

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 588 and 589. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both amendments.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT JOSEPH MORRIS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Robert Morris, a respected outdoorsman, engineer, and passionate advocate for the protection of the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Robert Morris was born in Weaverville, California, on January 4, 1935, a descendent of pioneer families who came to Trinity County during the state's Gold Rush. After graduating from high school in Weaverville, he attended Stanford University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering. From there, Robert earned a master's degree in engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He returned to Stanford for his Ph. D. and worked with laser science and technology pioneer Anthony Siegman on the development of masers and their relationship to quantum physics.

Robert Morris' heart was always in the mountains surrounding his hometown. On a pack trip in 1962, he met his wife-to-be, Susanne Twright, whom he married in 1963. The couple moved to Weaverville in 1964, and Robert worked as a manager for The Western Telephone Co. He became president of the company after then-president Gil Snyder died unexpectedly. He also volunteered with the Trinity County Historical Society and began restoring the old Lower Waldorff Ranch, where two children were raised.

When the Wilderness Bill passed Congress in 1964, Robert Morris saw an opportunity to re-designate the then-Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area as a wilderness. For the next 20 years, Robert organized supporters to map and plan the boundaries of the Trinity Alps proposed wilderness and began lobbying Congress. In 1982, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks held a public hearing in the Trinity High School gym, followed by a helicopter tour of the Trinity Alps for Members of Congress that he led. On September 28, 1984, Congress passed—and President Ronald Reagan signed—the bill to designate the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The importance of Morris' efforts to protect this incredible landscape cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Morris was a pioneer in conservation whose education and passion

has enriched the community where he was raised. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of his tremendous achievements and contributions to Northern California.

RECOGNITION OF THE 48TH RESCUE SQUADRON AT DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Airmen of the 48th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

On Oct. 29, 2013, eight Airmen of the 48th Rescue Squadron were on their way back from training in Eloy, Arizona when they came upon a 19-vehicle collision on Interstate 10 near Picacho Peak. Showing little regard for their own safety, the Airmen immediately went into action providing first aid to the wounded and assistance to law enforcement officers on the scene. Despite the danger from leaking fuel, the Airmen remained at the site of the accident extricating passengers and providing care for more than 20 injured motorists before emergency medical services arrived.

These brave Airmen embody the qualities that make our military great—selfless service, initiative and personal courage. Without hesitation, they put their own lives at risk to rescue strangers in need of assistance. They were not asked to put themselves in harm's way, but they saw an immediate need and stepped up to action.

As a nation, we should all feel a little prouder knowing of the heroic actions on October 29th and that these actions were not isolated events. Rather, the Airmen of the 48th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base commit themselves daily to going into harm's way to come to the aid of downed pilots—sometimes at great personal risk. Since their inception, Air Force combat search and rescue squadrons have performed a core function of emergency rescue, easing the minds of pilots flying into harm's way. These pilots know that should something happen to them or their aircraft, there is a dedicated cadre of Airmen to find them and lend aid regardless of the danger.

I am thankful for these eight courageous Americans and am proud that they represent the Air Force, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Southern Arizona.

HONORING AUDIE MURPHY, TEXAS LEGISLATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's greatest war he-

roes, Audie Murphy. Major Murphy, who hailed from the Fourth District of Texas, was an extraordinary man in many ways. Initially turned away by several branches of the United States Armed Services due to his young age and slight build, Audie Murphy's patriotism led him to lie about his age in order to serve and defend his country. This patriotism and his unusual valor in combat led him to distinction as the most decorated hero of World War II, earning every U.S. military combat award for valor available from the U.S. Army, including the Medal of Honor, two Silver Stars, three Purple Hearts, and the Distinguished Service Cross. It is therefore fitting, though belated, that Major Murphy was posthumously awarded Texas' highest military honor—the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor—on October 29, 2013.

Major Murphy earned his first Medal of Honor for his valor on January 26, 1945 near Holtzwihr, France. Six tanks and waves of Nazi infantry attacked his Company B, but Second Lieutenant Murphy remained at his command post throughout the fierce fighting. Although he suffered a leg wound, he continued to fight for more than an hour until his ammunition was exhausted and the enemy was in retreat.

Audie Murphy did not stop where most men would on the battlefield or in life. In fact, he lived out the remainder of his years after the war as an accredited writer, actor, and songwriter. His book, *To Hell and Back*, became a national best seller, and the movie made from his book was Universal Studio's biggest hit in its 43-year history, where it stood as their highest-grossing movie for twenty years. He was, by all accounts, an outstanding American and legend in his own time.

That being said, it should be noted that he was also a man of deep modesty who considered himself "just another man." He fought not because he loved war—in fact, he wrote of "a war where hell is six feet deep"—but because he loved the values and freedoms we enjoy in America, and he felt compelled to do his duty for his country. He represents some of the greatest qualities of a hero including: an un-failing sense of duty, a strong sense of patriotism, and a degree of modesty that recognizes the humble roots of this great country.

We remember Audie Murphy because of his outstanding feats, but also because he remains perhaps one of the truest examples of what it means to be American. He rose to greatness not only because he was remarkable, himself—though he wouldn't admit it—but because of the remarkable respect and love he held for his fellow Americans at home.

I was proud to ride in many veterans parades with Audie and was pleased to know him as a personal friend. I also met his sisters—he was always loyal to his family and found time for them.

As the representative for the Fourth District of Texas, I know we are proud to call Audie Murphy's home our home as well, and we are pleased the Great State of Texas has given Major Murphy due recognition for his outstanding service to our country by awarding

• 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.

him the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this great American hero and thanking his family for his service.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALTER F. MORRIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Walter F. Morris on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Mr. Morris is a Central Florida resident and veteran of World War II. During the war, Mr. Morris bravely served as a B-17 navigator, flying 30 missions over Europe.

World War II veterans, regarded as "The Greatest Generation," have demonstrated heroic commitment to preserving the freedom and prosperity of our nation. Their sacrifices and their families' sacrifices defeated the forces of tyranny and advanced freedom to millions of people. We, the United States and future generations of Americans, owe World War II veterans a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid but is remembered and honored in our daily lives.

It is my distinct pleasure, as a representative of the people of Central Florida, to recognize Mr. Morris and all members of America's Armed Forces for their dedication of service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JAMIE ROSHON

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the country's finest early childhood educators. Ms. Jamie Roshon is a preschool teacher at the Pottstown KinderCare Learning Center in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Jamie is being honored this year with the Knowledge Universe Early Childhood Educator Award. She is one of only 10 preschool educators in the nation being honored with this award.

At the Pottstown KinderCare Learning Center, Jamie is dedicated to teaching children aged two and three years old. Throughout her thirteen year tenure at the Pottstown Center, she has become an invaluable asset to her students, their families, and her fellow faculty members. This honor testifies to how Jamie's efforts each day in the classroom are making a profound difference in our children's lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Jamie Roshon for her excellent work enriching the lives of young children, and I congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TOM HANAFAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Tom Hanafan of Council Bluffs, Iowa and to honor his storied career of leadership and public service.

A Council Bluffs native since birth, Tom was born in 1947 and was raised on the city's west side. Mr. Hanafan graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1965 and received a bachelor's degree in history and government from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion in 1969. Following graduation, Tom completed an 18-year career in sales before successfully running for city council in 1982. Six years later in 1988, Tom Hanafan was sworn in as Mayor Hanafan. Over the past 25 years, he has been reelected by the good people of Council Bluffs a total of six times making him the longest-serving mayor of any major city in the state of Iowa.

