

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL PULINSKI AND STEPHANIE URBANCZYK ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Daniel B. Pulinski and Mrs. Stephanie M. Urbanczyk, lifelong residents of Lackawanna, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple was wed on August 10, 1963 in a ceremony at St. Michael's Church, now Queen of Angels, in Lackawanna, New York.

Daniel attended St. Barbara's elementary school and St. Francis High School, after which he nobly enlisted in the United States Army. After his service, he worked in the Bethlehem Steel plant, rising through the ranks to become a foreman. A dedicated family man, Daniel worked several more jobs to support his wife and children after the plant closed. He retired after working as a custodian in the auto tech division of Erie Community College.

Stephanie attended St. Michael's elementary school and Lackawanna High School. After completing her education, she became a secretary for a Buffalo insurance company. While starting a family, she became a stay-at-home mother for a few years, returning to work at Hills Department Store. The store became Ames, where she rose to the position of Manager. Stephanie continues to work to this day, currently at Dollar General.

Daniel and Stephanie raised four children together, Anita, Ronald, Denise, and Daniel. They are grandparents to eight beautiful grandchildren: Stephanie, Alanna, James, Rebecca, Danielle, Brandon, Nicholas, and Matthew.

The couple enjoys spending family time with their grandchildren and traveling across the globe with their many friends. They continue to reside in Lackawanna, and are still active in Queen of Angels Church and the Buffalo Polish community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to offer my sincerest congratulations to Daniel, Stephanie, and their family on this most joyous occasion. I ask my colleagues to join me to acknowledge their commitment to each other as they celebrate their Golden Anniversary, and offer our best wishes for continued happiness.

TRIBUTE ON THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. ANDREW SEWELL

### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute on the

occasion of the 50th wedding anniversary of Andrew and Nancy Sewell, my beloved parents who celebrated this special event on July 2, 2013. This phenomenal couple celebrates love, marriage and family on this momentous occasion that began on June 15, 1963. They instilled family values to so many others as well to me. This golden wedding anniversary is a special day and it marks a half of a century of commitment and love for one another. We honor this milestone of marriage and a life well lived together.

Their love story begins with the attraction of an outstanding football player in college who was Captain of the team to his beautiful classmate Nancy. My father says lovingly that my mother met him on the steps of the library and that she barely gave him the time of day. He remembers being drawn to her outer beauty as well as inner beauty noting her friendly spirit. He also said that she was studious. My mother recalls that my father was "the jock of the campus" and especially remembers that he was athletic and gregarious.

After graduating college, their romance blossomed in the summer of 1961 when Andrew was recruited as the Head Coach for Council Training School in Huntsville, Alabama. His future bride was already employed at the school as the Head Librarian. When Andrew saw Nancy in the Library on the school tour before he signed the contract he immediately knew that he wanted to work there telling the principal yes, he would take the job!

The romance led to a Valentine's Day marriage proposal in 1962 as Andrew asked for Nancy's hand in marriage at the Old American Legion Club in Huntsville, Alabama. Prior to the proposal as was custom, my father asked permission for my mother's hand in marriage from my grandfather, Reverend Tom Gardner, Jr. of Lowndes County, Alabama. This tradition of respect for elders in our family continues today. The Gardner family is a family of Christian religious leaders and this value of spirituality permeates our family life as my father is Catholic and my mother is Methodist.

For 50 years, this exceptional couple has built a life of love together. They were married on June 15, 1956 and have served as a pillar to the communities where they have lived. Their first home was in Huntsville, Alabama and my mother was the Head Librarian and my father was the Head Coach for Council Training School. Their leadership, values, commitment to community, work, and family are demonstrable through their actions and accomplishments.

As first born child of my parents, I am pleased to say that while Coach Sewell wanted a future football player, he was thrilled with the addition of his "cheerleader" on New Year's Day in 1965. During this time my father was recruited to return to his beloved R. B. Hudson High School as Head Basketball Coach and Assistance Football, Track and Baseball Coach. Nancy became the Assistant Librarian and history teacher at R. B. Hudson High School.

Life continued to blossom as my parents became the parents of twins on July 21, 1967.

My parents encouraged and supported their children to maximize their potential, to achieve excellence, to have a strong work ethic and to be a blessing to others. My parents have often said that to those who are blessed it is their obligation to be a blessing to others. Through their inspiration, motivation, prayers, and strength my brothers are college level athletic coaches and I am serving my 2nd term in Congress as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. They cherish three beautiful grandchildren: Neshambia, Taylor and Carter. Neshambia is a sophomore at the University of Alabama, Taylor will be in 6th grade and Carter will be in 3rd grade this year.

Andrew and Nancy Sewell continue to be excellent role models that lead by example. They reach out to family, friends and community teaching their children and now grandchildren the importance of doing the same. This becomes part of the fabric of our lives, interwoven into who the children are and what they will become. Families work together to solve problems, and they believe in the importance of passing their values and skills on to the next generation.

Andrew's successful and productive career as a Coach continued for 33 years in Huntsville and Selma, Alabama. Nancy, in addition to being Head Librarian in the school system, she was the first African-American woman elected to the Selma City Council, serving 12 years; the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) South Eastern Regional Director for 4 years; and AKA International Secretary for 4 years.

Marriage is a bond that lasts a lifetime. For my parents it is based on a foundation of love, spiritual belief, common goals and family values. Their love story nourishes one in understanding that this sacred union brought together their hearts, minds and souls. The laughter, love and joy continue today as we acknowledge with a grateful heart the 50th Wedding Anniversary of my parents, Andrew and Nancy Sewell.

On behalf of the State of Alabama, and this nation, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Golden Anniversary of my parents who are extraordinary Americans and Alabama treasures!

HONORING CHIEF TODD HOUE'S RETIREMENT

### HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cherry Valley Police Chief Todd M. Houe, and to recognize his service to the Cherry Valley community.

Chief Houe began his career in law enforcement as a deputy sheriff with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office in 1981 after graduating from Memphis State University with a degree in criminal justice. He became a full-

• 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.

time police officer with the Cherry Valley Police Department in August 1986.

Throughout his years with the department, he has protected the Cherry Valley Community through his work on multiple task forces. From 1987 to 1990, Chief Houde was assigned to the State Line Area Narcotics Task Force and in 1995 he was assigned to the Northern Illinois Auto Theft Task Force.

On June 28, Police Chief Todd M. Houde retired from the Cherry Valley Police Department after thirty-two years of service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Chief Houde for devoting his life's work to protecting and serving his community.

HONORING LT. COL. ADAM J.  
KIMMICH, U.S. ARMY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the promotion of Major Adam J. Kimmich, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

This Thursday, July 11, 2013, it will be my great honor to preside over his promotion ceremony and celebrate his exceptional accomplishment of service and dedication to this great nation.

