

when he was eight years old. Raised in both the Puerto Rican and Irish cultures, Leydon committed himself to working for his community and helping it grow.

Mr. Leydon graduated from Margarita Janer Palacios High School in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico where he completed a course of Marketing and Distribution in 1984. He joined the Seminary Bethsaida Inc. in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1990 where he studied Leadership and Theology. He finished his bachelor's and master's degree in 2010 and his doctoral degree in 2012.

Mr. Leydon worked from 1995 to 2000 as a Church Administrator at Bethsaida Inc. He moved to Osceola County, Florida in 2003 where he worked as a Chief Financial Officer at Tones Distribution Group for five years. From 2009 to 2010 he was the President of Operations in Ameriwalk Inc., where he organized various events for non-profit organizations. He is currently the Dean and Professor of Theology at the Christian School Renewal.

Mr. Leydon is involved with the Christian community and strongly supports the Food Pantry "Pan de Vida" at the Renewal Church in the Buenaventura Lakes community in Kissimmee, FL. Mr. Leydon has been married to his wife, Ivette Reyes, for over 25 years and enjoys spending time with his son and three grandchildren.

I am happy to honor Romuald Jose Leydon, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his selfless service to the community in Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF TIRSO MORENO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tirso Moreno, a leader and advocate of farmworkers and immigrants in the 9th Congressional District in the State of Florida. He has fought to provide farmworkers with a living wage, adequate housing, safe working conditions, and educational opportunities.

Tirso was born in Tamaulipas, Mexico, near the Texas border. At a young age he learned to pick corn and cotton on the family's farm. In 1971, at the age of 17, he emigrated to the United States with his family to do farm work. For 11 years, he and his wife worked as migrant workers, harvesting oranges, grapefruits, and lemons in Florida from November to May, and apples in Michigan from June to October.

In 1976, Tirso joined the United Farm Workers (UFW) union and from 1979 to 1982, he served on the negotiation committee for the collective bargaining agreement between the UFW and Coca Cola/Minute Maid. In 1982, Tirso became the lead organizer for the Farmworker Project of the Office for Farmworker Ministry in Apopka, Florida.

In 1983, Tirso and the Notre Dame Sisters founded the Farmworker Association of Florida of which Tirso is currently the General Coordinator. Under his leadership, the Association expanded in 1992 from a small local group to a statewide organization with more than 10,000 members. FWAFF now has four offices throughout Florida, a staff of 25, and a membership of more than 4,000 Latino, Haitian, and African-American families. FWAFF provides educational programs, legal assistance, a worker-owned credit union, and a food cooperative.

Tirso is also a co-founder and board member of the Farmworker Health and Safety Institute, and serves on the boards of several

other organizations such as the Southern Partners Fund, the Domestic Fair Trade Association, the National Immigrant Farming Initiative, and the Rural Coalition. He has worked to establish international cooperation with immigrants and farmworkers on both sides of the Mexico/United States border. Tirso advocated on farmworkers' behalf in national and international meetings such as the Via Campesina North America and International Gatherings, United States Social Forums, World Social Forums, and the United Nations World Conference Against Racism.

I am happy to honor Tirso Moreno, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his outstanding leadership on behalf of immigrants and farmworkers in my district and throughout the country.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SHEYLA ASCENCIOS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the civic accomplishments of Sheyla Ascencios within the Central Florida community. Ms. Ascencios currently serves as the Florida Democratic Party Central Florida Hispanic Media and Outreach Coordinator.

After immigrating to the United States from Peru at the age of three, Ms. Ascencios was raised in Kissimmee, Florida. Early in her journalistic career, Ms. Ascencios worked as a news reporter and magazine writer for the Valencia College weekly newspaper, The Valencia Source and college magazine, Caffeinated. She soon rose to the position of managing editor for The Source, while also working as an intern for Orlando's major newspaper, the Orlando Sentinel and the television news station NBC's WESH 2 News. As a journalist, she sought to uncover the truth and report on under-represented groups, students, and the Latino community in Osceola and Orange Counties.

Upon graduation from the University of Florida, Ms. Ascencios began devoting much of her time to public service. She became a Juvenile Drug Court and Teen Court volunteer in Orange, Osceola, and Alachua counties and worked as a legal and development assistant at the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA). Her ability to foster relationships and her background in public service led to her becoming the OCBA's youngest staff member when she was hired as Marketing Manager. She became the program manager of the bar association's community outreach program, Leadership Law. After only two years of managing the program, Leadership Law won the 2012 LexisNexis Community and Educational Outreach Award, placing the OCBA in the national spotlight. By its second year, the program's financial sponsors nearly doubled, benefiting the OCBA and its sister affiliates.

This past fall, Ms. Ascencios took an active role in the 2012 elections, working for State Senator Darren Soto's successful campaign in District 14. Sheyla also volunteers for the Legal Aid Society of the OCBA and is a freelance journalist for South Florida's major metropolitan newspaper, the Miami Herald.

I am happy to honor Sheyla Ascencios, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her dedication to serving the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF VIVIANA MARGARITA JANER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Viviana Margarita Janer for her service and leadership within her community in Florida's Ninth District.

Viviana was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and raised in New York City. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Public Accounting and an MBA with academic honors. She currently serves as the Treasurer for the Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida.

Viviana has over 20 years of experience in the business world, and currently works as a Senior Manager of Internal Audit at a major Hospitality company. She was a volunteer for President Obama's reelection campaign and acted as a Neighborhood Team Leader holding weekly events within her community. Viviana also had the great honor of introducing President Obama in front of a crowd of 3,000 in her hometown of Kissimmee.

