria to Beirut to meet with me and detail the experience of their community. They often cross the border. Given security concerns, I will simply refer to them as John and Mary.

John and Mary told me that many Christians had left Damascus, and most of those who remained were simply too old to flee. They described some in the Free Syrian Army as terrorists, including foreign fighters from countries like Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen and Egypt.

Increasingly the claims of foreign jihadists are verified. A February 18 Washington Post story reported “[a] report issued Monday in Geneva by the U.N. Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said the Islamist fighters include foreigners—from Libya, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt—drawn to the conflict because they consider it a Sunni jihad against Assad’s government, which, although secular, is dominated by Alawites, a branch of Shiism.”

John and Mary described the situation in Syria as “very dangerous.” Fear was a constant. “We are always afraid,” they said. They did not see a future for themselves or their community if the Free Syrian Army prevailed. “We were told that when we [the opposition] take over the government you will be out [of the country] or you will die.”

But the threat is actually imminent, not some distant concern. They said the day before meeting with me that they read on the Internet that “we advise you to leave because we are going to destroy your community.”

Throughout the course of the meeting Mary was understandably emotional. Through tears she told me that they had attempted to prepare their children for what the future may hold, saying “we have told our children our house could come under attack and there may be blood. We have told them we will shut our eyes and then open them in Heaven.”

She went on to say that she feels God wants them in Syria. “We will not fail. It is our mission.”

Bashar al-Assad is a brutal dictator and war criminal. But, as John and Mary caution, the West must be clear-eyed about who the rebels are, and what they will do if they seize power. Indeed, factions within the rebel movement, such as the al-Nusra Front, do not seek a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Syria.

They warned against supporting such segments of the opposition. The prospect of extremists taking over Syria weighed heavily on John and Mary.

I asked if they felt abandoned by the church in the West. Their answer: “yes.”

I left the meeting deeply sobered by what I had heard and convinced anew that there are no easy answers to the unfolding tragedy in Syria.

CHURCH LEADERS

On March 15, 2011, Bechara Rai was elected the 77th Patriarch of Antioch and the Levant. The Maronite Church is in communion with Rome, and Patriarch Rai frequently travels on pastoral visits to Maronite communities around the world. I spent an hour with Patriarch Rai and Bishop Sayah, who served in Jerusalem for 16 years before coming to Lebanon.

Patriarch Rai provided a candid assessment of the situation in Syria, saying that “the original movement was spontaneous. It was about freedom and human rights. But all of a sudden someone came in and took over.”

He told me “reforms were needed, but in dealing with theocracies, it backfired.” He pointed to Iraq, saying “it has not reached a democracy, and now the Sunni and Shia are fighting. Our Christian culture started in Iraq. Now a majority of the Christians have had to leave. A similar thing is happening in Egypt with the Copts. They have been marginalized and are afraid. In Syria, we are witnessing the same scenario.”

Patriarch Rai also spoke to the broader geopolitical implications of the crisis facing Christians in the region, saying “the West is heading to a situation that is going to hurt them. If Christians disappear, what will happen to this part of the world? If the Christians are gone, the West will have to deal with this radicalism.”

He lauded the model of Lebanon, saying “Lebanon has agreed to live together. It has become a model. It still has its problems, but it has human rights. We have to make sure this country is safeguarded, too. If Lebanon disappears as a formula for success it will hurt this region and the West, too.”

I also met with Archdeacon Emanuel Youkhana of the Assyrian Church of the East. He was the focus of a piece that recently appeared in *National Review Online* vividly detailing the exodus of Christians from Syria. It

was written by Nina Shea, director of the Hudson Institute’s Center for Religious Freedom and a former commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. She also highlighted a recent report by Swedish Journalist Nun i Kino titled “Between the Barbed Wire.” The Archdeacon told me that it is imperative that the church be involved in the political debate and peace process surrounding it. He also cautioned the church not to defend the Assad regime by saying it is protecting them. He said the minorities in Syria, including Christians, are being used to give cover to the dictatorship. He ended our conversation by saying Christianity in the West cannot survive if Christianity in the East is being destroyed and asked for the church in the West to “pray for those suffering in the East. Pray for the Martyrs.”

Again, the complexities of the situation in Syria were apparent.

SYRIAC LEAGUE

During a meeting with the Syriac League, an NGO in Lebanon that has strong connections with the Syriac community in Lebanon and with Christians who have come to Lebanon to escape conflict and difficulties in their own countries, including Syria, Iraq and Egypt, I had a chance to hear directly from a number of people who had fled Syria. Once again, the general theme was an abiding sense of fear. They said they lived under threat every day. They described killings and kidnappings for ransom. They talked about having to pay smugglers to help them get across the border. (One man told me that he knew he had fake papers, so he turned himself in to the authorities and ultimately had to spend 57 days in a Lebanese prison. He was released the day before we met.) They said there are some towns and villages in Syria where there are no Christians left. They said many of the Christians who remain simply have no money to get out. They talked about multiple checkpoints: some manned by the regime’s forces; others by opposition forces.

They said three years ago life in Syria was relatively good. While they may not have had equal rights in the government, they had freedom of religion. They also had their safety and security.

One of the people I met was a doctor. He described how the Free Syrian Army forced him to treat wounded soldiers. He said they came in daily but when they found out he was a Christian they threatened to kill him. The Kurds helped him escape. He said half of his friends had either been killed or kidnapped. He lamented that as a doctor he led a good life in Syria but is struggling now because he obviously can’t go back to his country nor is he able to practice medicine in Lebanon.

When I asked what message I needed to take back to leaders in the West, the universal refrain was: “We need you not to support regimes that are persecuting us [Christians]. We need to be treated as equals.”

JIHADISTS ARRIVE

The people also spoke of a newcomer on the scene: jihadists. They echoed earlier conversations saying that people from other places (Afghanistan, Tunisia and Chechnya were mentioned) were coming in to fight. They specifically mentioned al-Nusra Front. On December 11, 2012, the State Department designated al-Nusra Front as a terrorist organization linked to al-Qaeda in Iraq. In the State Department briefing announcing the designa-

tion, the department spokesperson said “Al-Nusra Front has sought to portray itself as part of a legitimate Syrian opposition, but today’s actions are intended to expose them and make clear that the United States believes that al-Nusra’s extremist ideology has no role in a post-Assad Syria. Among the consequences of today’s actions is a prohibition against knowingly providing or attempting or conspiring to provide material support or resources to or engaging in transactions with al-Nusra Front.”

One of the men I spoke to said, “Our people see no future for us. There is no law and order in Iraq or Syria. Our people are leaving and not coming back.”

“We want to survive here,” another said. “Yet there are two problems: violence and people do not accept us as citizens.”

One family who was there with their young daughter, who is an American citizen, said they had been in Lebanon for seven months. They left Syria because the opposition knew their daughter was born in America, and they were going to kidnap her. They said a Palestinian woman once came to their house and said: “Your daughter is an American. I am going to take your house.” They said their neighbors were killed because they were Christians.

I asked them what they would want church leaders in the West to know. The response: “There is a total erasure of the Christian presence in the region.”

A REFUGEE CRISIS

I also visited the registration center being operated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is leading the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Lebanon. UNHCR has identified roughly 300,000 refugees—both those already registered and those who are known to be waiting for a registration date. As of February 22, there were 309,997 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, which includes 196,744 already registered and 113,253 waiting to be registered. The number of Syrians reaching out to UNHCR has accelerated significantly in the last two months with more than 3,000 individuals per day seeking assistance. I was told that it is difficult to quantify how many Christians there are among the Syrian refugee population since most of them are too afraid to register.

During my visit to the center, I met with a Muslim family who had fled Syria after their village was destroyed by a bomb. The father said during the day life was normal, but at night the bombing would start and continue for several hours. “You cannot sleep,” he told me. He said his youngest son was cut by shards of glass when the village was hit. The family, made up of two girls and three boys, had been in Lebanon for three months and would like to go back but don’t know what the future holds. The father said he has seen a number of “foreign fighters” in Syria and that there were checkpoints—some controlled by the regime; some controlled by the opposition—throughout the country.

My next stop was the town of Zahlé, about 90 minutes southeast of Beirut, to meet with more refugees and Caritas Lebanon, an NGO that has been operating in Lebanon since 1994. Catholic Relief Services is assisting Caritas.