Though he currently works as an Operations Officer at US Special Operations Command, Kimmich has served in many capacities throughout the world. In 1997, he began his career in the Army as an Infantry Officer at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, and has since been promoted to positions including Rifle Platoon Leader, Assistant Battalion Operations Officer, Commander, Operations Officer in Special Operations Command, and Battalion Operations Officer in the Philippines, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Kimmich also served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, multiple Army Commendation Medals and Army Achievement Medals, as well as the Iraq Campaign Medal, GWOT Campaign and GWOT Expeditionary Medals, and 5 Overseas Service Ribbons. He has earned the Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Parachutists Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Expert Infantryman's Badge.

Adam's parents, John and Barbara Kimmich of Kennesaw, Georgia, should be proud to know that their guidance has led their son to stand for the principles this country cherishes most, and the freedom of its people. His path has not been easy, but Adam's valor and sense of duty have led him to overcome obstacles that most of us could never imagine.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of Georgia, I extend my deepest gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Kimmich for devoting his life to upholding the Constitution of the United States and making the world a safer place. Again, I congratulate him on this well-deserved promotion.

HONORING RICHARD MICHALSKI

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of my friend Richard Michalski. Rich is retiring after over 40 years of service with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

I had the pleasure of first meeting Rich when I was elected to Congress nearly 20 years ago. I have always appreciated his honesty, straightforward approach, and wise counsel.

Rich was first initiated into IAM Local Lodge 1916 and worked as a welder at General Electric in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1968. He held several positions in his local lodge, including steward, chairman of the bargaining committee, and president.

Rich has always been involved at the grass roots level, volunteering many hours promoting the rights and representation of all workers.

Rich became the Director of the Legislative and Political Action Department at IAM in 1992. In this capacity, he was involved on a daily basis with legislation that affects working men and women.

Rich joined the ranks of the IAM's Executive Board as the General Vice President in charge of IAM Headquarters in 2006.

I want to thank Rich for his lifelong commitment to supporting labor rights, promoting fair trade and boosting U.S. exports. I congratulate Rich and wish him the best in his much deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF ALAN BALDRIDGE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th birthday of Alan Baldrige, a leading environmental conservationist, naturalist, educator and dedicated community activist in my Central California Coast district.

Alan Baldrige and his wife Sheila immigrated to the United States from England in 1962 so that Alan could work as a history and literature reference librarian in Portland Oregon's public library. Four years later, the couple moved to Pacific Grove, CA to allow Alan to take over the library at Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station. Through his tireless work as a librarian, Alan has been able to use his expansive scientific expertise to inspire and assist countless marine biologists and researchers. An expert on ecology, biology and conservation Alan wrote *The Bird Year* published in 1980; co-authored the definitive book on Monterey Bay birds, and co-authored *Gray Whales* in 1991 and 2006.

Alan's careful observation of seabirds and marine mammals made him not only an educator and librarian, but also a naturalist and local authority on the incredible array of animals that fly, swim and wash up on the shores of Monterey Bay. He has served as a naturalist on a number of Stanford alumni trips to

the Sea of Cortex, Alaska and ice sheets off eastern Canada. Alan has readily shared his vast knowledge with countless members of the community, including scientists, students, government officials and reporters. Throughout his time in Monterey, Alan served as a liaison to the fishing community, and many records of rare seabirds first came to the attention of researchers and birders alike through Alan's efforts to acquire and pass on information. Alan's other work as a Regional Editor for Audubon Field Notes/American Birds for Northern California, seabird editor for the Middle Pacific Coast Region for 12 seasons and member of the editorial board for the first three volumes of *California Birds*, made Alan an integral contributor to the birding community.

A long-time leading environmental activist, Alan has utilized his expertise in order to support conservation movements in the area. A leading advocate for establishing the Elkhorn Slough National Marin Estuarine Reserve, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, the Monarch Grove Sanctuary and an instrumental asset in raising funds for the construction of the Harold A. Miller Library of Marine Biology, Alan's dedication to protecting the marine environment of his community has been unrivaled.

After 23 years as librarian at Hopkins Marine Station, Alan retired in 1994. He and his wife Sheila continue to promote educational efforts to create an understanding of the marine environment of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in wishing Alan Baldrige well and to thank him for his invaluable and tireless work on behalf of his community.

CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 8, 2013*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, we were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely passing of former Congressman William "Bill" Gray, a former member of the Congressional Black Caucus who represented Philadelphia in the House of Representatives for many years in stellar fashion.

William Gray was a trailblazer for African Americans and other minorities in Congress, an inspirational pastor, a persuasive advocate for education of minorities and the poor and for causes where often others feared to tread. He was a steadfast friend to countless of us and the epitome of a servant-leader.

My first recollection of meeting him personally was poolside at the then St. John Virgin Grande Hotel with his and my long time friends Orville and Julie Kean. He had a home in St. John at the time.

We talked late into the night and he often referred to me as a St. Croix Nationalist many times after that. I was also always proud of his calling me his Congresswoman, even after he sold the St. John home. And it was just days before he was suddenly taken from us that in the Members Dining room he remarked that he would be visiting our Islands in the near future. Sadly that will not happen.

Although we did not serve together, I consider that it was a privilege to be able to work with him on many of the issues he championed as only he could—from the United Negro College Fund, to his work on telecommunications advances or on relations with the foreign governments he represented. Whenever he called we responded because he was always there to support us when needed. We never even had to ask.

We will miss exuberant presence and his booming raspy voice, but not just the sound. What the CBC, I, our Nation and the world will truly miss is the strong unrelenting voice that he was for a better country and world and for opportunity, equality and justice for all. We have lost a great public servant.

To his son Justin who was always with him, his wife Andrea and the other children, his church family and the people of Philadelphia who loved him dearly on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the Virgin Islands I extend my condolences. We are a better place that he lived. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE E.  
ROBINSON, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable, well-rounded, and highly driven young man, Mr. Willie E. Robinson, Jr. (affectionately known as J.R.)

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Willie E. Robinson, Sr. and Vickie Robinson on February 3, 1988, J.R. was raised in the small, close-knit town of Bolton, Mississippi. As a child, he was an outstanding young man who was deeply involved in his community and church home. He regularly attended Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church and was active in Sunday school and various other auxiliaries.

J.R. was not only a well-mannered young man, but also exceptionally bright. His academic ambitions were accomplished and exceeded during his matriculation at Clinton High School, where he graduated in May 2006. He furthered his education at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, ultimately receiving his B.A. in Administration of Justice and a M.S. in Economic Development. During his time at USM, he was well known among his peers, faculty and administrators. He became Student Government Association President and also served as president of the Mississippi Student Government Board of President's Council. While serving on the council, he was instrumental in implementing a number of policies geared towards assisting the student body with their matriculation at USM, including reducing the cost of textbooks through a consorted effort with textbook manufacturers and USM campus officials.

While obtaining his Master's degree, J.R. served as a graduate assistant for the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship. His commitment to the USM campus earned him induction into the Centennial Student Hall of Fame.