Throughout his time in office, Mayor Hanafan ushered in a new era for Council Bluffs and has transformed the city into the thriving community it is today. Mayor Hanafan's tenure will be remembered, in part, for its many successes in local economic development. This included the construction of the Mid-America Center, investments by major companies such as Google and Bass Pro Shops, and the establishment of numerous entertainment and shopping venues that have invigorated the Council Bluffs economy.

Mayor Hanafan has also helped lead his city through difficult times. During his first year on the job, the tornado of 1988 upended Council Bluffs, damaging property and injuring dozens of citizens. Tom worked, quite literally, around the clock, forgoing sleep to assist his neighbors and the city's recovery. Most recently in 2011, disaster struck again when record snow and rainfall caused the historic flooding of the Missouri River. During my visit to the area during this troubling time, I was able to witness Mayor Hanafan's resilience and leadership firsthand as he coordinated with state and federal offices to help his city recover.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Hanafan's years of honorable service and the positive impact he has had on his community simply cannot be overstated and provides a great example for local elected officials throughout our nation. For the past 25 years, Mayor Hanafan has utilized the renowned Iowa work ethic every day to better serve his neighbors and it is a great honor to represent him, and all of the citizens of Council Bluffs, in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Mayor Hanafan, congratulating him on his truly stellar career, and wishing both him and his wife, Shirley, the best of luck as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

CELEBRATING OSKAR KNOBLAUCH'S 2013 CHARACTERS UNITE AWARD HONORABLE MENTION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Oskar Knoblauch's 2013 Characters Unite Award honorable mention. This award is presented by the USA Network to those who have made considerable achievements improving civil and human rights within their communities.

Mr. Knoblauch's story is nothing short of incredible. As an adolescent, he was a victim of the holocaust. Relying on relationships and intellect, he and his siblings survived the horrors of this abominable era. Today Mr. Knoblauch has overcome the scars of his past and is using them to encourage tolerance and fight prejudice. He travels the country to give presentations, and has written a novel about his ordeal for those he cannot reach through speeches. Oskar Knoblauch has dedicated himself to preventing the same evils that he experienced.

My constituent, Mr. Knoblauch, is an outstanding example of character, service, and triumph. It is my utmost privilege to represent him in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Oskar Knoblauch on this exceptional honor and in supporting him in his continuing efforts to increase respect and understanding across our nation and around the world.

IN HONOR OF JACK POWELL

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Jack Powell, who tragically passed away at the age of 80, the day after celebrating his 55th anniversary with his wife Mary.

Jack was born in Roanoke, Virginia. He attended Morningside Elementary, Stonewall Jackson Junior High, and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1952. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy for a four-year tour of duty during the Korean Conflict. Jack returned from serving his country, and then began serving the community as a Roanoke police officer.

In 1957, Jack began working as a Virginia State Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Division Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge. From the 35 years he spent as a "Revenuer," arresting moonshiners and chasing bootleggers across Southwest Virginia, Jack had countless stories to tell, many of which he wrote in several books that pay tribute to whiskey-makers and those who pursued them. For example, while working undercover, Jack was once was jailed in Marion when he was unable to convince authorities that he was actually on their team. Jack narrowly escaped rattlesnakes, dodged bullets, and carried with him his trusty ax he named "The Devil."

He cherished his work upholding the law, loved to share his stories, and was an accomplished author, speaker, and storyteller. As

Vaughan Webb, assistant director at the Blue Ridge Institute at Ferrum College, told the Roanoke Times, Jack's death "is a great loss to the lore of moonshining." And, "He was a wealth of information. Jack was a character and he really knew how to tell a story."

Jack was a member and President of the Piedmont Fraternal Order of Police, a Free Mason, and a lifelong member of Belmont Baptist Church. He also was a member of the U.S. Navy Mineman Association. Jack earned an AAS, BS, and LLB from Virginia Western Community College and LaSalle Extension Law Institute, and was a 1981 graduate of the National FBI Police Academy.

Jack is survived by his wife Mary of Roanoke; daughters Trenda Powell Jacocks and her husband, Army Colonel John Mc. Jacocks, M.D., of Fairfax Station, Virginia and Andrea Powell McKown and her husband, Navy Captain Martin H. McKown Jr., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Also surviving are six grandchildren, one of which was Martin Hayes McKown III of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who was an original member of my congressional office staff. Other grandchildren are Brittany Virginia Jacocks of New York, New York; Mary Carter Jacocks of Fairfax Station, Virginia; Air Force 2LT Connor Braxton McKown of Del Rio, Texas; Army Cadet 1st Class Carson Lee McKown, of West Point, New York; and Air Force Cadet 4th Class Bailey Wright McKown of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and his nephew, Allen Powell, of Roanoke.

Jack Powell's legacy and influence will be long remembered throughout our region. I am honored to pay tribute to this great man. My continued prayers are with his family and friends. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

HONORING JOSEPH DEBRO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Bay Area community leader and tireless advocate for the underserved, Mr. Joseph Debro. Known throughout the Greater Oakland/Bay Area region as an innovative and dedicated mentor for minority businesses, Joseph Debro was also a stalwart community member. With his passing, we look to Mr. Debro's tremendous legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Debro attended and graduated from McClymonds High School in Oakland, California. He later enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley, where he was awarded an undergraduate and Master's Degree in bio-chemistry. Upon graduation, Mr. Debro put his extensive knowledge to work as research assistance at the University of California at San Francisco, and later when he was recruited by NASA as a bio-chemical engineer.

In his own words, Mr. Debro was the son of former slaves, who had to ride in the back of the bus with his parents, drinking water from fountains designated for coloreds only, and picking cotton in fields owned by White people. And even though he saw some diminution of racism throughout his lifetime, he was al-

ways quick to point out glaring inequalities in our justice system that persists to this day.

Mr. Debro tirelessly sought to raise awareness of the experiences African American contractors faced in their attempts to be recognized as viable businessmen in their industry. In the mid-1960's, Mr. Debro observed that Black contractors were excluded from urban redevelopment projects occurring in their own backyard. In his efforts to fight this disparity, Mr. Debro organized minority contractors and co-founded the National Association of Minority Contractors. Along these same lines, in 2009, he founded the Bay Area Black Builders, an organization composed of black construction workers and contractors fighting for economic justice.

As a community activist, Mr. Debro fought for fair housing policies, lending practices, and employment in building trades, among other issues. Alongside Congressman Bennie Thompson, he helped build thousands of units of rural housing throughout the nation. As a contractor, Mr. Debro built and rehabilitated numerous structures, such as the Malonga Casquelord Arts Center in Oakland. And in keeping with his role as a guardian of the community, in 2012, he again challenged the Raiders football team in court to repay a \$53.9 million loan to the City of Oakland and County of Alameda.

Furthermore, Mr. Debro boasted an impressive history with local and state government. Throughout the years, he served as the Director for the State of California's office of Small Business, Director of the Oakland Small Business Center, Director of the Oakland Model Cities Program, and the Vice President of the Mayor's office of Economic Development in San Francisco.