During my visit, I was able to talk to two families in Caritas’ offices and visit two sites

where families were living. Their stories were painfully similar to the other stories I had already heard: death, destruction and fear. Both families I met with said the circumstances in Syria have changed dramatically since the fighting started, saying Christians were not initially targeted for violence but they are now. "Christians and Muslims were living like brother and sister but that has changed," one woman, who has two young children and whose husband cannot escape Syria, told me.

She also explained that while she is appreciative of all that the Lebanese have done, her situation is not good. She said she has had a hard time trying to find a place to live and is essentially living in a hallway. She cannot work because there is no one to watch her children. I was told by officials with Caritas that some women are prostituting themselves for \$3.50 simply to help their families survive. In recent years similar heartbreaking stories have emerged out of the Iraqi refugee population. A May 29, 2007 New York Times story quoted Sister Marie-Claude, a Syrian nun aiding Iraqi refugees, saying "I met three sisters-in-law recently who were living together and all prostituting themselves . . . They would go out on alternate nights—each woman took her turn—and then divide the money to feed all the children."

Unlike many humanitarian crises which are the result of war, those fleeing Syria into Lebanon are not living in massive tent cities. Most are being absorbed into communities and towns across Lebanon. But Wael Abou Faour, the Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs, cautioned in our meeting that the time is fast approaching when formal camps may need to be established. Some in the Lebanese government are understandably concerned about this.

The first "house" I visited looked essentially like a storage unit in the West. It was about 20 feet wide and 40 feet deep (roughly the size of a two-car garage) with a concrete floor and no windows. Three Muslim families—a total of 19 people—shared the space and paid \$250 a month in rent. The second site was in a farmer's field. Twenty families were living in about eight large white tents. They had been there for roughly six months. The ground was extremely muddy, the result of heavy rains in January. They pay rent to the farmer. There did not appear to be running water.

The burgeoning Syria refugee crisis is but one of the great human tolls of this deadly conflict.

EGYPT

I was last in Egypt in June 2011, four months after Hosni Mubarak stepped down as president and turned over power to the military. In the face of decades of human rights and religious freedom abuses under the Mubarak regime, successive U.S. administrations, including the Obama Administration, failed to advocate for those whose voices were being silenced. Many pro-democracy activists and religious minorities that I spoke with during that trip felt abandoned by the West. Their disillusionment with the U.S. and general trepidation about the rise of Islamists in the lead up to the elections was tempered by a palpable sense of anticipation, and in some cases, even hope about what the future might hold for the Egyptian people.

Fast-forward to February 2013. I wanted to witness first-hand the outcome of the revolution. The verdict is not what anyone had

hoped. Egypt is in danger of becoming a failed state. Its economy is collapsing, unemployment is rising, as is inflation, lawlessness is becoming a real issue, and human rights abuses persist, and in some cases, are now enshrined in the new Egyptian constitution.

During my visit, I met with government officials, including Prime Minister Hisham Kandil, civil society activists, Christian leaders and NGOs. In addition, I met with Maggie Gobran, affectionately known as "Mama Maggie." She runs a ministry that serves poor families living in Egypt's garbage slums. Established in 1989, Stephen's Children runs 65 camps, five vocational centers, 80 clinics and 80 community education centers. The organization serves Egyptians of all faiths, including Coptic Christians. I have been so inspired by her work and ministry over the years that I joined with several other Members of Congress, both last year and this year, in nominating her for the Nobel Peace Prize.

One of my last meetings was with 86-year-old Carmen Weinstein, the president of the Jewish Community of Cairo (JCC). She was born and raised in Egypt and has lived her entire life there—a life set against the backdrop of a great Jewish emigration out of Egypt, namely the departure of thousands of Egyptian Jews from the 1940s–60s. She now leads a small community of mostly elderly Jewish women in Cairo, who with their sister community in Alexandria, represent Egypt's remaining 70 or so Jews.

There are 12 synagogues left in Cairo. Some, along with a landmark synagogue in Alexandria, have been refurbished by the government of Egypt and/or U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and have received protection as cultural and religious landmarks. Mrs. Weinstein is seeking to form a foreign-based endowment to protect the remaining synagogues, the Bassatine Jewish Cemetery—which is 900 years old and half overrun with squatters—and the patrimony records of the community. This is increasingly important as the remaining Jewish community ages and in all likelihood will eventually disappear.

SUMMER MARRIAGES

Other than in my meetings with Egyptian officials, no one painted a rosy picture for the future of Egypt. In fact, many suggested that life was better under Mubarak. I was repeatedly told that the new government led by President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood is ignoring women's rights, human rights and religious rights. I was told women are being removed from positions in the workplace. Photos of unveiled women are being dropped from textbooks. Child labor abuse continues, as well as female genital mutilation. I was told girls as young as nine are being kidnapped and sold as child brides. When reported to the police, no action is taken. There is no rule of law. Sexual trafficking is prevalent. Girls ages 16–18 are "rented" to rich men from the Gulf in what are called "summer marriages" during the summer months and then returned to their families.

GROWING PERSECUTION

The Christian community also continues to be persecuted. Churches have been desecrated, and no permits to build new churches have been granted since January 2011. Just days before I arrived, an angry mob set fire to a church in Fayoum Province. Fox News reported that it was the "second such assault

against the town's Coptic population in a month. The attackers ripped down the church's cross and hurled rocks at church members. . . ."

Television channels regularly carry programming that insults Christians and women. "The general atmosphere allows Islamists to speak out against women and Christianity and the government does nothing," one activist told me.

At a meeting at the Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo, Bishop Moussa, a close advisor to Coptic Pope Tawadros II, told me he is concerned about where Egypt is headed and said the Coptic community is fearful. He raised a number of issues relating to the proposed changes to the Egyptian constitution. Earlier this month, Pope Tawadros took the unusual step of publicly criticizing the constitution as discriminatory.

ELECTIONS

There also is deep concern that the upcoming elections will essentially be rigged, especially since it is believed that the Muslim Brotherhood has put its supporters in place to oversee the elections and that there will be no transparency. The Associated Press reported on February 23 that "[a] key opposition leader called Saturday for a boycott of upcoming parliamentary elections, saying he will not take part in a 'sham democracy.'"

In a meeting with Emad Abdel Ghafour, a Salafist who is the presidential advisor for community outreach, all these reports were brushed aside and blamed on politics. At least the prime minister acknowledged that the government still has a long way to go. "We are trying. It just takes time," he told me.

The media has done a better job of reporting the plight of the persecuted in Egypt than it has in other parts of the Middle East and surrounding region. On February 22, the Washington Post ran an op-ed co-written by Robert Kagan and Michele Dunne that makes the case for a new U.S. approach in dealing with Egypt. I agree with much of what they said and have shared it with my congressional colleagues.

THE PEOPLE, NOT THE REGIME

The U.S. must change how it deals with Egypt. On more than one occasion I was told the perception among many Egyptians is that the United States is supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. "Why hasn't the State Department issued any statements condemning the lack of certain rights?" one person asked me. "There is a double standard," another told me. "Human rights and women's rights mean one thing in the United States and another in Egypt."

I was told people think the United States is developing relationships with the Muslim Brotherhood because it believes the party is going to remain in power. They went on to say that the feeling is that as long as the brotherhood protects the United States' interests in the region, it can act with impunity within its borders.

One person pointedly said, "the United States is helping create a state of terrorism that will be exported to Europe. The dogma of religion affecting human rights and women's rights will be worse than the Wahhabi sect in Saudi Arabia."

I also was told the United States is losing credibility. When I asked what message I should take back to the West, I was told: "Make sure you support the people of Egypt, not the regime."

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the meetings I had and the insights I gained, I came away with a number of broad-based policy recommendations:

SYRIA

The situation in Syria is complex and there is no easy solution. Many believe it will take years to resolve. Will Assad continue to cling to power with the help of Tehran? Will Syria fracture? Will the rebels attempt to form a legitimate shadow government in Syria that can garner international support? There are more questions than answers about the future of Syria. But even before the civil war broke out, Assad's abuses were well-known. Not only was he a brutal, corrupt dictator at home, but Damascus was a lifeline to the terrorist organization Hezbollah. I have seen with my own eyes Hezbollah's murderous aims having visited the Marine barracks in Lebanon following their 1983 bombing that killed 241 American servicemen. Fast-forward to earlier this month, as Hezbollah was implicated in the deadly bomb attack on Israeli vacationers in Bulgaria. Clearly Assad has much blood on his hands and the U.S. must work, even at this late date, to bring about an end to Assad's reign in Syria.