In addition to his valuable contributions to USM, J.R.'s passion for helping others

reaches far into the surrounding Hattiesburg community. He serves as Guide Right Director, which allows him to mentor over 20 young men. Many in the area attribute the economic growth of the area to J.R. because of his skillfulness in helping to coordinate the placement of a General Dynamics facility, which brought 250 jobs to the community. He also was instrumental in negotiations for fiscal expansion of an existing company in Hattiesburg, leading to the retention of 120 jobs and the addition to 10 within that company. As a result of his hard work and dedication, he was named "2012 Up and Coming Black Professional" in the Greater Hattiesburg area.

Currently, J.R. serves on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Young Professionals, to which he was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant. He is also employed as the Business Development Director with Area Development Partnership in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and continues to dedicate time to help those in need in his growing community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Willie E. Robinson, Jr. for his remarkable contributions as a young adult to the Greater Hattiesburg area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 305 on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1341, the Financial Competitive Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCIS  
RESTIVO

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as our nation celebrated its liberty and independence last week, a champion of liberty has passed away in our home community of Toledo, Ohio. Judge Francis "Buddy" Restivo passed from this life at the age of 91 on July 2, 2013. We extend deepest sympathy, heartfelt prayers, and gratitude from our community to his family for sharing him with us these many years. Truly, he was a generous, kind, and wise "buddy" to all who knew him. His gleeful presence never failed to inspire anyone who met him. His smile was infectious, his humor ever-flowing.

Judge Restivo came from humble beginnings yet graduated from Toledo's Central Catholic High School and the University of Toledo, earning his law degree. The economic circumstances from which he arose in his early years were not easy and then he served during World War II, where he was a member of the Air Force 136th Radio Intelligence Squadron. He married his wife, Jane, with whom he celebrated 70 years of marriage. Together they built a strong family and raised four children.

Buddy Restivo dedicated his life to public service and to our community. He was an assistant Ohio attorney general and assistant Lucas County prosecutor. He served on Toledo City Council in 1957 to 1960, and then served as solicitor for Sylvania, Walbridge, and Northwood. In 1971 Ohio Governor John Gilligan appointed him to the Toledo municipal court. He was elected later that year, and re-elected to six-year terms in 1973 and 1979. In 1980, he was elected to a vacancy on Lucas County Common Pleas Court and re-elected in 1982. He retired in 1986 and worked until 2000 as a visiting judge and as a hearing officer for mental health commitment cases for Lucas County Probate Court.

Judge Restivo was a fair and compassionate judge with a keen understanding of both people and the law. Lucas County Probate Court Jack Puffenberger said of Judge Restivo, he "was considerate of everyone in his courtroom. He was an excellent judge. He had good legal knowledge and he knew people and he just knew how to be fair. He was a great mentor . . ." Toledo lawyer Jerome Phillips perhaps expressed it best when he said, "I would classify him as a people's judge. He had a wonderful understanding of people and how to try to deal with the problems they had."

After retirement, though he kept in touch with the lives of colleagues and the law, his focused turned to fishing, family, and University of Toledo basketball. His son explained, "He went on numerous fishing trips with family members. He was a big UT Rockets fan, especially basketball. He had season tickets probably 40 years."

If the measure of a man can be counted by the lives he touched, then Judge Restivo was a great man indeed. He has shared his love of life, good heart, and generous spirit as husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather for his wonderful family, as well as our community and country. He shall be missed by all who knew the pleasure of his company. How fortunate each of us is to have known him, been blessed by his happy spirit, love of life, respect for the "common man," and his even-handed dispensing of the law. His good measure lifted us all. May his family and friends draw strength and comfort from his example of living life to its fullest as he helped countless others along life's way. His life made us all better as people and as a community.

HONORING MS. KAVONYA WALKER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a student making a difference in her school West Tallahatchie High School, Ms. KaVonya Walker.

The difference KaVonya is making in her school comes in the form of art. Her home town is Webb, MS. It's a small community of about five hundred citizens. Like many other small rural towns, it too has its challenges to meet the needs of its citizens in more ways than one. The one I am speaking of is recreational which is why she turned to art when it comes to KaVonya making a difference. Art

is an expression, it's a way to release, relax, communicate, and to beautify. And that is what KaVonya does, she's an artist. She turns eyesores into beautiful eye pieces to look at. Right now she has been given the charge to lead the effort at her school to paint murals to represent the school spirit. This meant presenting herself as a leader in a way that other students would follow and listen to. She had the task of all the preliminary planning, choosing fellow artists that could help her complete this awesome responsibility. This project is scheduled to be completed May 1, 2013. KaVonya has plans to attend college to study art. She says, "Life is too short to not pursue your dreams. I dream of art, academic achievement, and completing my college degree . . ." I wish her much success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. KaVonya Walker for her current active role as a student making a difference as an artist.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO U.S. BANK

### HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer congratulations to U.S. Bank, who was awarded the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 to recognize exceptional support of the U.S. Armed Forces from the employer community, and is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to employers for outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

U.S. Bank is one of only 15 honorees out of nearly 2,900 nominated companies. Through U.S. Bank's companywide initiative called Proud to Serve, thousands of veterans have been hired and supported over the past five years.

The numbers are impressive. U.S. Bank committed to hiring 1,000 service members and veterans between 2012 and 2013 and surpassed its 2012 goal by hiring 597 new veterans.

Minnesota is home to many great corporate citizens like U.S. Bank who are dedicated to supporting those who have made great sacrifices to defend freedom, liberty and our country. Congratulations to U.S. Bank for receiving the Employer Support Freedom Award and thank you for your support of our nation's veterans.

Floyd Sears was a national leader of grassroots military retirees who achieved remarkable legislative success in righting what they knew was a wrong. He represented the best of the military retirees whom we all represent.

I am grateful to Floyd Sears, a great American citizen in the truest sense, who joined the military in his youth when duty called and devoted his career to defending our freedoms, and then, in his retirement, exercised those freedoms to help make our country a better place.

Health care for our military community is a priority for me as it was for Floyd, and it is a privilege to represent the district that is home to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Walter Reed is the crown jewel of military medicine, serving our country's active and retired military and especially the wounded who have suffered greatly in the most difficult circumstances. Congress has provided the resources that were necessary to ensure that the new Walter Reed can provide world-class health care to our uniformed service personnel.

However, Floyd's generation did not always receive that level of attention. Floyd became a leader in the effort to restore retiree health care benefits that his generation of enlistees was losing. These individuals had been promised health care upon their retirement when they enlisted in the military services in their youth. But those benefits were pulled out from under them when they retired after a career of at least 20 years due to unintended consequences of legislative and administrative changes in military health care.

Floyd recognized how these legal changes were stripping him and his colleagues of the retiree health care benefits that they earned and richly deserved. Nearly 20 years ago, he began his personal crusade to amend the law and restore those promised benefits. What began as one man sending letters to his local newspaper and representative in Congress became a nationwide grassroots effort connected by the Internet. Ultimately, Floyd, his good friend Jim Whittington and others, on behalf of their grassroots army, inspired the introduction of the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act," which led to the enactment of Tricare for Life, a great leap towards fulfilling Floyd's dream of full restoration of the benefits he had been promised.