I had the honor to have known Joe since the early 1970s. He was a visionary, bold, and never wavered with his commitment to the African American community. He helped fund California Resources, which Elihu Harris and I organized, and provided a Washington presence for minority owned firms. I learned a lot from Joe and will always remember his friendship and his wise counsel.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors a great friend of the Bay Area and a true champion for equity, Mr. Joseph Debro. His steadfast commitment to ensuring that minorities have access to a better quality of life will forever live on with the legacy of his vision. I offer my sincerest condolences to his many loved ones and to all of those whose lives he touched over the years. He will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SAM HOWE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Captain Sam Howe, who has worked in my office for the past year as a Defense Fellow. Capt Howe started in my office last January and he has truly been a pleasure to have on the staff. His extensive military experience has benefited the office tremendously as he offers a unique perspective, is always prepared, takes on any task and does it with a smile.

Captain Howe was born in 1986 and grew up with his two younger sisters, Georgia, 25, and Willa, 21, in the friendly suburb of Belmont, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston, where his parents, John and Teresa, still live today. In 2004, Capt Howe graduated from Belmont Hill School.

Capt Howe would go on to attend Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. While there, he earned a B.A. in Public Policy Studies with a minor in Political Science and met the love of his life, his wife, Casey Freeman. Following his junior year of college, in 2007, Capt Howe completed Marine Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, which involved a ten week screening and training program for prospective Marine Officers. Upon his graduation from Duke in 2008, Sam was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Following commissioning, Capt Howe returned to Quantico to attend the six month Basic Officer Course and, after being designated as a Marine Communications Officer, he completed the five month Basic Communications Officer Course. He was subsequently assigned to First Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, of Camp Pendleton, California.

While stationed in California, Capt Howe served as a platoon commander, company operations officer, company executive officer, and acting company commander. In those roles, he was responsible for the welfare and readiness of his Marines, planning and conducting training, administration, and preparing Marines for deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or other contingencies. In 2010, Capt Howe completed a seven month deployment to Afghanistan, supervising a platoon of 55 Marines.

As a civilian, Capt Howe enjoys good food, craft beer, and traveling abroad, as well as running, skiing, working out, and reading. He completed the Marine Corps Marathon in 2012 after moving to Washington, D.C. from California. He and his wife live in Washington, D.C.

During his time in the office he has focused his efforts on defense acquisition, defense appropriations, the intelligence community, Navy SEALs training, and many other policy areas. He has been an invaluable resource to all my staff and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank his family for supporting him through the years; he truly is one impressive guy. On behalf of everyone in the office, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Captain Sam Howe for all his hard work and let him know that my office door is always open to him.

HONORING FORT BENNING'S SARGENT PATRICK HAWKINS, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CODY PATTERSON, 1ST LIEUTENANT JENNIFER MORENO, SPECIAL AGENT JOSEPH PETERS, AND CORPORAL JOSHUA HARGIS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor 5 of Fort Benning's own soldiers who courageously put

their lives in harm's way so that we may live free.

Fort Benning is home to about 1,500 Rangers of the entire 75th Ranger Regiment. They are an elite group of soldiers who perform specialized operations for the Army. Currently, the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, as well as Rangers of the Regimental Headquarters and the Regimental Special Troop Battalion are deployed. I have a deep commitment to Ft. Benning, and once these Rangers pass through Ft. Benning, Georgia, they become part of our state's family.

On October 6th, 5 of these brave Rangers were part of a mission gone wrong. Sergeant Patrick Hawkins, Private First Class Cody Patterson, 1st Lieutenant Jennifer Moreno, and Special Agent Joseph Peters were killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, and Corporal Joshua Hargis was seriously injured.

These soldiers came to Fort Benning from across the nation. They are sons and daughters, parents, and spouses, and loved by many. Their loss is felt across our nation and we thank them for paying the ultimate sacrifice.

As we mourn the loss of these four soldiers, I also want to give thanks for the life of Corporal Joshua Hargis. Cpl. Hargis was injured in the same mission on October 6th, and is pictured here beside me. This photo has been nicknamed "The Salute Seen Around the World" because it shows the strong character of an American soldier.

After hours of surgery, Cpl. Hargis' Commander held a small ceremony in the hospital to honor Cpl. Hargis with the Purple Heart Award. Doctors, nurses, fellow Rangers crowded the room to watch him receive the award. Despite his injuries, tubes, and intense pain, Cpl. Hargis still saluted his Commander when his Purple Heart Award was pinned on his hospital blanket. This act of determination despite pain embodies all that is a Ranger.

I want to thank these 5 brave Rangers—Sgt. Patrick Hawkins, PFC. Cody Patterson, 1st LT. Jennifer Moreno, Special Agent Joseph Peters, and Cpl. Joshua Hargis—for their service and sacrifice. Joan and I send our prayers to their families and friends.

God Bless America and God Bless our troops.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND W.H. FOSTER, SR. PASTOR OF THE PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest Dr. W.H. Foster Sr.; and

Whereas, Reverend Foster was born and grew up in the State of Mississippi and migrated to Chicago like many of his contemporaries; and

Whereas, in 1957 he and his mate for life Ms. Louise Marshall were married and became the parents of nine children and a host of grand and great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, Dr. Foster was ordained a Minister at the age of 28, by Reverend Milton

Brunson and preached the gospel and thrilled thousands of people with his messages and great singing voice from that time on; and

Whereas, Reverend Foster was a great preacher, a wonderful moderator and a devoted member of the National Baptist Convention; and

Whereas, in concert with his religious work Dr. Foster was actively involved with community and the world of politics. I was pleased to enjoy the support and encouragement of Dr. Foster during my entire political career. He was a friend, a comrade and a spiritual advisor. I loved him for what he meant to our community and what he has personally meant to me. I extend condolences to his family, his church, his friends and associates, and may his soul rest in peace.

TEXAN VICTOR LOVELADY DIED PROTECTING OTHERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the world is in trouble, they look to Americans for help. One of my constituents, Mr. Victor Lovelady, heard this cry while working in Algeria and sacrificed his life to answer it.

Victor embodied the very best of the American spirit. He was brave, compassionate, and in the face of great danger made the decision to help and protect others instead of himself. Courage like this should be applauded. That is why this week I nominated Mr. Lovelady for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This is our nation's highest civilian honor and recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution" to our society. It is clear to me that Victor Lovelady not only meets, but exceeds this standard.

Like many Americans, Victor Lovelady was a hard worker who put in long hours to provide for his family of four. As an industrial engineer and master electrician, he worked most of his life in his hometown of Nederland, Texas. Later he moved down the street from me in Atascocita, Texas. However, when work in his area slowed, he traveled back and forth to Houston daily for almost three years so that his children would not have to change schools. Victor never had a pension plan and always had to pay his family's insurance by himself. He never had more than two weeks off in a year. He longed to be able to retire and spend more time with his wife and children.

When the opportunity to work overseas for British Petroleum arose, Victor weighed the pros and cons. He knew that if he did this job for a few years, he would be able to make enough money to retire and be with his family. He was also assured that it would be a safe place to work.

On January 9, 2013, Victor arrived in In Amenas, Algeria to begin his new job at the BP Gas facility. On the morning of January 16, Victor and several other workers were in the cantina having tea when a colleague walked in with a gunshot wound to his stomach. Mokhtar Belmokhtar's al Qaeda linked terrorists had stormed their facility and were indiscriminately killing innocent employees.

Thinking quickly, Victor began to clean and dress the man's wound as the sound of gun-

shots grew louder and louder. After he bandaged the man and hid him in a food container, Victor began helping the other men with him hide in the cantina's false ceiling, lifting them up so they could climb in. In total, Victor propelled three men into the hiding spot. Only when it sounded like the terrorists had entered the cantina did Victor try to save himself. Unfortunately, when attempting to climb into the ceiling, he fell and injured his ankle. Moments later, the terrorists found him and led him away.