The Obama Administration missed an early opportunity to aid the opposition in Syria at a time when the conflict had not yet devolved into a proxy war and when international jihadists were not as significant of a factor as they are today. An already complex environment has only intensified, and many of Syria's minorities increasingly wonder what the future holds for them. A January 15, New York Times story said, "Former [State Department] Syria adviser, Frederic C. Hof, wrote last month that although the opposition has offered general assurances to the one-third of Syrians who belong to minority groups, 'probably no more than a handful' believe it, especially as jihadist groups grow more prominent on the battlefield. . . ." As the Obama Administration seeks to develop an effective Syria policy, including Secretary Kerry's latest overture to the Syrian opposition, it must be ever mindful of the very real concerns of Syria's Christian community. Opposition to Assad should not be enough to garner American support. A common enemy does not our friend make. Any aid to the rebels, non-military or otherwise, must be accompanied by insistence that the opposition respect minority rights and allay the very real fears of these communities. This is especially important given the influx of foreign jihadists and the ambiguity surrounding their influence and numbers among the opposition.

Christian leaders in the West must begin to speak out about what is happening not only in Syria but in the Middle East and other parts of South Central Asia. Christian leaders from the Middle East need to be brought to the United States to meet with church leaders here and make the case for greater engagement from the faith community in the West. (In January, I wrote to more than 300 Protestant and Catholic leaders in the U.S. urging them to use their influence to speak out on behalf of the persecuted church around the globe specifically in the Middle East.)

EGYPT

After I returned from Egypt in July 2011, I recommended that the United States seriously consider conditioning U.S. foreign assistance—specifically military assistance—to Egypt. Since the Camp David Peace Accords,

Egypt has received over \$60 billion in U.S. foreign assistance, the second largest overall recipient of such funding. Given the Mubarak regime's human rights and religious freedom abuses, I have long believed this assistance should be conditioned on improvements in these areas. Now with the Muslim Brotherhood at the helm, and the transition to a mature democracy with all that entails, far from certain, I am more convinced than ever that aid to Egypt must be conditioned upon the government respecting and upholding universally recognized human rights norms. We must press President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood more broadly to respect and uphold religious freedom, freedom of speech and the press, freedom of assembly and other basic rights. Police reform, too, must be a priority. Rather than ramming through the constitution, the Muslim Brotherhood must be urged to embrace an inclusive process that takes into account the concerns of the opposition and various minority groups. Clear benchmarks must be set—an agreed upon framework established—that allows policymakers in the U.S. to determine if Egypt is truly on a path to reform. Recognizing that democratic transitions are often long and messy, it is simply unacceptable to blindly give precious aid dollars to a government that is working at cross-purposes with American values. In addition, Congress should seriously consider removing altogether the State Department waiver authority as it relates to aid to Egypt, since the State Department, without fail and irrespective of changes on the ground, uses the waiver.

The United States should press President Morsi to compromise with the opposition on rules for upcoming parliamentary elections, which he scheduled to begin April 22 over opposition objections. There are many legitimate opposition concerns, including gerrymandering to break up districts formerly won by secular parties and use of government ministries to advantage Morsi's party. As of now, most of the secular opposition parties say they will boycott, which means that the elections cannot produce a truly representative parliament even if they are cleanly run.

The administration must utilize every "tool" in its "toolbox" to influence the Egyptian government. President Morsi's planned trip to Washington is a significant point of leverage to begin pressing for key reforms. As Morsi and his government seek further international economic relief, the U.S. must make it clear that not only is American foreign assistance contingent upon clear progress in the areas outlined above, but our willingness to galvanize the additional economic assistance needed to stabilize the Egyptian economy is also based on progress in these areas.

The U.S. embassy should actively seek to cultivate relationships with the liberal, democratic Egyptian opposition groups and individuals, human rights groups, Coptic Christians and other key civil society actors. By most accounts, U.S. policy has not evolved to meet the new realities in Egypt. We have embraced the Morsi government the same way we embraced the Mubarak government—to the detriment of other elements of Egyptian civil society—elements with which we have a natural affinity. While such groups may not take the reins of leadership in the near future, they are central to the Egyptian democratic experiment, and we can bolster their standing and effec-

tiveness if we take the long-term view. In this same vein, aid to Egypt should once again benefit Egyptian civil society, not simply the military and economy.

Congressional delegations traveling to Egypt should meet with activists, NGOs and Christian leaders to better understand what is happening on the ground and to hear firsthand the perception of the United States' support for the Muslim Brotherhood.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Special Envoy.—There must be a high level Special Envoy at the State Department with the dedicated mission of protecting and preserving religious minority communities in the Middle East and South Central Asia. In January 2011, I introduced bipartisan legislation in the House which would do just that. It overwhelmingly passed by a vote of 402–20 in July 2011. The House-passed legislation and companion legislation introduced by Senators CARL LEVIN and ROY BLUNT stalled in the Senate. Despite my repeated appeals, former Senators Jim Webb and John Kerry objected to the legislation moving forward. I have joined with my Democratic colleague Rep. ANNA ESHOO in reintroducing this legislation in the 113th Congress and remain committed to pressing ahead with the envoy despite State Department opposition position which is short-sighted and utterly consistent with the department's posture on similar initiatives over the years having opposed for example the creation of the International Religious Freedom Office. It is worth noting that it is fully within the Secretary of State's authority to appoint an envoy absent legislative action. Based on what I heard on this trip, I am confident that such a move by Secretary Kerry would be warmly embraced by the communities affected in the region and the diaspora communities abroad, including here in the United States.

Persecuted Christians Relief Fund.—In some of the countries where Christians and other religious minorities have faced the most difficulties, severe economic hardship is a consequence of religious persecution, especially when entire communities are displaced. Consider this February 2011 International Organization for Migration (IOM) press report: "The physical instability driving Christian displacement is now leading to financial hardship as well. Some in Baghdad have sought to exploit the situation by publishing rumors of impending violence against Christians in order to drive down prices of Christian homes and to force Christians to flee. Unable to sell their homes for a fair price and quickly in addition to facing difficulties in transferring their jobs or finding new sources of income, many Christians are finding it difficult to support themselves while displaced." It is worth noting that depletion of the Christian community in Iraq happened while America was deeply involved in Iraq and in a position militarily, politically and otherwise to exert tremendous influence. Similar difficulties faced the Syrian Christian refugees with whom I spoke as outlined above. Despite congressional attempts, over multiple years, to target aid toward Iraqi Christians, the State Department resisted these efforts, and once the funding was provided the department and USAID proved ineffectual in ensuring that the communities in question benefited. In fact, a July 2012 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, "U.S. Assistance to Iraq's Minority Groups in Response to Congressional Directive," found that the agencies could not prove they spent the funds as

Congress intended. In fact, it often appears that there is an anti-Christian bias at the State Department. For years the department refused to recognize that Iraqi Christians were being targeted, insisting instead that they were simply victims of generalized violence. In light of these realities, church leaders in the West, especially the leadership of affected communities (Copts, Chaldeans, Assyrians etc.), should consider partnering with other churches in the U.S. in establishing a relief fund to benefit beleaguered Christians in the Middle East.

Champion Human Rights.—Every U.S. government official, from the President, to the Secretary of State, to the young foreign service officer serving in Cairo or Beirut, must champion the cause of human rights, including religious freedom, in their interactions with foreign government officials and civil society actors. Not simply paying lip-service to these foundational American principles but seeing that they are fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy at every turn. In a 1987 Constitution Day speech, President Ronald Reagan described the United States Constitution as “a covenant we have made not only with ourselves, but with all of mankind.” We have an obligation to keep that covenant with the fearful Coptic Christian and the displaced Syrian refugee. My conversations abroad revealed that the covenant is in jeopardy.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to thank the federal employees—embassy personnel, foreign service officers, Diplomatic Security Officers, FBI, and other government agencies—serving in Lebanon and Egypt. They are extraordinarily dedicated and extremely professional. In Lebanon, the ambassador and embassy staff live in an extremely challenging security environment. Their movement is seriously restricted. In Egypt, too, there are also very real security concerns for U.S. embassy personnel. Protesters scaled the walls of the compound on September 11, 2012 and pulled down the American flag, mere hours before the Benghazi consulate attack. We owe these employees of the U.S. government and their families a debt of gratitude.