Floyd never intended to draw attention to himself. But with his passing we can admire what one person can accomplish when he puts his mind, his heart, and his energy into it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the extraordinary contributions that Floyd Sears, a truly great American, made to our nation.

Currently serving as the Fire Chief of the Modesto Regional Fire Authority, Gary Hinshaw also serves as the Fire Warden and Assistant Director of Emergency Services for Stanislaus County. Prior to joining the County team in June 2002, Gary enjoyed a long-term career in the fire service starting as a wildland firefighter with the United States Forest Service in 1973 on the Stanislaus National Forest. His first full-time position as a firefighter was with the Modesto Fire Department, beginning on November 21, 1978. He remained in that position for two years and was promoted through the ranks; four years as a Fire Engineer, seven years as a Captain, four years as a Battalion Chief and nine years as a Division Chief. He was appointed Interim Fire Chief of Modesto Regional Fire Authority on April 20, 2012.

During his career, Chief Hinshaw has championed the concept of a close and effective working relationship between the fire service and the pre-hospital medical community; he served as the Chair of the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Care Committee.

Chief Hinshaw's assignments within the Office of Emergency Services have included: Chair of Stanislaus County Domestic Terrorism Task Force, President of Stanislaus County Fire Chief's Association, Operational Area Coordinator for the Stanislaus Operational Area Council, Stanislaus County Mutual Aid Coordinator, Operational Coordinator for Stanislaus County Arson Task Force, Region IV Representative to Cal EMA Standardized Emergency Management, Administrator of the Homeland Security Grant Programs, and Manager Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Center.

Chief Hinshaw has been involved in numerous instructional opportunities within the community, including instructor at Modesto Junior College Fire Science Program, County Public Information Officer Training, Weapons of Mass Destruction for First Responder Agencies, Incident Command System/Standardized Emergency Management System, High Rise Strategy and Tactics, and Strike Team Leader.

Chief Hinshaw has been recognized by his colleagues with many awards and accolades. He is well respected on a state and local level in the fire service and CalEMA arenas.

Chief Hinshaw is married and has a daughter, a son-in-law and a grandson. He is active in his church and enjoys photography, boating and the outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire service and Stanislaus County by Modesto Regional Fire Authority Chief Gary Hinshaw and hereby wish him continued success in his retirement.

#### A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD SEARS, A LEADER OF THE MILITARY RETIREE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Floyd Sears of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Floyd passed away on June 5, 2013 at the age of 82.

#### HONORING MODESTO REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY CHIEF GARY HINSHAW

### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Modesto Regional Fire Authority Chief Gary Hinshaw, who announced his retirement after serving 35 years in the fire service.

#### HONORING VICTOR MOORE

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Victor Moore.

Victor is the son of Ms. Linda Moore and Mr. Vicky Ivy of Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Victor was raised by his loving grandmother, Ms. Reola Moore who he cherishes. She encouraged him to reach for the stars and become a success story in his own right. He excelled in elementary school and upon graduating he entered Coahoma County High School. During his freshmen year, he was sent to the Alternative School twice, failed and was retained. After making it to his sophomore year, he returned to the Alternative School and made it through his junior and senior year of high school without any disciplinary problems, and was a team member of the basketball and football teams.

Victor has successfully overcome his struggles, and in May 2013 will be the first to graduate high school in his family.

Victor has learned the importance of an education, and plans to further his education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi to become a licensed barber. Upon completing his degree he desires to open his own barber shop where he will be able to give back to his community and assist his family.

Victor credits his teachers, Mr. John Howard, Ms. Tonja Taylor, Ms. Wilma Bays, Ms. Sonya Rockett and his school guidance counselor, Ms. LaTasha Stringer, for seeing what he can become and not giving up on him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Victor Moore for his dedication in being an outstanding student.

HONORING DOMAINE CHANDON'S  
40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Domaine Chandon Winery on the occasion of their 40th year in production in the Napa Valley. Founded in 1973, it was the first winery in America established by a French wine and spirits producer.

The Moët & Chandon partnership sought prime growing locations in the Napa Valley, and selected vineyards in Mt. Veeder, Carneros, and Yountville to carry on their tradition of excellence. Today, Domaine Chandon continues as a leader in the winemaking field, using sustainable farming practices to maintain their 1,000 acres in the Napa Valley.

The Domaine Chandon Winery has served as a training ground for many industry leaders in the areas of winery management, winemaking, grapegrowing, the culinary arts, restaurant management and farming. The company released their first sparkling wine in 1976, and today their innovative practices in sparkling wine production are followed by sparkling wine producers throughout the world.

Domaine Chandon's history of excellence does not stop at sparkling wine. More than a quarter of its employees have been with the winery for more than 20 years, and the company hired the first sparkling wine maker in the United States. The winery's culture maintains high standards of excellence and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Domaine Chandon for their immense contribution to the Napa Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 305, 306, and 307, on July 8, 2013, I was unable to be on the floor for votes. Due to weather delays and aircraft problems at the Detroit Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN MEMORY OF CINDY ANN  
KOSSER DUBOIS

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the memory of a bright light for the arts that my community lost on Tuesday, July 2nd. But more importantly, Andy DuBois and their children, Madeline, 15, and Hunter, 11, lost a wonderful wife and a special mother.

From her birth in Austin she grew up in New Braunfels where she was class president and homecoming queen at Canyon High School. She graduated from the University of Texas where she met the love of her life, Andy. At every step in her life Cindy DuBois put her heart and soul into everything she did.

She started her career deep in the Rio Grande Valley at a PBS station in Harlingen and went on to manage public relations for South Padre Island before her family moved to The Woodlands and she found her calling in the arts. From helping grow major events like The Woodlands Children's Festival and the Waterway Arts Festival, Cindy DuBois will always be remembered for her smile and her determination to bring the arts to everyone.

It's fitting that her CEO called her a "driving force" for the arts, because under Cindy DuBois' leadership, attendance nearly tripled for art events at The Woodlands' famed Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. From the Houston Symphony to performances by the Houston Ballet and the Houston Grand Opera and many more artists, the growing enthusiasm for the arts in The Woodlands is a testament to Cindy DuBois. The outreach, savvy marketing/public relations efforts, and many smiles from this 2007 graduate of Leadership Montgomery County moved mountains.

That same spirit, determination and grace sustained her during a lengthy battle with cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer. At her touching and emotional funeral service held July 5th at The Woodlands Pavilion, where her remarkable children, sisters, friends and family paid tribute to her, it's clear The Woodlands and all who know her have been touched forever by Cindy's positive attitude and infectious glass-half-full philosophy.

As Andy, Madeline, and Hunter begin a much different phase as a family, they have wonderful memories of bowls of homemade salsa, scary movies and board games and her cheers at Rush soccer and ORWALL baseball. While the community is heartbroken, we are

so grateful for all Cindy has given us to remember her by. In every concert, in every fine arts performance, I'm confident she will always be there.

TRIBUTE TO MISS STEPHANIE  
MICHELLE COLLUM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a bright young lady, Miss Stephanie Michelle Collum.