Victor's selfless and heroic actions saved four lives that day. This entire ordeal was witnessed and recounted to me by one of the men he helped protect. Sadly, Victor was killed the next day when Algerian, military forces attacked the convoy in which he was being held hostage.

Victor Lovelady may not be a household name, but there is no doubt that his contribution meets the Presidential Medal of Freedom's high standards. He worked hard to provide an honest living for his family and when in danger, thought first to protect others instead of himself. When his brother Michael testified about Victor's heroics before my subcommittee in July, there was not a dry eye in the house. Everyone who hears Victor's story is inspired to act with courage, conviction, and compassion—in other words, to act as a true American.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you and all of our colleagues are as touched by Victor's story as I am. He was a great man and his legacy will continue through his wife, Maureen, and his two children, Erin and Grant. I am honored to call this man and his family my constituents and will continue to fight to honor the legacy of their courageous husband and father.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, doing the right thing is a core principle for our American soldiers. Doing the right thing for the right reason and with the right goal is even better. People of character must possess the desire to act ethically in all situations. One of our military's primary responsibilities is to maintain an ethical climate that supports development of such character. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "No nation can safely trust its martial honor to leaders who do not maintain the universal code which distinguishes between those things that are right and those things that are wrong."

Organizations often reinforce its belief system to its members. In the United States, our founding documents reflect the fundamental principles of our nation.

The Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion. The military, which swears to protect the Constitution, places high value on the rights of its personnel to observe tenets of their religious faiths. It also demands respect for all individual differences in moral background and personal conviction. While religious beliefs and practices remain a decision of individual conscience, military commanders

are responsible for ensuring that their subordinates have the opportunity to practice their religion. Under no circumstances can they deny military personnel the freedom of religion.

Military Chaplains are staff officers with specialized training and specific responsibilities for ensuring the free exercise of religion. They advise and assist leaders and individual personnel on matters of faith and conscience, especially in a hostile environment. We must support our chaplain corps to help military personnel who desire it to achieve a proper faith based mindset.

The Honorable Representative Sam Johnson of Texas is a former Vietnam prisoner of war. He recently mentioned his faith helped him through the hardships of his years of captivity. In Vietnam, as a young infantryman, I witnessed countless soldiers saying prayers before missions. In Iraq, I heard many of our National Guardsman praying before performing our Convoy Combat missions. The importance of a faith cannot be understated.

Our country's distinguished military history gives ample testimony to the need for a faith-based character. Every combat veteran understands the basic requirements for readiness are not only their training and their equipment, but also a prepared mind, heart, and soul to face the enemy. An individual's beliefs assist our military personnel on the battlefield. Faith helps us face the horror and challenges of battle.

In combat, ethical choices are not always easy. The right thing may not only be unpopular, but dangerous as well. Complex and frightening situations often reveal a person's character. Faith-based ethical behavior helps prevent atrocities during battle and soldiers and Marines have demonstrated a duty-consciousness that ultimately enforces a standard of moral decency. The moral courage to do the right thing in the midst of chaos and violence stems from the belief in a higher power.

Mr. Speaker, living a faith and ethics go hand in hand. Ethical decisions are made every day in military organizations throughout the world. They include decisions that directly affect the lives of military personnel in the field, innocent noncombatants, military civilians, and contractors in the theatre of war. I encourage my fellow colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to make value and faith-based ethical choices for the good of the Nation. As members of Congress it is our duty to have the strength of character to make the right choices that ensure the protection of individual natural rights rather than taking them away.

RECOGNIZING DAVE ROSS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Ross of Muncie, Indiana. Dave is the Chairman and CEO of National Catastrophe Adjusters, Inc., doing business as NCA Group, which is a leading provider of insurance management services. Incorporated in 1984, the company originally specialized in catastrophe claims management, handling claims throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. NCA Group currently serv-

ices both daily and catastrophe claims for 5 of the top 10 carriers in the United States and the second largest insurer in Canada. NCA Group has since expanded its service offering well beyond that of a traditional catastrophe firm, providing a complete suite of claims service solutions.

As a veteran, Mr. Ross knows the importance of service to his community and country. He employs over 300 people in Indiana's 6th Congressional District and all over the country, including a large number of veterans. Mr. Ross has developed a very unique and beneficial program for veterans returning back home that helps them translate their military experiences and traits into private sector skills. He then employs many of those veterans at NCA Group or recommends them highly to positions elsewhere.

I recognize Mr. Ross' exemplary conduct as both a soldier and citizen. He truly has used his time and talents for the betterment of his fellow Hoosier and American.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT AT THE ERIE-OTTAWA COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the dedication of the new Erie-Ottawa International Airport in Port Clinton, Ohio. This new facility has been made possible through the Port Authority's leadership and the sacrifices and dedication of local citizens who understand what it takes to build a strong community and nation. Their contributions, along with a \$1.7 million federal Airport Improvement Grant, have resulted in adding an important new facility along our precious Lake Erie coast for economic growth.

To celebrate this event, citizens gathered during Veteran's Day weekend to mark this historic occasion at the new hanger. At the invitation of the airport's dedicated and visionary Director Stan Gebhardt, all gathered witnessed the first flight from Pelee Island, Canada. The plane was piloted by Griffing Flying Service president Tom Griffing, with passengers Erie County Commissioner Tom Farrell and Ottawa County Commissioner Jim Sass who worked across county lines to bring new growth potential to our coast. Upon landing, they were greeted by numerous local, state and federal officials as well as members of the public who marked the occasion with a special ceremony.

In honor of the occasion, a new US flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol for presentation to the Airport Authority. Let me offer warmest congratulations to all those who piloted this significant project to completion. The new facility and adjacent buildings will allow for improved air service, more hanger storage, expanding commercial development around the airport's perimeter, and enhanced opportunities for tourism and commercial development. May the years ahead bring new opportunity as well as adventure to those who recognize Ohio as America's state where air flight began. Onward and upward!

BOOTS AND HOOVES—HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM'S AIRPORT RANGERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if a person is traveling down Farm to Market Road 1960 in Houston, Texas and glances over toward the massive airport grounds, it will not be uncommon to see men and women on horseback providing security for the airport perimeter. These are the Houston Airport Rangers. They will be celebrating their 10th anniversary on December 7, 2013.

In 2003, the Houston Airport System and Texas horse riding enthusiasts embraced the concept of a citizen-based crime prevention program designed to add an extra layer of security at the fence-line securing George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and in return, horse enthusiasts would have exclusive access to thousands of acres of riding trails. Kind of like border patrol, just with boots and hats and on horseback!

IAH Airport is the only airport in our country with a dedicated volunteer rangers program. It's Houston's largest airport and the eighth busiest airport in North America. In 2012, nearly 40 million passengers traveled through the airport. More than 13,000 acres surround the airport, so it makes sense to have the right folks saddle up and patrol the trails on a regular basis.

The number of rangers has increased every year, and nearly 100 members have qualified for an Airport Ranger badge. Rangers share a passion for patrolling the range and keeping the peace—this passion has created a spirit of camaraderie amongst members. As Rangers ride their horses along the airport perimeter, they alert TAH security personnel of any suspicious or dangerous activity in their patrol area. Rangers keep track of their patrol hours—thousands of volunteer hours have been recorded since the program launched ten years ago. These Rangers are a special breed. But, would we really expect anything less from Texans?