Specifically, in Lebanon, I was grateful for Ambassador Connelly’s hospitality and for the work of my control officer, Caitlin Spicer, and the embassy’s political and economic section chief, Danielle Garbe. All went to great lengths to ensure that our trip was a success and that our time was filled with insightful meetings.

In Egypt, I appreciate Ambassador Patterson and her team’s efforts to see that our relatively brief visit was productive. I especially want to thank my control officer Peter Shea (who also assisted with my earlier visit to Egypt). His dedication to human rights and religious freedom is evident and appreciated.

I also would like to thank Speaker JOHN BOEHNER and House Appropriations Committee Chairman HAL ROGERS for approving this trip.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff, particularly Elyse Anderson, my foreign policy director, and Dan Scandling, my chief of staff, who accompanied me on the trip.

IN HONOR OF PATRICIA “PAT”
DERBY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia “Pat” Derby, a world-renowned advocate, champion of animal rights, and a dear friend.

Patricia Bysse Shelly was born June 7, 1942, in East Sussex, England, the second of two children born to Charles Boswell Shelley, a Cambridge University professor, and Mary, a homemaker. Pat’s father died when she was 12, and at the age of 15 she immigrated by herself to New York City to pursue her dream of theatre and ballet. She enrolled at New York’s Columbia University but later dropped out to pursue her Hollywood dreams in California.

While living in San Francisco, she met future husband and animal trainer Ted Derby and began working with him as a team, training animals for television and movies. Throughout the 1960’s and 70’s, Pat trained many exotic animals for Hollywood TV shows like “Flipper,” “Lassie,” and “Gunsmoke.”

However, after many years of witnessing widespread abuse of exotic and performing animals, Pat quit the business and quickly became one of the most vocal critics of animal abuse in Hollywood.

In 1975, Pat wrote her best-selling book, “The Lady and Her Tiger,” which documented her time working with animals in the entertainment industry and brought to light the negative aspects of the industry’s practices, which invariably made her an enemy of many Hollywood elite.

In 1984, Mrs. Derby and her lifetime associate, Ed Stewart, founded the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). Her hope was that this organization would serve to advocate for, and protect, the animals we see on a daily basis in TV shows and movies.

Pat’s first, and most important, mission was always to educate others regarding animal rights and how organizations should approach caring for captive wild animals.

Pat also worked closely with government agencies, and kept her USDA and California Fish and Game permits up-to-date as there were few facilities to aid animals when she first started. These permits were initially used to start a sanctuary that has since grown from 30 acres to 2,300 acres in Galt, California which has housed everything from lions and wolves to a sick baby Elephant. Each of which lived out the entirety of its life in full health on Pat’s sanctuary.

Pat’s long time associate Ed Stewart wrote that when some people die they are unduly given “hero” status, and yet that is not Pat. She was a true hero in the animals rights world whose sole crusade was aimed at helping animals that could not protect or advocate for themselves. Pat realized that even wild animals need someone to look out for them, and she dedicated her life to that belief.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia “Pat” Derby for her lifetime commitment to protecting the welfare of performing animals.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH OLSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Keith Olson for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

At 29 years old, Keith Olson is one of Iowa’s premier commercial brokers, utilizing his talents as a commercial associate at NAI Ruhl and Ruhl Commercial Company. Mr. Olson’s impact on the Des Moines area has been undeniable after being named Downtown Community Alliances’s downtown broker of the year on two separate occasions, as well as being named a Dave Ramsey Commercial Real Estate endorsed local provider. Outside of real estate, Keith is active in his church, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa, March of Dimes, and Young Variety, just to name a few. In all facets of his life, Keith is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Keith in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Olson for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Keith on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO SUNSET BEACH,
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Sunset Beach, North Carolina as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding.

After Hurricane Hazel struck Southeastern North Carolina in 1955, only a small area called Bald Beach remained unscathed. Mannon C. Gore purchased the small island of Bald Beach and a 500-acre section of the mainland across from the Intracoastal Waterway. In the following years, Mr. Gore built a pontoon swing bridge, a one-of-a-kind bridge that served the town until November, 2010. These areas established the foundation for the future Town of Sunset Beach.

On March 26, 1963, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified the incorporation of

the Town of Sunset Beach. From a population of 30 in 1963, Sunset Beach is now home to more than 3400 permanent residents and a booming tourism industry. Unique among Barrier Island communities in North Carolina, Sunset Beach encompasses both a mainland and an island. Nearby Bird Island is a 1300-acre State Preserve barrier island home to unique species of birds and turtles.

From the natural beauty of the Intracoastal Waterway to the pristine beaches, small-town atmosphere, golf courses, and wildlife, Sunset Beach offers a family-friendly destination for thousands of tourists every year. Although Sunset Beach has grown significantly since 1963, it retains the small-town charm that has led thousands of North Carolinians to call it home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Sunset Beach, North Carolina, as it celebrates 50 years. I am fortunate to represent this beautiful coastal town, to have a place to spend time there with my family, and to enjoy the friendship of its residents.

May God continue to bless this place which is so special not only to its citizens and to families like mine, but also to those who travel to this wonderful destination indeed, a beautiful part of God's creation!

HONORING MILJENKO "MIKE"
GRGICH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miljenko "Mike" Grgich on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Born in Croatia, Mr. Grgich studied winemaking and viticulture at the University of Zagreb before he left communist Croatia for the Napa Valley in 1958.

In 1976 the Chardonnay that Mike made won the famed Paris Tasting. This victory shattered the myth that only French soil can produce world-class wines, and the victory pumped new energy into the California wine industry, particularly in the Napa Valley. Following Mike's lead, California vintners redoubled their efforts to make better wines each year.

In honor of his contributions to the industry, Mike was inducted into the Vintners Hall of Fame on March 7, 2008, the same year the California State Fair presented Mike Grgich with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1977 Mr. Grgich launched Grgich Hills Winery, a stunning illustration of innovation in winemaking. The winery converted to solar power in 2006, and today farms all of its 366 acres organically. Each of the wines that the vineyard produces is estate grown.

Today Mr. Grgich is active in Roots of Peace, the international campaign to rid the world of land mines by changing the mines to vines. In 2007, Roots of Peace presented Mike with its Global Citizen Award for his leadership and unique contributions in raising landmine awareness around the globe.

Mr. Grgich's winery donates to a number of organizations and it is a longtime supporter of the Auction Napa Valley, which raises money for local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Grgich is a legend of the Napa Valley and a champion of our community. Mr. Speak-

er, it is only appropriate that we honor Miljenko Grgich's profound contributions to Napa Valley and the art of American winemaking

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 2013, I missed rollcall Nos. 59, 60, 61, and 62 due to upcoming cataract surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 59, "nay" on rollcall No. 60, "yea" on rollcall No. 61, and "nay" on rollcall No. 62.

On March 12, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 63. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. S. GERALD DAVIDSON

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the retirement of Mr. S. Gerald Davidson. Mr. Davidson is an accomplished attorney who has dedicated his life to helping his community of Rochester, New York, and making our country a better place to live.

Mr. Davidson was first drawn to our area while attending the University of Rochester, graduating in 1952. After earning his law degree at Cornell, Mr. Davidson moved back to Rochester where he opened his own firm, Davidson Fink LLP in 1968, and focused on practicing matrimonial and family law. Since its inception, Davidson Fink has dedicated itself to tailoring to each client's individual needs, expectations and time constraints. Under Mr. Davidson's tutelage, the firm has become one of the fastest growing business operations over the last four years while attracting some of the best attorneys to Upstate New York.

With 44 years of expertise, Mr. Davidson is very generous in sharing his knowledge through lectures at the Monroe County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. By setting this precedent, employees at Davidson Fink LLP are also expected to share their experiences throughout the legal community through publishing, forums, and seminars to meet the challenges of an ever-changing profession.

In addition to fully immersing himself in the legal community through the Collaborative Law Association of the Rochester Area, Inc., and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, having previously served as the chairman of the Family Law section in New York State Chapter Board of Managers, Mr. Davidson has dedicated himself to upholding the highest level of professionalism. Mr. Davidson clearly enjoys remaining a student of a field he loves where families themselves have grown more diverse.