Stephanie Michelle Collum, a lifelong resident of Bentonia, Mississippi, was born on September 22, 1994. She is a part of the 2013 Yazoo County High School graduating class.

Stephanie believes in the old adage, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste," and for this reason she strives for excellence. She is active in both school and community activities. She is a member of the American Legion, National Honor Society, and both the volleyball and softball teams at school. Recently, Stephanie was selected to attend the Lock Heed Martin 5th Information Technology Day because of her academic achievements. Also she is a member of the JROTC where she was promoted to the leadership of 1st Sergeant and received the National Fitness Award.

Stephanie is a faithful member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Bentonia, MS where she sings in the choir. Recognizing that each day is a gift from God, she strives to live each day with purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Stephanie Michelle Collum for her hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House for the first vote on the evening of July 8, 2013. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following vote:

Rollcall No. 305, on Agreeing to On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1341. I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on July 8, 2013 and would like the record to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 306: "no."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at the memorial service in Arizona for the Prescott Fire Department's Granite Mountain Hotshots, I will miss votes today, July 9, 2013.

## HONORING MS. QUIN'NITA COBBINS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Quin'Nita Cobbins who is a dedicated worker making changes to the Holmes County community.

Quin'Nita Cobbins is a native of Mississippi and has completed her primary and secondary education in the Holmes County School District. In 2010, she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in history from Fisk University and completed a master's degree in history at the University of Georgia in 2012.

Ms. Cobbins has served Holmes County by working with the Community Students Learning Center in equipping students with tools needed to expand their worldview, enriching their knowledge on academic subjects, and encouraging college prep. Working with school age children and adults, she used her study abroad experience to construct a class that exposed students to the history, culture, and language found in Spain. Students learned the history of Spain's expansion and colonization in the supposedly "New World" and why we have a growing Spanish-speaking population. In addition, students, both young and old, learned how to form simple conversations in Spanish that will be beneficial to them as the U.S. demographics change. Students not only became new "bilingual" speakers but were able to think more globally.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Quin'Nita Cobbins for her sincere dedication and determination in bringing back knowledge to our community.

## HONORING MR. JULIUS CIACCIA ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Julius Ciaccia, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, on his election as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Ciaccia is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward who has played a prominent role in the water industry, exemplifying what it means to be a public

servant. He is ideally suited to serve as President of one of the Nation's leading proponents of responsible policies that advance clean water. Mr. Ciaccia has served the people of the Cleveland area for decades, and in this new role, will continue to ensure that the Nation's clean water agencies continue to protect public health and improve the environment.

Mr. Ciaccia began his career in public utilities in 1977 when he was appointed as Assistant Director of the Public Utilities Department for the City of Cleveland. In 1979 he joined the leadership of the City's Division of Water where he served as both Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner until 2004.

During his over 30 years with the City of Cleveland's Division of Water, Mr. Ciaccia oversaw the management of over \$1 billion worth of capital improvement projects and maintained the agency's very favorable financial position. He was appointed Director of the City's Department of Public Utilities in 2004 exercising oversight of the water, sewer collection and public power systems, with a focus on developing comprehensive financial plans and supporting revenue enhancement initiatives.

Mr. Ciaccia began his current role at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) in 2007. At the Regional Sewer District in his current role at the District, he oversees all aspects of managing one of the nation's largest wastewater management utilities. Under his leadership, the District has received two awards from the Commission on Economic Inclusion including a 2009 award for Supplier Diversity which highlights the success of his initiative to craft and implement a supplier inclusion program. In 2012 the NEORS was awarded by the Commission for Senior Management Inclusion, recognizing the diversity of senior staff.

As the District's Executive Director, Mr. Ciaccia was responsible for confirming their consent decree for a long-term control plan to significantly reduce overflows from combined sewers, as well as the successful development and implementation of a new Regional Stormwater Management Program. Among Mr. Ciaccia's many accomplishments as Executive Director of NEORS is the transformation of the District's culture to one of transparency and exceptional financial management.

As a member of NACWA's Board of Directors, Mr. Ciaccia has served as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Mr. Ciaccia has selflessly shared his time, passion, energy and ideas to carry out the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Julius Ciaccia on becoming President of NACWA. I am certain his actions will ensure continued water quality progress for the Cleveland area, the State of Ohio and the Nation.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of June 17, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following.

Monday, June 17, 2013:

Rollcall No. 245: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 876, "yea."

Rollcall No. 246: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 253, "yea."

Rollcall No. 247: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 862, "yea."

Tuesday, June 18, 2013:

Rollcall No. 248: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 1947 and 1797, "nay."

Rollcall No. 249: Motion on Agreeing to the Resolution on the Rule for H.R. 1947 and 1797, "nay."

Rollcall No. 250: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1151, "yea."

Rollcall No. 251: Final Passage of H.R. 1797—Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, "nay."

Rollcall No. 252: H.R. 1896—To amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that the United States can comply fully with the obligations of the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, "nay."

Wednesday June 19, 2013:

Rollcall No. 253: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 1947, "nay."

Rollcall No. 254: Motion on Agreeing to the Resolution on the Rule for H.R. 1947, "nay."

Rollcall No. 255: Motion on Approving the Journal, "yea."

Rollcall No. 256: McGovern of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 1, "aye."

Rollcall No. 257: Foxx of North Carolina Part B Amendment No. 3, "no."

Rollcall No. 258: Broun of Georgia Part B Amendment No. 5, "no."

Rollcall No. 259: Blumenauer of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 8, "aye."

Rollcall No. 260: Blumenauer of Oregon Part B Amendment No. 9, "aye."

Rollcall No. 261: Kaptur of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 14, "aye."

Rollcall No. 262: Royce of California Part B Amendment No. 15, "no."

Rollcall No. 263: Chabot of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 16, "no."

Thursday June 20, 2013:

Rollcall No. 264: Brooks of Alabama Part B Amendment No. 18, "no."

Rollcall No. 265: Butterfield of North Carolina Part B Amendment No. 25, "aye."

Rollcall No. 266: Marino of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 26, "no."

Rollcall No. 267: Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 30, "no."

Rollcall No. 268: Tierney of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 32, "aye."

Rollcall No. 269: Polis of Colorado Part B Amendment No. 37, "aye."

Rollcall No. 270: Garamendi of California Part B Amendment No. 38, "aye."

Rollcall No. 271: Marino of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 41, "no."

Rollcall No. 272: McClintock of California Part B Amendment No. 43, "no."

Rollcall No. 273: Gibson of New York Part B Amendment No. 44, "aye."

Rollcall No. 274: Walorski of Indiana Part B Amendment No. 45, "no."

Rollcall No. 275: Courtney of Connecticut Part B Amendment No. 46, "aye."

Rollcall No. 276: Kind of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 47, "no."

Rollcall No. 277: Carney of Delaware Part B Amendment No. 48, "aye."

Rollcall No. 278: Goodlatte of Virginia Part B Amendment No. 99, "no."

Rollcall No. 279: Radel of Florida Part B Amendment No. 49, "no."