Mr. Speaker, join me in honoring the Airport Rangers program for its 10 years of dedicated service and commitment to make Harris County, Texas a safer place to live. I do not know of another crime prevention program of this caliber that is completely run by volunteers. Next month, they will celebrate their 10th anniversary with a Texas style celebration: Texas country music, barbeque and horseback riding—sounds like heaven.

Happy Trails, y'all.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding program for young

adults in Central Florida and throughout the state. The Professional Opportunities Program for Students, Inc. (POPS) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization founded by Florida State Senator Gary Siplin in February, 2001.

Senator Siplin had a dream to provide summer job opportunities to high school students in his community and he began that dream with five students. As the need for jobs increased, the graduation rate of students in the community began decreasing. Senator Siplin realized he needed to do more for these young people.

In 2008, POPS received a grant from the Department of Education to provide a year-round program that included mentorship, life skills workshops, community service, and paid internships to 200 students in Orlando, Florida. By 2010, POPS had grown to serve over 400 students and six additional cities: Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Pahokee/Belle Glade, St. Petersburg, Bartow/Lake Wales, and Ft. Lauderdale.

The mission of POPS is to provide personal and professional development for teenagers who face social, economic or environmental barriers that may impact the quality of their lives. POPS' work is rooted in collaboration among students, parents, schools, and community and business leaders.

The primary goal of the POPS program is to motivate diverse at-risk students to complete their high school education and prepare them for future success. POPS strives to reduce some of the at-risk factors through mentoring, counseling, character education, money management, and workforce development training. To achieve these goals, POPS focuses on assisting students in the completion of high school, motivating them to pursue an advanced education and obtain gainful employment.

The POPS program helps monitor demonstrable gains in academic achievement as well as increased attendance and graduation rates. POPS staff and mentors work to help achieve reduction in disciplinary actions and dropout rates and to increase engagement of students in education, cultural, and career experiences.

Through mentor relationships, improved parental involvement, and on-the-job-training and career exploration, the POPS program helps prepare students for college and entry into the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to recognize Florida State Senator Gary Siplin and the POPS program for their invaluable contributions to Florida's youth.

RECOGNIZING AUDREY DECKINGA

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Audrey Deckinga on her retirement from Texas Child Protective Services. Over her 39 years of service to the Lone Star State, she has shown an unwavering commitment to the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens.

Audrey started her journey in the field of child welfare over 30 years ago as a foster parent. After beginning her professional career in CPS as a caseworker in Williamson County

in 1988, she rose through the ranks over the next 25 years to become the leader of a CPS statewide program with over 8,000 staff. She has served as Assistant Commissioner since 2009 and has impacted the child welfare arena on both state and national levels.

Under Audrey's advocacy and leadership, more children are served safely without a removal from their own homes. Adoptions have increased by more than 100%. After exiting the system, children are less likely to have a subsequent incident of abuse or neglect or to reenter state custody. These achievements bring to life the words of Fred Rogers, one of our nation's great champions for children, who said, "Justice is taking care of those who aren't able to take care of themselves."

Her work to do right for children doesn't stop at the end of the work day. Audrey remains involved in numerous state and national child welfare groups where she has developed a reputation as a forward-thinking supporter of policies that make a lasting difference in the lives of children.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I commend Audrey Deckinga for her work improving the lives of families in Texas. I wish her only the best in the years ahead.

THANKING EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to eight outstanding and long-term employees of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms who will be retiring in the upcoming months:

John Boardman—Chamber Security Division staff.

Geraldine Cassidy—House Garages and Parking Security Division Staff.

Dennis Engel—House Garages and Parking Security Division Staff.

Karen Forriest—Identification Services Division staff.

Nicarsia Mayes—Chamber Security Division staff.

Linda Shealy—Emergency Management Division, Executive Assistant.

Bill Sims—Director of Chamber Security.

Lee Trolan—Emergency Management Division, Director, Continuity Planning.

Taken as a group, these exceptional public servants have served the House of Representatives and the federal government for a combined total of 242 years. I know we are deeply grateful to each of them for their many years of hard work, diligence, and sacrifice to this institution.

Taken individually, each has held positions of trust and responsibility within the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. From the Floor of the House, to the House Office Building garages, to the Identification Office, and Emergency Planning, their commitment to the Congress is second to none. Their institutional knowledge and skills, honed through years of hard work

and dedication, will be sorely missed by their colleagues, as well as by Members and staff alike. Every single one of them has much to be proud of as they reflect on long and distinguished careers.

Please join me in commending the outstanding service of John Boardman, Geraldine Cassidy, Dennis Engel, Karen Forriest, Nicarsia Mayes, Linda Shealy, Bill Sims, and Lee Trolan to the Congress of the United States and congratulating each on their retirement. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives we wish each of you well in all of your future endeavors.

CELEBRATING KEOGH HEALTH CONNECTION'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Keogh Health Connection's Tenth Anniversary. This milestone represents a decade of excellence in connecting Arizona's uninsured population with affordable health care.

Keogh Health Connection was established in 2003, inspired by the passion for service held by its founders, Karlene and Kevin Keogh. This couple recognized that the available healthcare resources can only help those in need when people know how to access them. Through working with families and individuals on a case by case basis, and making referrals to an increasing number of partner organizations, this non-profit has shown tremendous growth over the past decade. It has served over 200,000 residents of Maricopa County, a number of which are in my district.

By taking action to fill a critical need in its community, Keogh Health Connection is truly commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this organization and its staff on reaching 10 years of service, and in wishing them many more successful years to come.

IN MEMORIAN: FRANCES XAVIER SOLOMON, II

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands—and all the Pacific territories—lost a friend in August. Mr. Francis Xavier Solomon, II, veteran and public servant, passed away.

Mr. Solomon's service to our country ranged from his tour of combat in Vietnam to his career with the Department of the Interior. There, he helped develop telecommunications infrastructure in the islands and the financial management systems our young governments needed.

In his last 13 years he worked as a consultant to the Prior Service Retirement Trust Fund, which provides a pension to former employees of the U.S. Government in Micronesia.

Mr. Solomon is remembered by my constituents as “a true public servant in the finest sense of the term,” and “a humble person who possessed extraordinary talent and accomplished great things.”

Francis Xavier Solomon leaves behind a beloved wife of 29 years, Millie, and several children and stepchildren. And he leaves behind a legacy throughout our island communities, for which we will always be indebted.

REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH
CAMPBELL THOMAS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today in remembrance of Joseph Campbell Thomas, a lifelong resident of western Roanoke County, Virginia who passed away at the age of 91.

Joe was born on March 25, 1922, and grew up on his family farm during the Great Depression. He helped raise crops and livestock, worked in his family's tomato canning factory, and graduated from Andrew Lewis High School in 1939. While attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Joe was a member of the Regimental Command of the Corps of Cadets, the Scabbard and Blade and the VPI German Club. After graduating, Joe joined the United States Army Air Corps, and served our country as a pilot flying the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.

After some time working for American Bridge and General Motors, Joe joined his brothers Frank and Lewis to found Thomas Bros. excavating contractors. Their hard work paid off, and Thomas Bros. eventually grew into a premier company with important projects like Lewis Gale Hospital, Carilion Hospital, Salem Memorial Stadium, Valley View Mall, Tanglewood Mall, and others.