With all of these remarkable accomplishments, perhaps the most illustrative of Mr.

Davidson's commitment to his profession is the prestigious honor of consistently being named one of the Best Lawyers in America, beginning with their initial rankings in the 1980s. For families facing monumental changes in their future, this experience can be overwhelming, stressful, and confusing. Even if the make-up of these clients' families may be altered, what remains the same is Mr. Davidson's unparalleled abilities to navigate these complex relationships.

His dedication towards others also extends to our community. Mr. Davidson has served on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Home of Rochester and was a member of the Town of Brighton's Board of Appeals for over a decade. Davidson Fink LLP has continued to follow in his footsteps as a staunch supporter of community outreach by participating in events hosted by the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ibero-American Action League and advocating for others through pro bono work. Mr. Davidson's actions have had long lasting impacts on our community, and we are so fortunate that he has chosen to call Rochester his home.

In tribute to a lifetime of service to community and country, I stand to acknowledge Mr. Davidson. There is no better way to commemorate his retirement than to honor a man who has committed himself to families and upholding the law to the best of his abilities. I am proud to honor one of the finest residents of New York's 25th Congressional District, the incomparable Mr. S. Gerald Davidson.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS McDANIEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Dennis McDaniel for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

In 2003, Dennis McDaniel joined the Windsor Heights Police Department as a police officer. Today, he is a law enforcement veteran who has ascended the rank of Windsor Heights' Chief of Police. In this role, which he has held since 2010, Mr. McDaniel has revolutionized his department's operations and actively made his community a safer place, developing a volunteer police reserve program and implementing a variety of technological and goal-based tools in his department's divisions. From serving as chairman for the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force to teaching Rape Aggression Defense programs to the women of Greater Des Moines, Dennis has demonstrated a clear commitment to providing

leadership and marked improvement to his community. In all facets of his life, Dennis is an example of service and hard work that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dennis in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. McDaniel for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dennis on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 933, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important oversight in the implementation of the sequester that this CR does not address: the inclusion of several private, non-profit organizations in the scope of the sequester.

We all recognize the importance of eliminating our country's growing deficit and debt. While the sequester is in no way the best solution to this problem, we cannot afford to ignore our nation's debt crisis. Meaningful spending cuts are absolutely required in order to get our fiscal house in order.

As a CPA, I am concerned about two organizations in particular, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. These two organizations were designed from their inception to be independent of the federal budget process.

High-quality accounting and independent audit oversight is critical to providing transparent, consistent, comparable, relevant, and reliable financial information to investors. Because of the complexity and the competing stakeholder interests associated with accounting standards, Congress has repeatedly determined that the establishment and enforcement of these standards should be managed by independent, private-sector organizations.

In order to insulate the PCAOB and FASB from coercion and to protect their independence, Congress authorized these organizations to collect fees as dedicated sources of funding in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. These fees are not federal dollars; they never touch the Treasury or any other governmental entity, and are not subject to appropriation. In fact, Section 109(c)(1) of Sarbanes-Oxley specifically says: "accounting support fees and other receipts of the [PCAOB] and [FASB] shall not be considered public monies of the United States."

Importantly, neither the PCAOB nor FASB has any budget authority, or the ability to obligate and expend funds on behalf of the Federal government. Section 109(i) of Sarbanes-Oxley clarifies their independence further by stating: "Nothing in this section shall be con-

strued to render either the [PCAOB], [FASB], or both, subject to procedures in Congress to authorize or appropriate public funds, or to prevent such organization from utilizing additional sources of revenue for its activities . . ."

Despite this clear Congressional intent to keep the PCAOB and FASB independent of the Federal budget process, OMB included them both in the President's Budget, making them subject to sequestration under the BCA. Yet, because their revenues are not federal monies, sequestering their funds would have no impact on the Federal budget and would not reduce the deficit one dollar.

Sequestration of the PCAOB and FASB's accounting support fees would jeopardize the independence of the accounting standards-setting and auditing process, and provide the Federal government with unintended and unprecedented control over these institutions. That type of control is precisely what Congress sought to avoid when it made the PCAOB and FASB independent of the Federal budget process in Sarbanes-Oxley.

Absent correction, I fear that FASB's sister organization, the Government Accounting Standards Board—GASB—will also be subject to sequester. Like the PCAOB and FASB, GASB had its independence firmly established with its own authorization to collect fees and its complete separation from the federal budget written into Dodd-Frank.

In order to implement Congressional intent and maintain the independence of the accounting and auditing community, we must exempt these private, non-profit organizations from the President's Budget and clarify that these and other similarly situated entities are not subject to current or future sequestration under the BCA.

I would like to insert into the RECORD a bipartisan letter signed by nine members of the Congressional Caucus on CPAs and Accountants. While the letter is focused on FASB and GASB, it is equally applicable to the PCAOB and shows the bipartisan concern that protecting the independence of these organizations has.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, February 26, 2013.

HON. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

HON. PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

HON. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN MIKULSKI, ROGERS, MURRAY, AND RYAN: As Members of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Accountants Caucus, we are concerned about the Office of Management and Budget's ("OMB") unilateral determination that sequestration applies to the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) ("BCA").

OMB's decision to sequester funding for FASB, and the potential for a future sequestration of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"), undermines the independence required for the establishment of fair and reliable accounting standards. It also contradicts Congressional intent and the legal requirements of the BCA, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX"), and the

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank"). Consequently, we ask that FASB and GASB be excluded from the list of entities subject to any current or future sequestration under the BCA.

High-quality accounting standards are critical to providing transparent, consistent, comparable, relevant, and reliable financial information to investors. Because of the complexity and the competing stakeholder interests associated with accounting standards, Congress has repeatedly determined that the establishment of these standards should be managed by an independent, private-sector body. Congress statutorily authorized the SEC to designate FASB as the entity responsible for developing financial accounting and reporting standards for all nongovernmental, private-sector entities that issue financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Similarly, GASB is recognized as the private-sector accounting standards-setter for state and local governments.

Congress has determined that independent, private-sector funding sources are necessary in order for those entities to remain objective and unbiased. Therefore, Congress authorized the collection of fees as dedicated sources of funding to insulate FASB and GASB from coercion and to protect their independence. It is important to note that those fees are explicitly not public monies of the United States; the fees never touch the Treasury or any other governmental entity, and are not subject to appropriation.

Despite this clear Congressional intent to keep FASB and GASB independent of the Federal budget process, OMB unilaterally decided to include FASB in the President's Budget, making it subject to sequestration under the BCA. Absent correction, we fear that OMB may also decide to include GASB in the President's Budget, thereby also making it subject to sequestration. Importantly, neither FASB nor GASB has budget authority, or the ability to obligate and expend funds on behalf of the Federal government. Therefore, sequestering their funds would have no impact on the Federal budget and would not reduce the deficit one dollar.

Sequestration of FASB accounting support fees would jeopardize the independence of the accounting standards-setting process and provide the Federal government with unintended and unprecedented control over FASB's budget. That type of control is precisely what Congress sought to avoid when it made FASB independent of the Federal budget process in SOX, and GASB in Dodd-Frank.

In order to implement Congressional intent and maintain the independence of the accounting standards-setting process, we request that the Appropriations and Budget Committees take such steps as might be necessary to exempt FASB and GASB from the President's Budget and to clarify that these entities are not subject to sequestration under the BCA. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Rep. Mike Conaway, Co-Chair, Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.

Sen. Mike Enzi, Co-Chair, Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.

Rep. Brad Sherman, Co-Chair Caucus on CPAs and Accountants.

Rep. John Campbell.

Rep. Bill Flores.

Rep. Steven Palazzo.

Rep. James Renacci.

Rep. Patrick Murphy.