Rollcall No. 280: Walberg of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 50, "no."

Rollcall No. 281: Pitts of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 98, "aye."

Rollcall No. 282: Fortenberry of Nebraska Part B Amendment No. 100, "aye."

Rollcall No. 283: Huelskamp of Kansas Part B Amendment No. 101, "no."

Rollcall No. 284: Southerland of Florida Part B Amendment No. 102, "no."

Rollcall No. 285: Motion to Recommit with Instructions for H.R. 1947, "aye."

Rollcall No. 286: Final Passage of H.R. 1947—Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act, "no."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed Roll Nos. 305, 306 and 307. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Nos. 305 and 306, and I would have voted "yea" on Roll No. 307.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STEVEN PEZENIK

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Steven Pezenik, who passed away at age 57 on May 26, 2013 after a long battle with cancer.

Steven Pezenik began his distinguished career as a Consumer Service Specialist with the New York State Public Service Commission, where he served with distinction for 14 years. He then joined United Way New York City/AFL-CIO as a Constituent Liaison, before moving on to the United Food and Commercial Workers/Retail Wholesale Department Store Union. There, he proudly served the working men and women of Local 338 as Director of Special Projects, coordinating the local's public relations, and writing in and editing a quarterly newspaper. In his most recent position as Deputy Director of Constituent Services for New York State Senator Jose Peralta, Steve acted as a liaison between government agencies to help secure services for constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Steven Pezenik was a tireless public servant and advocate for the underserved and most in need. He helped raise over \$11 million for The United Way and organized AFL-CIO toy, blood, and food drives, including a large-scale effort after September 11, 2001. With work that spanned almost three decades, he exemplified the meaning of public service. As a board member of the Queens Jewish Community Council, Steve always put first those most in need. Steve's commitment to working families functioned as

the foundation for his activism and commitment to social justice.

The legacy he leaves behind reflects the love he had for his community. Yet, nothing was more important to Steve than his love for his family, his wife Lisa and daughter Sasha.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Steven Pezenik for his service to the people of Queens County, New York City and New York State.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,249,094,798.80. We've added \$6,111,372,045,885.72 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATHANIEL WILLIAMS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a jovial and ambitious man, Mr. Nathaniel Williams. Nathaniel has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Nathaniel, a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi was born March 1, 1960 to Charles Williams and Martha M. Nash Williams. He graduated from the Vicksburg Warren School District and later attended Hinds Community College and Jackson State University.

Currently, Nathaniel is a Tax Field Representative for the Mississippi Department of Employment Security where he has worked for several years.

Nathaniel is the President and Founder of the Mighty Train of Gospel Community Choir. Currently, he serves on the board for Make a Promise Coalition of Vicksburg, President of the Vicksburg Junior High PTO, Youth Choir Director for both Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and Mercy Seat Baptist Church, member of the Riverfest Board of Directors, mentor and sponsor for the United Way of West Central MS (TEEN HELP) and volunteer at the YMCA. He has served on several other boards as president and member.

Nathaniel is also the recipient of several awards such as the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. 2010 Community Service Award, The Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence 2008 Award and the Vicksburg Family Development 2007 Male Image Award to name a few.

Nathaniel is married to Esther Bell Williams and to that union they have five children: Nathaniel, Derrick, Roderick, Sederick and Jessica Reese.

Nathaniel lives by the motto: "Whatever you do for the Master, do all you can while you can, but let it be real." He is a faithful member of Ebenezer Baptist Church where he is the Vice President of the choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Nathaniel Williams for his unwavering dedication to serving others.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on July 8, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 305, "yea" on rollcall vote 306, and "yea" on rollcall vote 307.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMAHA STAR

### HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Omaha Star on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary.

The Omaha Star was founded by the late Mildred D. Brown on July 9th, 1938. Brown was believed to be the first female, certainly the first African-American woman, to have founded a newspaper. Later the paper was placed in the hands of Brown's niece, Dr. Marguerita Washington, who now heads the newspaper.

Since 1938, the policy The Omaha Star has been to print only positive news and to be a vigilant champion for African-American progress. The circulation of The Omaha Star is 30,000 and its archives are a miniature history of Omaha's black community. Its work for equal rights for all Americans are legendary.

Two significant accomplishments of The Omaha Star are leading the charge to open public accommodations to African-Americans and working with the public school system of Omaha to ensure that black teachers have equal participation. Over the years, The Omaha Star has received many awards and was inducted into the Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame on July 9th, 1996.

Currently, The Omaha Star concentrates of news coverage that is relevant to the particular market that they have continued to serve proudly for decades. It has been Nebraska's largest African-American newspaper and the Omaha's most effective publican highlighting ways to improve the lives of African-Americans. The Omaha Star has stood the test of time and continues to provide relevant information, education and positive motivation to Omaha's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating The Omaha Star on their 75th Anniversary. I know that Omahans join me in hoping The Omaha Star continues providing positive information to the African-American community for many years to come.

HIGH ON A HILL: IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY AND THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPITOL CONCERTS ON THIS 4TH OF JULY, BY THE COLBERT FAMILY AND PBS

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of America's birthday, on this Fourth of July. Also, in honor of the Colbert family who created the Capitol Concerts annual Fourth of July celebration broadcast to millions across our Nation each year on PBS. This year marks its 33rd anniversary. I ask every American to take the time to remember all of our families in harm's way and their loved ones. And to reflect upon all of those who have fallen on battlefields of honor, and all of our wounded warriors across the Nation, so that we may be here this day. I submit this poem, penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

HIGH ON A HILL

High!  
High on a Hill!  
As once each year,  
Our Nation is given so such a thrill. . .  
As so appears. . .  
America's great Birthday Party so here. . .  
As all out across this County Tis of Thee,  
This celebration so PBS!  
Broadcasting to young and old,  
Yea Jerry and Michael, they the Men, presenting broadcast gold!  
And out to all of our Armed Forces, All in Harm's Way,  
As from where America's Greatest Honor so comes this day!  
As for all of them and their families we now so pray!  
And as the music starts,  
It so urges us all to so get up and so dance!  
To so celebrate this great romance,  
Of America's Birthday as another year does so advance!  
While all in the front rows,  
Are all of those, America's Greatest Heroes!  
Her Wounded Warriors,  
Who for all of us all have such selfless magnificence so chose!  
As it's all so here in our Nation's Capitol!  
A place where history now so rules!  
As PBS and The Capitol Concerts,  
Brings to us the entertainment world's real who's who!  
All in Democracy's home,  
Asking us all to towards Freedom and Independence to so let all our hearts so roam!  
As it all so began,  
When a great Boston family, the Colberts', so lent their helping hand!  
To so create The Capitol Concerts celebration,  
33 years ago they created this great sensation!  
As high up on this Hill,  
As where they so broadcast to so give all a thrill!  
And the reception's better here still!  
So that all out across the heartland,  
America's homes are no so filled!  
So filled,  
With Rock and Roll, Country Western,  
To Classical music to inspire our very souls!  
For you will never so see,  
Such a more inspiring sight than all of these. . .  
All in the shadow of The United States Capitol,

And The Washington Monument with fireworks exploding all in DC!  
As your heart so begins to rule!  
As we all celebrate our Nation's Birthday,  
With all of our families so very cool!  
And maybe next year on your bucket list,  
Come to this city surrounded by consequence and so join all of us!  
Come and sing and dance,  
And let Freedom ring as you fall for its romance!