Outside of work, though, Joe was a lifelong member of Salem's First United Methodist Church and an avid golfer. He gave back to the community by serving on numerous boards and organizations including the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, the Roanoke County School Board, the Richfield Retirement Community Board of Directors, Lewis Gale Medical Foundation, Salem Rotary Club, the Salem YMCA, and others. He was a regular fixture at his alma mater over the years, rarely missing a Virginia Tech football or basketball game. He served as Chairman of the Virginia Tech Second Century Campaign, the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, and the Hackin' Hokies. He also was awarded the Virginia Tech Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993 for his contributions to industrial engineering.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Leftwich Thomas; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown Thomas; brothers Frank Brown Thomas Jr. and Lewis Preston Thomas; and sister, Mary Louise Thomas Crain. He is survived by daughter Julia Thomas Arthur and her husband Michael; son Joseph Campbell Thomas Jr. and his wife Leigh; five grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and other loving members of his family.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Joe's family and loved ones. His love for his family and neighbors and his contributions to our

community will always be remembered and cherished in Salem and throughout the Roanoke Valley.

THE IRANIANS ARE FEELING THE
PINCH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the old Israeli saying goes, “What you don't see with your eyes, don't invent with your mouth.”

Iran and six world powers, including the United States, are meeting in Geneva to negotiate over Iran's nuclear weapons program. The U.S. must be clear and unequivocal: There will be no reductions in sanctions without verified steps to show that Tehran is abandoning, not just freezing, its nuclear weapons program.

Sanctions are what have brought Iran to the table to talk in the first place. In 2012, the Islamic Republic's net exports of petroleum dropped to their lowest level since 1990. Its GDP has dropped for the first time in 20 years. The Iranian Central Bank acknowledged an annual inflation rate of 45 percent in late July 2013; many economists believe it is more likely in the 50–70 percent range.

In short, the Iranians are feeling the pinch. The sanctions are working.

But getting the Iranians to the negotiating table is not good enough.

If we reduce sanctions now, we give up one of our main sources of leverage for the negotiations. Why stop what is working before we even start talking? Tehran wants to ease the sanctions to a tolerable enough level so that it can continue developing nuclear weapons without pain to its economy.

If we ease sanctions now, Iran will doubt our resolve, continue to run out the clock, and develop nuclear weapons knowing that there will be no serious consequences.

If the U.S. caves in at this critical time, other countries around the world will likely follow its lead and ease their own sanctions. In short, we would be right back to where we were in 2004: Iran marching toward a dangerous nuclear weapons program with no significant sanctions in place. Only this time, it would be much worse. Tehran has continually blocked international inspectors from seeing its nuclear facilities because it has something to hide.

Iran is closer than ever before to crossing the threshold and developing a nuclear weapon. Iran's stockpile of medium-enriched uranium has nearly doubled in a year, and its number of centrifuges has expanded from 12,000 in 2012 to 19,000 today.

Iran could produce enough weapons-grade uranium to build a nuclear bomb in as little as a month, a recent report by the Institute for Science and International Security states. It goes on to say that if Iran built a covert enrichment plant with the specific purpose of enriching uranium as quickly as possible, with current Iranian technology it could produce enough material for a nuclear bomb in a week. Backing off from sanctions now should not be an option. We simply do not have time.

If we want diplomacy to succeed, we shouldn't be talking about reducing sanctions but rather ratcheting them up. My colleagues

and I in the House of Representatives passed an additional sanctions bill in July that would inflict even more pain on the Iranian regime. These new sanctions would go after more sectors of the Iranian economy and more individuals in the Iranian government. The U.S. Senate should ignore the president's objections and pass these sanctions immediately. If peace is to carry the day, we cannot start backing down now.

Nobody wants war with Iran. We should not give up the one peaceful tool that has finally impacted the Iranian regime enough to change its cost-benefit analysis. It would be foolish and dangerous to reduce sanctions without Iran proving that it is dismantling its nuclear weapons program. And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HELEN
MOSS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Helen Moss, who passed from this life on Saturday, November 9, 2013. Helen Moss was an indefatigable and socially minded community leader on many fronts. The living partnership she and her husband, Richard, formed were constant forces for community betterment across the Cleveland region.

Dedicated to success and committed to the pursuit of innovative research, Helen created the Helen Moss Cancer Research Foundation in 2000. The purpose of the foundation is to encourage and support education in Integrative Medicine and Comprehensive Cancer Care in Northeastern Ohio. She chose to turn her final heroic struggle into continuing good for her community: in 2012, she helped to establish the Parker Hannifin/Helen Moss Cancer Research Foundation Professorship in Integrative Oncology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In addition to her support of health research, Helen played an active role in the local community. She was elected as a councilwoman for the Village of Bratenahl in 2001. Additionally, she was selected to be the President of the Ohio Ballet in Akron in 1982 and was appointed to the Ohio Arts Council in 1986. An elegant woman, strong, and vitally engaged citizen, she held a precious appreciation for beauty—in the arts, in the built environment, in literature and music. Helen was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Helen Moss leaves to cherish her life and legacy her husband Richard Fleischman, their four children, grandchildren and extended family and friends. We join them in honoring the life and service of an exceptional woman.

HONOR TRANSGENDER DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today is Transgender Day of Remembrance. On this

day, we remember those who have been killed as a result of anti-transgender violence and take note of the continued violence directed at the transgender community.

Sadly, violence and bullying against the transgender community is common. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, nearly 80 percent of transgender students have been harassed in the K–12 school setting. That discrimination continues into the professional work environment. Transgender people are twice as likely to be unemployed compared to the general population and 90 percent have been mistreated at work. In September this year Erycka Morgan, a student at Rutgers University and LGBT advocate, was killed in a New Brunswick boarding house. Public reports and press releases identified Erycka as a male and authorities identified her by her birth name and gender, despite being advised of her transgender identity and her preferred name.

As we remember those who have been killed or wounded by hate and violence, we also should commend the transgender community for working hard to educate Americans on the inequality they face. They are making great strides. Two weeks ago the Senate passed a fully inclusive Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The Senate-passed ENDA would prohibit employers from discriminating against an individual due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill passed by a strong bipartisan vote of 64–32. It is time for Speaker BOEHNER to bring that bill to the House floor.

A few years ago, the House considered a version of ENDA that did not include gender identity. Although I strongly oppose employment discrimination against all people, including gays and lesbians, the fact that the bill did not include gender identity is why I could not support the legislation then. I expect that when we finally achieve an ENDA law, perhaps this year, it will be inclusive.

Finally, I want to commend the LGBT advocates in New Jersey who have worked hard to achieve full equality in New Jersey. I share the excitement and sense of pride felt by my fellow New Jerseyans when the New Jersey Supreme Court refused to prohibit the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We have a way to go towards full equality, but we are on the right path, a path that bends towards justice. In honor of Erycka Morgan and all those whose lives have been cut short due to violence rooted in ignorance, we will get there.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR THE BEACON GROUP AND
THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which in the last several years has helped more than 48,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to

buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with significant disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program provides essential assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

I am proud to acknowledge the important work of Beacon Group in Tucson. Since 1952, Beacon has provided quality services by employing people with disabilities. Their services improve the quality of life, alleviate barriers to independence, and help Arizonans of all ages to reach their full potential. With the support of the AbilityOne Program, Beacon provides and serves over 2,100 people with disabilities each year, providing a variety of employment related programs. The direct impact of these services on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to work, be independent, participate in community life, or contribute to their society; the AbilityOne Program and agencies like Beacon are invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I strongly support the AbilityOne Program and Beacon Group. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Steve King, the President of Beacon and his staff. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of the society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and make our country a better place to live.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SPACE COAST
EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Space Coast Early Intervention Center (SCEIC) and its long running efforts to serve Florida children with and without special needs. For the past 25 years, SCEIC has established a unique inclusive program to ensure equal learning opportunities for all children regardless of ability. Their goal is to provide children with the academic and social skills needed to succeed in life.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center was founded by Betsy Farmer, who recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the SCEIC's 25th Anniversary Celebration for her vision to establish Brevard's premier preschool.