Rep. Collin Peterson.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. JAMES D. RUTH, GENERAL
MANAGER, ORANGE COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the retirement of Mr. James D. Ruth, the General Manager of the Orange County Sanitation District. I worked with Jim during the past several years when the District was within my congressional district and learned to appreciate the tremendous public servant that Jim embodies. He was appointed interim General Manager of the Orange County Sanitation District in December 2005 and was originally supposed to stay about three to six months. Today, seven years later, Jim has worked with the OCSD Board of Directors to guide the District through some of the most challenging times that any public official could face. Jim's good humor, his expertise in public administration, his commitment to deliver the finest work resulted in successes that others could hope to attain. I must note that Jim also enabled his staff to take risks and make tough decisions that have strengthened the District and will allow it to make the transition with a new General Manager seamless. In his tenure, Jim oversaw a number of significant accomplishments and gaining national and international acclaim for the third largest wastewater treatment plant west of the Mississippi River.

While I no longer serve Orange County, I am proud to have worked hand-in-hand with OCSD and others on some very important issues. Under his watch, Jim Ruth oversaw the relocation of the Santa Ana River Interceptor Line—an important link between the Inland Empire and Orange County—and once completed, will finally remove an environmental threat that has been looming for many, many years.

Jim transformed OCSD and was leader in trimming costs and saving ratepayer dollars. Thanks to his leadership, OCSD was one of the first agencies to implement a lower cost second tier pension system across the board and save millions of dollars with efficiencies and elimination of duplicative services.

With 55 years of public service, Jim Ruth leaves a legacy of transforming public agencies and bringing out the best in the people around him. Many of us think, Jim really isn't retiring but moving on to something else as those of us who know him well, know he cannot sit still.

Congratulations Jim on a very successful career at OCSD and on serving the people of Orange County for many years. I wish you the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL MCLEAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Rachel McLean for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree

by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Rachel McLean currently serves as the Vice President and a consultant for Ruan Companies in Des Moines. The daughter of John Ruan III and Janis Ruan, Rachel has found her talents and expertise uniquely suited for leading the family business. Previously the director of communications and ultimately Vice President of Communications at Ruan Transportation Management Systems, Rachel was tasked with managing the communication processes among Ruan's 4,500 employees. Mrs. McLean now hones those experiences as she oversees charitable giving for the Ruan Family Foundation, conducts quantitative research to maximize the company's performance, and manages the customer satisfaction initiative for Ruan Transportation. Outside of work, Rachel is heavily involved in the Des Moines community through her involvement in the Des Moines Founders Garden Club, Linden Heights Neighborhood Association, and Harkin Institute of Public Policy. Mrs. McLean also serves on the Board of Directors for the Des Moines Community Playhouse and Youth Homes of Mid-America. Rachel and her husband Ben are kept busy at home with their son, set to turn two later this year. In all facets of her life, Rachel is a shining example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Rachel in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. McLean for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Rachel on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
JOAN MARGARET (KATHAN)
ZERZAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great Oregonian whose contribution to my State and our nation bears recognition.

Joan Margaret (Kathan) Zerzan was born in Grants Pass, Oregon on June 26, 1927. A child of the Great Depression, she grew up in a house up Evans Creek Road in Rogue River, Oregon that was for a good part of her youth not wired with electricity. And yet, as she was fond of saying, if her family was poor she didn't know it at the time.

A descendent of pioneers and frontiersmen, throughout her life Joan Zerzan demonstrated the indomitable spirit of her forebears. During World War II she served as a civilian spotter of air traffic while working on her sister's ranch. A musical prodigy, she attended Willamette University at the age of 17 on musical scholarship, having been born with the unique ability to play almost any instrument seemingly just by looking at it.

It was while at Willamette that Joan met the great love of her life and husband of 60 years, Charles Zerzan. Almost exactly 5 years ago I memorialized Charles Zerzan's life on this floor, and recounted his many accomplishments. There is no question that these would not have been possible without his beloved wife Joan.

In Joan Zerzan's life she served in many roles—patron of the arts, poll worker on election day, volunteer at school and church. Yet for all her many endeavors, there was no field in which she excelled so much as in being a mother. Joan Zerzan gave birth to 12 children, 8 sons and 4 daughters, and provided each one with the love and succor that only a mother can provide. As the Psalmist wrote, so Joan Zerzan truly believed, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." In not only raising fine children, but in teaching them her core values of faith and hard work, she richly contributed to the ongoing success of our nation in the irreplaceable way upon which all of civilization ultimately rests. She provided an example of the matchless power of these two values throughout her life through her words and her actions—beliefs she instilled not only in her own children but in her 32 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Though we mourn the loss of Joan Zerzan, we also celebrate the life of a woman whose contributions to this country leave an enduring legacy and inspiration to others. Joan Zerzan believed nothing was impossible and taught her children and grandchildren that, when faced with uncertainty or given a choice between hope and despair, the only reasonable choice was hope. As recounted in the Gospel of Matthew, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." The woman who built her own life on solid ground, who grew up in a humble dwelling in southern Oregon, now retires to the mansion that has been promised her. On this solemn but ultimately joyful occasion I know this whole body will join with me in giving thanks for the life of Joan Zerzan.

CONGRATULATING RITA FOLEY
HALPIN ON HER 92ND BIRTHDAY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the 92nd birthday last week on March 5th of Rita Foley Halpin of Glenview, Illinois. Rita is one of the few surviving Americans who can say that her grandfather fought

in the Civil War. Captain Patrick Foley, an immigrant from County Kerry, Ireland, served in the 23rd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry ("the Irish Brigade"), fought under General Philip Sheridan in the last major Civil War battle, the siege of Petersburg, and was present at Appomattox Court House for the final surrender.

Rita's father, Dr. Thomas P. Foley, was a past President of the Chicago Medical Society. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Elizabeth Hannon Foley, Rita graduated from Chicago Teachers College in 1943 and started her career as a kindergarten teacher in Chicago public schools.

Rita's husband, the late Thomas J. Halpin, to whom she was married for over sixty-two years, was a captain serving with the 88th Infantry during the liberation of Rome in World War II. Her grandson, Sean R. Halpin, continues the family tradition of military service as a first lieutenant in United States Forces/Korea.

Rita raised four children and then returned to teaching where she was an elementary school teacher at St. Paul of the Cross School in Park Ridge, Illinois for almost two decades. She is still fondly remembered by her many pupils.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of Rita Foley Halpin and the contributions that she and her family have made to this country.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP ONE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boy Scouts of Troop One in Ballston Spa, NY and their 100th anniversary celebration.

On December 27, 1912, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ballston Spa signed a charter with the Boy Scouts of America to sponsor Boy Scout Troop One. Troop One formed just three years after the first national chapter of Boy Scouts of America, making it one of New York's oldest Boy Scout Troops.

For the last 100 years, Troop One's young men have demonstrated the Boy Scouts of America's principles of loyalty, leadership, resourcefulness and commitment to community service. Its members have engaged in countless volunteer projects and educational activities that have built a stronger community.

I commend the scout masters, parents and volunteers who have mentored so many of the Capital-Saratoga Region's young men, 58 of whom have risen to the highest level of scouting and become Eagle Scouts. That proud tradition continues today with the 45 scouts currently active in Troop One.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all current and former members of Boy Scout Troop One of Ballston Spa for this milestone, thanking them for all their contributions to the Capital-Saratoga Region and wishing them all the best in the many years of scouting ahead of them.

HONORING LARRY GOMEZ FOR HIS SERVICE TO OMAHA CHAMBER

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Gomez on his last week as Director of Small Business Services at the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. After 36 years serving small business owners in Omaha, Larry will hang up his Chamber shoes on March 15th and replace them with golf shoes.

A graduate of Bishop-Ryan High School in 1966 and of the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1971, Larry spent his days as captain of the baseball team. When he wasn't busy with baseball, he earned a speech and communication/business degree from UNO. Upon graduating, he took a job with the City of Omaha in 1972 as the Chief Relocation Officer where he spearheaded the relocation of 52 businesses from the Central Park Mall.

Since he joined the Omaha Chamber in 1976 he hasn't looked back. As Director of the Omaha Regional Minority Purchasing Council, he matched minority businesses with corporate buyers. In 1978, Larry was named Director of Small Business Council and Area Councils. Major milestones during his tenure with the Chamber include: Buy the Big O! Show, Omaha 25 Fastest Growing (now the Big O! Excellence Awards), Business on the Green, and the Area Council Golden Spike Awards. In the last five years, Larry has been an integral part of the membership team and member retention.

Larry has been a tremendously valuable resource for my office. Whether it was setting up a group of business leaders to discuss cyber technology or the hurdles facing owners, Larry was always the first call.