But, in the meantime. . .  
Turn on your flat screen, as a Nation we all so unite!  
As all of our Yankee Doodle Dandy Hearts,  
Climb up to such new heights!  
High on a Hill!  
For you will not so find a greater thrill!  
Than, America's Birthday all on The Fourth of July,  
All up on Capitol Hill!  
Happy Birthday, America,  
As Our Best is Yet to Come Still!

40 YEARS OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE PORTUGUESE CHURCH

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the rich heritage of Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church as they celebrate 40 years of worship and friendship in Turlock, California.

Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church in Turlock is the most recent of Portuguese national churches in the United States. Its origins go back to a small church blessed and dedicated on Monday, June 11, 1973. With the influx of thousands of Portuguese immigrants to California in the 1800s, after the eruptions of the Capelinhos volcano in 1957–1958, the stage was set for the development of a new parish with a clear mission to Portuguese immigrants in the Central Valley of California. Although relatively young, Our Lady of the Assumption has a rich history, shaped by several important events in the second half of the 20th century.

In the 1960s Father Manuel Vieira Alvernaz, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Turlock, invited two young Portuguese missionaries to stay in his parish and minister to the Portuguese community. The two, Fathers Ivo Dinis Rocha and José Carlos Vieira Simplicio, officially began their ministry on March 1, 1969. One of the first things the missionaries noticed was that the Portuguese youth yearned for places of belonging and meaning; they reached out to the young by forming a youth group in 1969.

On June 1, 1972, 12 individuals acquired the original five acre property at 2602 S. Walnut Road. This became the site of the Portuguese Cultural Center and eventually, the home of Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church. On June 11, 1973, the chapel of the Portuguese Cultural Center was dedicated and blessed; this is considered the beginning of the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption. On June 22, 1973 the Feast of St. John the Baptist was celebrated for the first time. The first parish festival in honor of the Patroness Our Lady of the Assumption took place on Sunday August 19, 1973, i.e., the third Sunday of the month.

In 1975, the Portuguese Cultural Center purchased an additional five acre parcel to accommodate growth and expansion. The parcel was purchased for \$38,000. Escrow was closed on March 25th and corresponded with the Feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary by the angel St. Gabriel. A large parish hall was built in 1984 and has become the gathering place for many beautiful celebrations including weddings and receptions.

In September of 1982, Father Rocha invited Father Richard Forti, who was also campus minister at Stanislaus State College, to celebrate a Sunday Mass in English and serve as a part-time youth minister and confirmation coordinator. By welcoming Father Ford, Our Lady of the Assumption was opening itself to the larger Church and society. The Sunday Mass in English at 9 a.m. would become a magnet attracting members from neighboring parishes and from non churchgoers in the area setting the stage for future conflict and growth. By 1986, approximately one thousand people participated at Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption in both languages.

Over the years, the church continued to grow from the original five acre parcel consisting of a small house, garage and chicken coop. In 1992, plans were started for a new church. With the help of over 2,000 donors the new church was consecrated on August 16, 1998. The property now includes 18.2 acres with two community halls, two houses, three soccer fields, the original chapel, and the new church.

Our Lady of the Assumption maintains a strong presence among the sick in the Central Valley with a team of 20 ministers who visit local hospitals. In July of 2006, with the leadership of Margaret Santiago, Michaleen Klee and Father Manuel Sousa, the parish embraced Stephen Ministry. A team of 11 trained listeners, with over 50 hours of classroom instruction and on-going supervision, are available to accompany people suffering from depression, loneliness, isolation and difficult life transitions. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike have benefitted from this competent, faith-based, extended hand of friendship and prayer.

Currently, the parish roster contains 1,300 families, approximately 85% with Portuguese surnames. Sunday Mass attendance is over 1,000 in the winter months, with 60 percent of Sunday participation being in English services and 40 in Portuguese.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church in Turlock and the tremendous opportunities that lay ahead in their efforts to fulfill a vision for the future. Congratulations on the past 40 years, and I wish them the best success in the years to come.

HONORING MS. DANEISHA  
DOMINIQUE MCGOWAN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Daneisha Dominique McGowan, a dedicated student, who is making the difference in her community.

Daneisha Dominique McGowan, a Georgetown, MS native. She is the granddaughter of Mr. W.C. and Lula Bickham. As an only child, Daneisha was raised in a household that placed education as a top priority. Daneisha has maintained the honor list since entering 9th grade and now she is 12th grade at Crystal Springs High School and still going strong on that list. She has scored exceptionally on all of her state test.

Daneisha strives hard in the classroom and also the community. She is a member of the Drama Club, S.A.D.D. (Students Against Drunk Driving), Mu Alpha Theta, and serves as president of the 2012–2013 Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council. As president of the Mayor's Youth Council, Daneisha has lead her peers in a City-wide voters registration campaign, Anti-Bullying Workshops for children, School Supply Drives, Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and Runs, Youth Summits, and much more.

To be only 18 years old, Daneisha has accomplished quite a bit. She is driven by a deep passion for helping others. After high school, Daneisha plans on obtaining a Master's Degree in Business and desires to create a business in the fashion industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a talented and dedicated student, Ms. Daneisha Dominique McGowan, for her determination in making a difference in her community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 25; Wednesday, June 26; Thursday, June 27; and Friday, June 28, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 287 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2383);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 288 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1092);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 289 (on ordering the previous question on H.Res. 274);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 290 (on agreeing to H.Res. 274);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 291 (on agreeing to the Grayson Amendment to H.R. 1613);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 292 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1613 with instructions);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 293 (on passage of H.R. 1613);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 294 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1864);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 295 (on agreeing to the Hastings of Florida Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 296 (on agreeing to the Flores Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 297 (on agreeing to the Cassidy Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 298 (on agreeing to the Rigell Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 299 (on agreeing to the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“no” on rollcall vote No. 300 (on agreeing to the Broun Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 301 (on agreeing to the Grayson Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 302 (on agreeing to the Capps Amendment to H.R. 2231);

“yes” on rollcall vote No. 303 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 2231 with instructions); and

“no” on rollcall vote No. 304 (on passage of H.R. 2231).

#### CONGRATULATING POLICE CHIEF JIM GRADDON ON HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Jim Graddon, Police Chief of SeaTac, Washington, on his retirement. Jim has served 39 years in law enforcement, including the past 34 years with the King County Sheriffs Office.

A native of South King County, Chief Graddon is a graduate of Burien's Kennedy High School. His father, Lawrence James Graddon, spent 20 years with the King County Sheriffs Office and retired as a Lieutenant.