The preschool is renowned for providing a safe, quality and high achieving learning environment for children with developmental delays such as William's syndrome, Rhett's Syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Autism, Pervasive developmental delays and Apert Syndrome, as well as children with visual, speech and hearing delays.

The SCEIC's curriculum is designed around key development indicators—language, literacy and communication; social and emotional development; physical development and

health; mathematics; science and technology; social studies, and creative arts. Through curriculum and play, students are taught social skills necessary to develop successful friendships, appropriate behavior and have daily opportunities to develop and strengthen basic skills necessary to manage themselves, resolve conflict and develop positive social behaviors.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center enrolls more than 70 students and has a staff of over 25 teachers and nearly 600 volunteers. The Center conducts monthly parent education sessions, as well as community training outreach programs. Additionally, a team of occupational, speech, and physical therapists, and teacher assistants are trained in child care services, First Aid and applied behavioral analysis.

The Space Coast Early Intervention Center provides a tremendously valuable service to families and our community. The Center's dedication to helping children develop the skills they need to succeed in life makes our nation stronger and our future more secure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 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 \$17,200,725,370,597.56. We've added \$6,573,848,321,684.48 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS
AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pharmacy is one of the oldest of the health professions concerned with the health and well-being of all people.

Today, there are more than 300,000 pharmacists licensed in the United States providing services to ensure the safe and effective use of all medications.

The safe and effective use of medication, as a cost-effective alternative and a preventative mechanism to avoid more expensive medical procedures, is a major force in moderating overall health care costs.

It is important that all users of prescription and nonprescription medications, their families or their caregivers, be knowledgeable about and share responsibility for their own drug therapy.

Pharmacists have extensive education and expertise on drugs and medication therapy, which makes them ideally suited to work collaboratively with patients and their health care team members to improve medication use and outcomes.

Pharmacists provide patients with expertise, knowledge and accessibility, all crucial factors to support improvement in our nation's public health.

Pharmacists are best positioned to be the health care professionals to help patients improve their adherence to their medications, and provide patient care services that ensure optimal medication therapy outcomes.

The American Pharmacists Association has declared October as American Pharmacists Month with the theme "Know Your Pharmacist, Know Your Medicine." I rise today to join my colleagues and the American Pharmacists Association in recognizing October as American Pharmacists Month.

Today's health fair is excellent demonstration of the important preventative health services our community pharmacies provide to many in rural towns and cities in Georgia and across the country. I call upon all Americans to acknowledge the valuable services of pharmacists to provide safe, affordable and beneficial patient care services and medications to all citizens.

IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING
EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION BENEFITS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unemployment benefits are a critical lifeline for our citizens and our economy. Although our economy is gradually improving from one of the worst economic recessions in its history, the economic crisis remains a daily reality for 11.3 million unemployed workers and for the millions of Americans experiencing record levels of food insecurity, poverty, and foreclosure.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment. Our economy continues to need federal unemployment benefits to support its growth. Jobs still remain hard to get with 2 million fewer jobs now than at the beginning of the recession. We continue to experience historic levels of long-term unemployment with over one-third of unemployed workers having been out of work longer than six months. Further, unemployment remains high in many areas of our country, like in my home state of Illinois where the unemployment rate is 9%. The non-partisan Economic Policy Institute estimates that failing to extend emergency unemployment benefits another year will damage our fragile recovery, reducing economic growth by 0.4 percentage points in the first quarter of 2014 and costing 310,000 much-needed jobs next year.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment. Millions of Americans rely on unemployment assistance to survive. In Illinois, approximately 389,000 people relied on unemployment benefits during 2013. The insistence of the Republican Leadership on slashing federal emergency assistance will impose incredible hardship on approximately 3.2 million Americans, with 1.3 million cruelly stripped of benefits just after Christmas and another 1.9 million losing benefits in the first six months of next year. The failure of the Republican Leadership to extend this critical lifeline would impose incredible hardship on over 153,000 Illinoisans.

These Americans lost their jobs through no fault of their own, they tirelessly try to find work when the jobs are few and far between, and they struggle to cover basic food, housing, and transportation costs for their families on an average of \$290 a week, a pittance which typically replaces only half of the average family's expenses. Failing to help these citizens is unacceptable.

Government leaders have a responsibility to protect our citizens and our country, especially during times of national crisis. Failure to continue emergency unemployment benefits will harm our economic recovery and harm Americans who already are hardest hit by the economic crisis—including older Americans, low-income Americans, Americans from racial and ethnic minority groups, and Americans without a high school diploma. Congress must quickly act to support our citizens and our economic recovery by continuing emergency unemployment benefits.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an organization that has been serving our Greatest Generation since 2011. I'm referring to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight.

Under the leadership of Kimberly Foster Moody and a dedicated team of board members and volunteers, our Mississippi Gulf Coast Honor Flight has taken almost 600 veterans to Washington spread among seven trips and I was proud to be there to meet every single group. They did it all free of charge, using private donations. For many of these veterans, it was their first and only time to visit the nation's capital, or the World War II Memorial. On Tuesday, November 5, 2013, this organization completed its work with a final flight carrying more than 70 veterans to Washington.

These veterans live among us as our friends and neighbors. They made huge sacrifices protecting the very freedoms that we enjoy today. They fought in some of the most hostile environments, and against some of history's most formidable foes, so that the world can be what it is today.

It has been a privilege to be able to join our Mississippi World War II veterans during these flights and see the look on their faces when they see their monument. As a Marine veteran of the Persian Gulf War, I feel a special kinship to these men and women who served so long ago. They also remind me of my own grandfather, who served in the Pacific on Guadalcanal during World War II.

Of the 16 million Americans who left their farms, fields, shops and families to fight evil half way around the world, 400 thousand Americans never returned home. Those who did, asked for nothing in return when they hung up their uniform and returned to their families, jobs, and normal life. I have asked many men and women over the years why they did it and almost all of them have said for God, Family, and Country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to say thank you to so many in the

South Mississippi community who volunteered for and supported this organization with its service to our veterans. I also want to once again thank all of our nation's World War II veterans. Truly, these veterans are our Greatest Generation.

HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF
THE CONGRESSIONAL MONTE-
NEGRO CAUCUS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Rep. DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado, to recognize the inauguration of the Congressional Montenegro Caucus and welcome the President of the Montenegrin Parliament to Washington, D.C.

Tonight, we will join with many of our colleagues to formally mark our commitment to strengthen an existing friendship with a young friend but vitally important ally in the Balkans.

Together, our nations work to advance peace and prosperity in the region and across the world. Montenegro has demonstrated a strong commitment to regional stability and peacekeeping efforts. Its openness to American businesses and investors make Montenegro an important economic partner.

For eight years, Montenegro has participated in the National Guard's State Partnership Program, partnering with Maine as the Montenegrin military transitions to an all-volunteer force. Now, the partnership between our two nations grows even stronger with the establishment of the Congressional Montenegro Caucus.