I am going to miss seeing him at the many ribbon cuttings we've attended together through the years. What I do look forward to, however, is seeing if he puts his band—Larry Gomez and the Brotherhood—back together again.

So I rise today to thank him for his years of service and for his efforts to strengthen our city. May his drives be straight and his putts be few. I speak for all Omahans when I say we'll miss him and the energy he brought to the Chamber.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 4, 2013, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 56 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 307).

TRIBUTE TO EMILY HARRIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Emily Harris for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Emily Harris is a patent attorney and shareholder at Davis Brown Law Firm. In the firm's intellectual property department, Emily is tasked with obtaining patent, trademark, and copyright protection for clients and supporting the intellectual property litigators. Ms. Harris' role at Davis Brown also allows her passion for science to intersect with her avocation of supporting startup businesses. Emily co-founded the firm's Startup Launchpad website to assist young companies in accessing legal solutions and avoiding legal pitfalls. Outside of work, Emily enjoys reading and has published numerous articles on property law. Ms. Harris is also heavily involved in her community through her service as a member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Capital Crossroads Technology Transfer committee, as well as her previous work with the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and pro bono work for the former Iowa Biosciences Alliance. In all aspects of her busy life, Emily is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emily in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Harris for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Emily on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT LORAN LEE "BUTCH" BAKER, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave and honorable community hero, the late Sergeant Loran Lee "Butch" Baker, Jr. A Sergeant in the Santa Cruz Police Department, Butch was known not only for his investigative ability and skills in gathering intelligence, but also for his larger-than-life personality, his commitment to his family, his

sense of humor, and his continual love for others. An avid sports fan, Butch enjoyed watching NASCAR races, and cheering for his favorite teams, The San Francisco Giants and The San Jose Sharks.

Butch was born in San Francisco, California in 1961, and met his future wife, Kelly, when they were only ten and eleven years old. In 1985, Butch joined the Santa Cruz Police Department, where he displayed an unwavering commitment to protect and defend the citizens of the City of Santa Cruz. In 1989, Butch earned a Medal of Valor in for his heroic actions following the earthquake. Additionally, Butch earned numerous state and federal law enforcement awards throughout his career.

Butch lost his life in a senseless act of violence, but his legacy will never be forgotten within our community, and throughout the extended law enforcement family. My thoughts are with Sergeant Baker's family, including his wife, Kelly, his daughters, Jillian and Ashley, and his son, Adam.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Loran Lee "Butch" Baker, and to promise that his life and his legacy will never be forgotten.

CELEBRATING SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans affected by sleep disorders and insufficient sleep and in observance of National Sleep Awareness Week, which occurred last week from March 3rd through 10th.

Sleep disorders affect every age group from infants to the elderly and are often an indicator of, or a precursor to other major diseases and disorders, in addition to being a public health and safety issue. According to the Institute of Medicine's report entitled "Sleep Disorder and Sleep Deprivation: An Unmet Public Health Problem" (2006), 50–70 million Americans chronically suffer from sleep or circadian disorders, while 15% of the population suffers from sleep-disordered breathing, including obstructive sleep apnea. Chronic sleep disorders include insomnia, REM sleep behavior disorder, narcolepsy and other forms of hypersomnia, and circadian disruptions. These disorders negatively affect sleep duration, increasing risk of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke, depression, and substance abuse.

Sleep disorders and sleep deprivation cost \$150 billion annually in lost productivity and \$48 billion in medical costs related to motor vehicle accidents involving drowsy drivers. Sleep apnea results in excessive daytime somnolence, poor performance, increased frequency of road traffic accidents, and arterial hypertension. Prior to diagnosis, patients with sleep apnea often incur higher costs in their overall health care. If left untreated, obstructive sleep apnea has significant negative impacts on health, including early mortality. Furthermore, as our troops return home from Afghanistan and Iraq, there will be great need for continuing research concerning the link between sleep apnea and Post Traumatic Stress

Disorder. A study including 725 active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces found that 85% of them had a sleep disorder. The most common was obstructive sleep apnea (51%), followed by insomnia (25%). Through increased federal commitment we can provide the best care to improve the health of those brave Americans who have served in uniform.

New treatment options, enhanced patient care, and future cures will increase the quality of life and productivity of the workforce. Research funding can also spur local economies through discovery of new technologies that can lead to the creation of new jobs. Federal investment in sleep research at the National Institutes of Health National Center on Sleep Disorders Research, are vital to supporting discoveries in the area of sleep disorders and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting sustained and meaningful improvements in the health and healthcare of the millions of Americans whose health is compromised because of sleep disorders. By increasing awareness of the need for increased research funding, we will be able to continue to examine the links between sleep and health in an effort to improve the health of the population and lower overall healthcare costs.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY LIFE AND CAREER OF SHERIFF MICHAEL McDONALD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the exemplary life and service of Stark County Sheriff Michael McDonald who sadly passed away on February 22nd, 2013. Sheriff McDonald joined the police force at the young age of 18 and over time proved himself to be an effective and talented officer. He served the county in many capacities over his long and illustrious career, including sheriff, chief deputy and jail administrator. The selfless nature that dedicated public servants like Sheriff McDonald embody is what makes our country great.

Sheriff McDonald was a man who gave himself to his community and the people of Stark County, making the lives of those living in the community safer. His legacy will continue to be felt every day as the people and the department that he cared so deeply about continues to protect and serve.

I would like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Sheriff McDonald's family: his wife Judy, his son Bradley; his daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and Gabe Moser; his sisters and brother-in-law, Joanne and James Caplea, Laura McDonald and Mary Lou McDonald; sister-in-law, Kelly McDonald; his father and mother-in-law, Paul and Norma Zwick; his in-laws, Rick and Linda Heithoff, Rose Elmerick and John and Sandy Swigert; and his beloved nieces and nephews. I would also like to extend my sympathies to the Sheriff's second family, the men and women of the Stark County Sheriff's Department. Rest assured that his 32 years of devotion to the people of Stark Count will never be forgotten.

HONORING DAVID WENDEL'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A DEACON TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25 years of service that David Wendel has given to the Catholic Church as a Deacon.

He started as an altar boy at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lakeland for Father Bryan Walsh. He continued to serve at St. Joseph's and then also started serving at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lakeland in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Wendel became one of the first 500 volunteers to join what is now known as AmeriCorps and assist our country.

His commitment to service led him to believe that if you see a problem, you must get involved in fixing it. He encouraged many members of his family to get involved in their communities. Every Saturday he took his nephew, Brian, to visit the elderly and handicapped which helped create a foundation for service in Brian's life.

Mr. Wendel now serves at a church in Georgia.

I want to thank him for his 25 years of service to our community and country.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA HILBERT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Angela Hilbert for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Angela Hilbert is the Sales and Marketing Director for Deerfield Retirement Community. An Iowa native and graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, Angela always knew she wanted her work to include assisting and influencing those around her. This passion has led Angela to extensive involvement with non-profits in Iowa over the last decade, including the YMCA of Greater Des Moines, the Des Moines Community Playhouse, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the Easter Seals of Iowa, just to name a few. Angela married her high school sweetheart Rob, and together they live in Urbandale with their daughters, Samantha and Emerson. Indicative of her character, Angela is honored to be among the 2013 Class of Forty Under 40 and

hopes it will serve as another platform to contribute to those around her. In all facets of her life, Angela is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Angela in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Hilbert for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Angela on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS SOCIAL WORK MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to an entire profession of people dedicated to serving the most vulnerable among us. I am referring, of course, to social workers. Social workers have touched the lives of millions of individuals and families in need of emotional, psychological, economic and physical support. They have integrated themselves within our nation's social safety net in order to help meet the basic needs of all people.

These hardworking advocates do not simply provide individuals with the resources they need to resolve their life challenges; they also cultivate a sense of self-reliance to encourage individuals to create their own solutions. Social workers help connect service providers to those in need to weave an ever-growing social safety net, and I commend them for their dedication.

March was officially recognized as National Professional Social Work Month in 1984. Since then social workers around the country, in my community and in yours, have worked to spread awareness of this critical profession. They have reached out not only to service providers and those in need, but also to students and others with the potential to join this noble profession.

To those of you who have joined this hardworking, empathetic and resourceful group of people, I thank you for all the time and energy you have invested in helping others in your community. I hope that you will continue to do so, with the knowledge that your efforts have been recognized and appreciated.