After first serving in the Seattle Police Department, Jim joined the King County Sheriffs office. As a Sergeant, he became adjutant to the Chief of the new SeaTac Police Department. He then went on to become co-supervisor of the Sheriffs Office's Major Crimes Unit.

Jim Graddon served as a leader in the task force established to investigate one of the most notorious criminal cases in our nation's history—that involving the Green River Killer. Through his efforts and those of others, the suspect in the case eventually pled guilty to multiple murders, bringing closure to the families and friends of the victims.

Since 2007, Jim has served as a Major in the Sheriffs Office and as the City of SeaTac's Chief of Police. He is also a Commander of the Sheriff's Office Southwest Precinct, which polices unincorporated areas throughout Southwest King County as well as in the cities of Burien and SeaTac. Further, Chief Graddon has supported victims of human trafficking with compassion and led various youth violence prevention efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Police Chief Jim Graddon on his retirement. The city of SeaTac, King County, and our region are extremely grateful for his many years of service keeping our community safe.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF “THE APOLLO LUNAR LANDING LEGISLATION ACT”

##### HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, in 1969, led by the late Apollo Astronaut Neil Armstrong, American ingenuity changed history as humanity took a giant leap forward on the surface of the moon. That history, as preserved on the lunar surface, is now in danger, as spacefaring commercial entities and foreign nations begin to achieve the technical capabili-

ties necessary to land spacecraft on the surface of the moon.

The United States must be proactive in protecting our unique cultural heritage left by the seven *Apollo* lunar landings. I am excited to have introduced H.R. 2617, “the Apollo Lunar Landing Legacy Act,” which would expand and enhance the protection and preservation of the *Apollo* lunar artifacts while providing for greater recognition and public understanding of this achievement for generations to come. I would like to thank EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for her commitment to the space program and for being an original cosponsor of this bill. It is also significant that we have introduced H.R. 2616, “the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Authorization Act of 2013,” legislation that reauthorizes NASA and ensures the Agency remains a multi-mission agency with a balanced and robust set of core missions in science, aeronautics, space technology, and human space flight and exploration.

The Apollo Lunar Landing Legacy Act will ensure that the scientific data and cultural significance of the *Apollo* artifacts remains unharmed by future lunar landings. This Act will endow the artifacts as a National Historic Park, thereby asserting unquestioned ownership rights over the *Apollo* lunar landing artifacts. The legislation will additionally require the Secretary of the Interior to pursue nominating the historic *Apollo* 11 lunar landing site, where humanity left its first steps on the moon, as a World Heritage Site. The bill builds on the recommendations of the 2011 report, “NASA's Recommendations to Space-Faring Entities: How to Protect and Preserve the Historic and Scientific Value of U.S. Government Lunar Artifacts.”

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this Act addresses an increasingly important aspect of our cultural heritage that I want to be available for future generations. I hope that all Members will join me in supporting “the Apollo Lunar Landing Legacy Act” by cosponsoring H.R. 2617.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to a flight delay and was unable to vote on rollcall No. 305, rollcall No. 306 and rollcall No. 307.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 305, “yea” on rollcall No. 306 and “yea” on rollcall No. 307.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF “THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013”

##### HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2013*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 2616, “the National Aeronautics

and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2013.”

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, is the nation’s crown jewel for spurring innovation, highly-skilled and good paying jobs, and inspiring the next generation of scientists. Since the Apollo era, NASA has been a cornerstone of domestic innovation, economic growth, and international competitiveness. Unfortunately, in the past few years, Congress has not funded NASA adequately in a way that reflects its unique role and its many contributions. Simply put, recent flat and reduced funding had required NASA to do too much with too little.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology’s Space Subcommittee, on which I proudly serve as the Ranking Member, has historically been known for its bipartisanship and commitment to a strong and vibrant space and aeronautics program at NASA. Last Wednesday, Committee leadership released a committee print of its authorization bill. Notwithstanding the fact that this current version of the Committee leadership’s legislation incorporates some positive clarifications from the version initially circulated for discussion two weeks ago, it still cuts NASA’s funding in Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) by over \$1 billion from the requested level.

The Committee leadership’s bill does not contain funding commensurate with the tasks NASA is already being asked to undertake while also adding NASA unfunded mandates. In particular, the majority’s legislation amends existing law to create the milestone of enabling humans to land on the Moon, while maintaining deep sequestration cuts over the life of the bill. I regret to say that if enacted, it would not help NASA meet the challenges facing the Agency.

That is why I, along with 11 original cosponsors of the National Aeronautics and Space

Administration Authorization Act, wish to provide an alternative which I hope will be the foundation for bipartisan support. This legislation is a pragmatic path forward that will give NASA a clear sense of purpose and direction in a way that also recognizes the nation’s need for fiscal restraint. NASA is and should remain a multi-mission agency with a balanced and robust set of core missions in science, aeronautics, space technology, and human space flight and exploration.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2616 does a number of important and necessary things by:

Preserving NASA’s purchasing power relative to FY12 enacted levels by authorizing \$18.1 billion for FY14 with inflationary increases over the three year authorization period of FY14 through FY16;

Providing a clear goal of a crewed mission to the surface of Mars and requiring a roadmap which identifies intermediate destinations and activities that contribute to enabling the effective achievement of that goal;

Recognizing the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion crew vehicle as the highest priorities for carrying out the Mars goal and authorizing increases that bring SLS funding to \$1.8 billion by FY16;

Emphasizing congressional commitment to safety in NASA’s human spaceflight activities by requiring an independent review of NASA’s commercial crew safety processes and procedures and providing for other measures to enable full government insight and oversight in ensuring safety;

Providing robust funding for commercial crew system development of \$700 million per year;

Maintaining our commitment to International Space Station, ISS, operations through 2020 and initiating a process for determining if and how long ISS should operate beyond 2020;

Authorizing increases for ISS research to augment discovery-based science and maxi-

mize the full and productive utilization of this unique laboratory;

Restoring Planetary Science to \$1.5 billion annual funding, following recent cuts to the program;

Maintaining a sound Earth Sciences program that ensures observing systems development, and advances research, knowledge, and applied data uses that benefit society;

Sustaining a stable aeronautics research program, consistent with FY12 enacted levels, that supports research priorities, strategic initiatives, and flight demonstrations;

Recognizing the importance of investing in space technology to enable future missions, spur innovation, and contribute to economic growth and job-creation;

Sustaining NASA’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM, Education Activities and continues current agency education and outreach activities supported by scientists and engineers; and

Including a number of “good government” provisions such as establishing measures to strengthen NASA’s cost estimating and fiscal management practices to minimize cost overruns in projects and assessing the capabilities and resources needed to expand NASA’s Near-Earth Objects program to include smaller objects.

In closing Mr. Speaker, this fiscally responsible bill puts NASA back on track to greatness and provides flexibility in how the agency is to implement engineering and scientific details. This Authorization bill is a vitally important opportunity to set the policy direction and authorize funding needed to both sustain NASA’s global excellence and preeminence in space and aeronautics and provide a clear and inspiring path forward for the nation’s human exploration of outer space.