Viviana has volunteered for organizations such as the Destiny Foundation, the Second Harvest Food Bank, Give the Kids the World, Pine Hills YMCA, and the Central Florida Breadbasket. She has also been an advocate for countless social issues and has campaigned for other candidates, including Senator ED MARKEY. Viviana is a member of the Osceola County Commission Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, as well as an active member of the Progressive Democrats of America, the Democratic Executive Committee, and the Democrats of Celebration. She is also a founding member of Organizing for Action.

I am happy to honor Viviana Margarita Janer, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her outstanding public service to the Central Florida community.

REMEMBERING MR. ROBERT GREINER

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robert "Bob" Greiner of Victorville, CA, who passed away October 17th, 2013 after leaving what will be a lasting impression on the members of the Victor Valley community.

During the Korean War, Bob was drafted into the Army and eventually served as part of the Military Police. Bob's service to his country did not stop there. After leaving the Army, Bob opened car dealerships where, he became a well know face around the town.

During the recession and throughout the closure of George Air Force Base, he provided work to those in need. Bob's service to his country and community is a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

Today, I join with the Town of Victorville and the whole country in remembering this great soldier, community leader, father, and husband. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Mrs. Greiner, and all the friends and family of this extraordinary man.

IN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLICAN
LIBERTY CAUCUS

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Republican Liberty Caucus who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; the Republican Liberty Caucus promotes the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Constitutional Republic that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number of the state; a Constitutional Republic that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are a visionary group of individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and the Blessings of individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of the Republican Liberty Caucus, a truly American grass-roots organization.

RECOGNIZING OF ONE ACCORD
MINISTRY

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today to commend Of One Accord Ministry of Hawkins and Hancock Counties for their 25 years of service to East Tennessee.

Of One Accord Ministry began humbly in 1988 in the home of Sheldon Livesay, founder

and director of the organization. Livesay's desire to give back to the people of East Tennessee led to the creation of this organization, which began with the aim of meeting the needs of low-income families in the First District of Tennessee and has since expanded to include a free medical clinic, a drug recovery program, and several international humanitarian missions.

This year marks the 25th year of operation for Of One Accord Ministry. In its time, this organization has served over 833,000 East Tennesseans with the distribution of approximately 11 million pounds of food, 21,600 winter coats, and 900 pairs of eyeglasses. In addition, Of One Accord Ministry has served countless others internationally with over 1 million meals around the globe.

Of One Accord Ministry has dedicated itself to improving the lives of low-income families in both Appalachia and around the world and I sincerely thank them for all that they do for the Volunteer State.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 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 \$17,075,230,597,788.39. We've added \$6,448,353,548,875.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING DARIUS ASSEMI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darius Assemi as he is honored with the Fresno State Alumni Association's Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus Award. Darius is well deserving of this award as he has contributed so much to the City of Fresno and our entire Central Valley.

Darius immigrated to the United States from Iran almost 40 years ago. He graduated with honors from California State University, Fresno in 1983 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation, he served as vice president of Granville Homes up until 2009 when he became president. Granville Homes is a local business that is family-owned and operated.

Fresno has benefitted in so many ways from the efforts made by Darius. Granville's developments are spread throughout the city. They provide housing to individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. For over 30 years, Darius has stood behind Granville's mission "to improve the well-being of people in our community" and promote "positive change in the lives of people in the Central Valley." For the past eight years, Darius has hosted a "Home of Hope" fundraiser. Participants buy one hundred dollar raf-

file tickets with the possibility of winning a new home. All of the proceeds from the raffle tickets are donated to local non-profits around the Central Valley. Since 2006, over 2.4 million dollars has been raised. The donations provide shelter, healthcare, education, and food to thousands of individuals.

Darius plays a big role in the city's effort to revitalize downtown Fresno. Granville has completed four housing projects downtown, and two more projects are in the works. As a result, over 500 individuals have moved to the area. Residents are making contributions to downtown Fresno that will have a lasting impact on the city's entire economy.

In addition to his work at Granville Homes, Darius is the chair of American Medical Overseas Relief (AMOR). AMOR is a non-profit organization that is improving the health of thousands of women and children in Afghanistan. In 2009, the Afshar Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan was built due to funding from AMOR. The 100 bed hospital serves more than 3,500 patients a month.

Darius also sits on several other boards including the California Transportation Commission, the California Health Sciences University, the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Darius Assemi for his commitment to ensuring that the City of Fresno continues to prosper and thrive.

CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR THE
BYTYQI BROTHERS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a concurrent resolution calling upon the government of Serbia to bring to justice those responsible for the murders of Ylli, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi in July 1999. The resolution also calls on our government to do what it can to encourage and assist a successful prosecution of the case. I want to thank my fellow colleague from New York, Mr. Grimm, for co-sponsoring this resolution.

The three Bytyqi brothers were American citizens. Their ethnic Albanian family emigrated to the United States from Kosovo, and some family members reside in my district on Long Island. During the Kosovo conflict which prompted the NATO air campaign against Serbia, the brothers traveled to the region to fight. Remaining in Kosovo after a cease fire agreement ended the conflict, the three young men escorted an ethnic Romani neighbor and his family from Kosovo to Serbian controlled territory, where they would be safer. Accidentally straying across the border, they were detained by police in southern Serbia and then sentenced for illegally entering the country. When released from prison, they were not set free but taken to a Ministry of Interior special forces training camp where they were executed and buried in a mass grave with the bodies of dozens of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

To be clear, the Bytyqi brothers were not sentenced for any crime other than illegal entry. They were not afforded an opportunity