RECOGNIZING ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER'S VOLUNTEERS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Francis's volunteers who have dedicated their time in service and assistance to the patients of the medical center. These men and women have devoted countless hours to help those during times of need and have made a tremendous impact on the Monroe community.

Specifically, I would like to recognize 10 volunteers for contributing over 25 years of service, some of whom have reached the 30 year milestone: Barbara Roberts (25 years), Mabel Sims (25 years), Mary Hart (28 years), Pat Ham (29 years), Lucille Calk (30 years), Sandra Franklin (30 years), Syble Leigh (30 years), Carolyn Roberts (30 years), Patsy Welch (30 years), and last but not least, Angie Bruscato (38 years).

I would also like to congratulate Ruth Beavers and Talma Turrentine for giving more than 10,000 service hours to St. Francis.

This group is certainly an inspiration to us all as they bring the gift of comfort and hope to countless patients and their families. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding each volunteer, past and present, for their admirable service and leadership.

HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding victory of the Harrisburg High School Bulldogs at State Champions.

The Bulldog won the Class 2A State Championship in a 50–44 victory. I would like to congratulate Coach Randy Smithpeters, Assistant Coaches Brandon Henshaw, Richard Dwyer, Dr. Robert Hodson and Eric Griffin who have work hard to help the Harrisburg Bulldogs achieve this victory.

Members of the state championship team include: Logan Hartley, Caleb Bartok, Tyler Smithpeters, Justin Younger, Capel Henshaw, Ryne Roper, Jarren Goldman, Bahari Amaya, Anfernee Houston, Snejfur Bjornsson, Eli Taborn–Scott, Gabe Oglesby, Jake Simerly, Carson Batts and Dakota Upchurch.

I look forward to the continued success of the Harrisburg High School Bulldogs. I extend my best wishes for another outstanding season next year.

CONGRATULATING BRURIA FINKEL

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to Bruria Finkel, an award winning painter, sculptor, and installation artist.

Bruria has participated in over sixty art shows in the United States and Europe.

Bruria was a pioneer of the Los Angeles feminist art movement and helped found the Los Angeles Council of Women Artists (LACWA) to protest gender discrimination at LACMA in 1968.

Bruria served as a founding member and Chair of the Santa Monica Arts Commission from 1982 until 1996. She founded the Arts Foundation in the 1980s, presided as Chair of the City's Rent Control Board from 1995 to 2002, and sat on many civic committees over the years.

Bruria has richly contributed to shaping art in Southern California, and has been a long-

time leader in making California's coast a vibrant community for artists as well as the arts.

Mr. Speaker, Bruria's artistic contributions to Southern California have been an inspiration to many. She personifies how artists can shape life in a community. I am proud to have such an accomplished artist in Southern California.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL MERLE PETERSON, US ARMY (RET) AND CAPTAIN DONALD PETERSON, US NAVY (RET) REGARDING THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR SERVICE ACADEMIES AND OUR NATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel Merle Peterson, US Army (Ret) and Captain Donald Peterson, US Navy (Ret) for their extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. These gentlemen served long honorable careers in the United States Military. Upon retirement, both continued to dedicate their lives to ensuring our nation's premier Service Academies attendees included the most talented nominees from the First Congressional District of Minnesota.

Colonel Peterson joined the US Army as an enlisted Soldier in 1948 and served in the Korean War. When he returned home in 1951, Colonel Peterson joined the Army Reserves, serving with the 419th and 407th Civil Affairs Companies from 1956 until 1969. Colonel Peterson attended Winona State University becoming a schoolteacher. Between St. Charles High School and Rochester Kellogg Middle School, Colonel Peterson taught for 31-years.

In 1971, the United States Military Academy selected Colonel Peterson as Academy Liaison Officer for Minnesota's First Congressional District. For over 41 years, Colonel Peterson worked with five Members of Congress of the First Congressional District; assisting over 100 candidates to attend West Point.

Captain Peterson joined the US Naval Air Reserve in 1953 as an enlisted servicemember. He served in that capacity until 1956 when drafted and inducted into the US Army where he spent the next four years. In 1959, Captain Peterson rejoined the Naval Air Reserve and had over 39 years of total military service until his retirement in 1992.

Captain Peterson attended the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology where he attained a degree in mechanical engineering. He purchased his own business, Mississippi Welder Supply Company currently located in three states with ten different branches.

In 1984, the United States Naval Academy selected Captain Peterson to be a Blue & Gold Officer. He has represented the Naval Academy in Southeastern Minnesota for 29 years. Captain Peterson interviewed countless candidates over the years helping many highly qualified Midshipmen enter the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I seek to recognize the dedication and selfless service both Colonel and Captain Peterson provided the United States Military, the United States Service Academies,

the First Congressional District of Minnesota, and our nation. For combined 70 years, Colonel and Captain Peterson assessed our best and brightest candidates, enabling these young recruits to continue the proud tradition of attending United States Service Academies. Both Colonel and Captain Peterson are patriotic Americans who deserve this nation's thanks and gratitude.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 316—94TH
NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION
CELEBRATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Legion Post

316, located in Woodstock, Georgia, which will celebrate 94 years of patriotic service on March 21, 2013.

Since the American Legion received its Congressional Charter in 1919, it has grown to more than 2.4 million members at over 14,000 posts across the world. Mr. Speaker, as the country's largest wartime veteran's organization, the National American Legion has become a leading advocate for devoted veterans, active service members, and strong communities.

In that spirit, American Legion Post 316 will honor local men and women for their exemplary service. Detective Ron Hughes, Lieutenant Matt O'Keefe, Officer Cullen Fitchett, Jenny Banas, Matt Marano, Bobby Brian Dean, James Brennan, and Eagle Scout William Harrison Stepat will receive awards for their accomplishments in Cherokee County law enforcement, firefighting, and Boy Scouts.

To American Legion Post 316, Cherokee County law enforcement, firefighters, and community leaders: On behalf of Georgia's 11th District, my deepest thanks for your service and your commitment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 63. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yes."

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, March 14, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine JPMorgan Chase whale trades.
SD-G50

MARCH 18

2 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine how comprehensive immigration reform should address the needs of women and families.
SD-226

MARCH 19

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Northern Command, and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SH-216

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine bipartisan solutions for house finance reform.
SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the options and challenges related to possible reauthorization and reform of two payment programs for local governments, focusing on the recently expired "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act" and the "Payment in Lieu of Taxes".
SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Syria's humanitarian crisis.
SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine the American Airlines/US Airways merger, focusing on consolidation, competition, and consumers.
SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
To hold hearings to examine developments and opportunities in United States fisheries management.
SR-253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2013 trade agenda.
SD-215

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To receive a briefing on cybersecurity threats in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing in SVC-217.
SR-222

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine keeping savings in the retirement system.
SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory Alan Phillips, of Wyoming, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and Karol Virginia Mason, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

3 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment
To hold hearings to examine streamlining regulation, improving consumer protection and increasing competition in insurance markets.
SD-538

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the trajectory of democracy in Hungary, focusing on Hungary's constitutional changes with a particular view to the independence of the judiciary, present-day Hungary's relationship to its Holocaust-era past, and the implications of Hungary's sweeping legal changes for civil society, including an independent media and religious organizations.
SVC-210

MARCH 20

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Science and Space
To hold hearings to examine assessing the risks, impacts, and solutions for space threats.
SR-253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine reforming the delivery system, focusing on the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.
SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Reauthorization Act of 2013", and S. 330, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Hurricane Sandy, focusing on getting the recovery right and the value of mitigation.
SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the future of drones in America, focusing on law enforcement and privacy considerations.
SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs mental health care, focusing on ensuring timely access to high-quality care.
SR-418

2 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine building an immigration system worthy of American values.
SD-226

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine counterterrorism policies and priorities, focusing on addressing the evolving threat.
SD-419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) progress on key safety initiatives.
SR-253

MARCH 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security at 10 years, focusing on a progress report on management.
SD-342

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

APRIL 9

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Air Force in review of the

Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program.

closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

SD-106

APRIL 25

MAY 8

SD-G50

9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Committee on Armed Services

APRIL 23

Subcommittee on Airland

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2014 and the Future Years Defense Program.

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal

SR-222