We are especially pleased to welcome the President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Ranko Krivokapic, to Washington, D.C. as we celebrate the founding of this important caucus. We look forward to many more years of cooperation and friendship between our countries.

Mr. Speaker, please join us again in celebrating the inauguration of the Congressional Montenegro Caucus.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Park Service staff, volunteers and partners of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) on the 25th anniversary of its establishment as a national park. This 72-mile park corridor, winding northwest to southeast through the Saint Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area, crosses some of the most naturally, culturally, economically and nationally significant areas in the United States. It is the only national park dedicated exclusively to the Mississippi River.

The late Congressman Bruce Vento (D-MN-04) provided the vision and legislative

sponsorship that led to the creation of the park in 1988. It is a true honor to have called Bruce a friend. He was a dedicated environmental advocate, and his leadership helped forge a uniquely new kind of national park—a partnership park. The National Park Service owns little of the land within MNRRA, but works seamlessly with local governments, state agencies, non-profits, businesses, educational institutions and individuals to protect our precious lands and resources along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities.

As the lifelong home of Congressman Vento, it is fitting that Saint Paul is the base of park operations. Both the headquarters as well as the visitor center in the Science Museum of Minnesota are nestled alongside the river in downtown Saint Paul. Despite being in the center of a busy urban area, this stretch of the upper Mississippi River is teeming with life, providing food and shelter for countless birds, fish and mammals. The very symbol of America—the bald eagle—is well represented in the park with one of the largest nesting populations in the country.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area offers beautiful trails and scenic landscapes for people to enjoy in the heart of the Twin Cities. Some of the most important sites in our history are located here—Fort Snelling, Saint Anthony Falls and the confluence of the Mississippi with the Minnesota River. Even before settlers dispossessed this land in the 1800s, original Mdewakanton Dakota living here considered this their Eden, the center of the world.

The Mississippi National River Recreation Area is truly a park that brings history, science and recreation together. No better example is the success of the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure—a special partnership between the National Park Service, local schools, non-profits, businesses and many others—that is providing an opportunity for 10,000 urban youth each year to experience the river from voyageur canoes. Students learn about the river and its special significance through direct “hands on the canoe paddle” experience.

While it is still relatively new by national park standards, it is an honor to celebrate this major milestone. Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

TO WHERE HEARTS OF COURAGE
ROAM—IN MEMORY OF SCOTT
CARPENTER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a poetic tribute in honor of an American Hero, Astronaut Scott Carpenter's passing . . . Scott was the second American to orbit in space. God Speed America's son. I ask that this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

TO WHERE HEARTS OF COURAGE ROAM

(By: Albert Carey Caswell)

To . . .

To where hearts of courage roam!
To such places the future now so owns!
So where such courage belongs!

So all by themselves, so out there all alone!
To a place where exploration heart's so
roam!

Where life and death,
so lies all on that edge!
So etched all in history's home!
To so find the answers,
Which must now be known!
As we looked up Scott,
And you were gone!
And if I were a Carpenter,
I'd be The Right Stuff moving upward and
on!

As you and your friend John Glenn,
such a dynamic duo had once so formed!
As the bravest,
and the boldest who shall live on!
As a pioneer of space exploration,
all in search of new frontiers!
All out there on that cutting edge,
all without fear!
As your life Scott,
to exploration was so pledged!
While, against all odds you would not hedge!
As an Astronaut heading into the sun!
Raising “The Mercury”,
with the strength of “Atlas” to exploration
you'd run!

To win what so must be won!
And then,
under the oceans for so much more to come!
So ready to pay with your own most precious
life,

as was America's heroic son who shone so
bright!

Pushing that envelope,
so all in flight!
All so that we could be here!
As your family,
anxiously so awaited all in their tears!

Oh yes,
you were a shining star!
Carrying our Nation,
out into the future so fast and far!
To such new heights,
and ever new frontiers!
To a place where others fear!
SO CALM!
SO COOL!
AND SO COLLECTED!
THE RIGHT STUFF!
SO HERE!

Living and dying for something worthwhile,
into each new coming year!
To know,
what must so be known!
To sow,
what must be sown!
To go where hearts of courage,
must roam!
The sole reason why,
Women and Mankind so stand alone!
To a place where hearts of courage must
roam!

Oh what a striking figure Scott,
you'd so cast!
All out there into the future's past,
which so lives on,
so lasts!
Wherever, hearts of honor roam!
That which hearts of exploration wish to
own!

Whether, above the earth or SEALAB below!
As there Scott, you would go!
With such faith and courage you owned!
As why men like you,
The Right Stuff so stand alone!
God Speed America's fine Son!
As your life upon this earth,
is now so sadly done!
But just look,
all in your short life what you have owned!
As so boldly and bravely for our futures,
your heart so roamed,
To do what must so be done!
And where would we all so be,
if it were but not for such courageous ones as
all of these?

God Speed,
ascend to Heaven Scott my son!
To where hearts of courage roam!

CONGRATULATING DUKE UNIVER-
SITY HOSPITAL ON THE OCCA-
SION OF BEING HONORED WITH
THE BALDRIDGE AWARD IN LEAD-
ERSHIP

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Duke University Hospital, located in Durham, North Carolina for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce as a 2013 Baldrige National Quality Award Honoree in Leadership.

Since 1988 the Department of Commerce has recognized numerous U.S. organizations from various industry sectors for their exemplary performances in innovative practices, dynamic management, financial management, employee and customer satisfaction, and commitment to excellence and proven results. This year, Duke University Hospital is being recognized, along with one other organization nationwide, for its best practices in leadership.

Duke University Hospital delivers exemplary and innovative care not just to the entire Durham community, but nationally and internationally, by providing a remarkable facility of 924 acute care beds and 18 psychiatry beds. The hospital has a long tradition of excellence and has been repeatedly recognized for outstanding care by publications including TIME and US News & World Report. In 2012 Duke University Hospital became the first hospital to achieve the top recognition by the state of North Carolina's Awards for Excellence program for outstanding businesses practices. The hospital ranks among the best facilities in the country for quality of care, and is one of the preeminent teaching hospitals in the country through their partnership with Duke University School of Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the doctors, nurses, staff, and students of Duke University Hospital for their commitment to exceptional leadership and quality health care. Duke University Hospital continues to be a tremendous asset and partner with the Durham community. This reward is a testament to the innovation and leadership of Duke University Hospital and reinforces the “City of Medicine” moniker for the City of Durham. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Duke University Hospital's great achievement by being recognized as a 2013 Baldrige National Quality Award Leadership Honoree.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
ELAINE G. VANN ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HER RETIREMENT AS
WASHINGTON COUNTY, NORTH
CAROLINA'S REGISTER OF
DEEDS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Elaine G.

Vann on 31 years of service to the Washington County Board of Commissioners, office of the County Manager, and the citizens of Washington County, North Carolina. On December 1, 2013, Ms. Vann will retire as Washington County Register of Deeds.

Elaine Vann began her tenure in public service on September 13, 1982 as Assistant Register of Deeds, eventually becoming Certified on August 18, 1994.

On January 3, 1995, Ms. Vann was selected to assume the unexpired term of Washington County's then-Register of Deeds Greta H. Barber. Since then, Ms. Vann has run for election five times and has been elected to serve as Register of Deeds on each occasion. Her nearly 19 years as Washington County's chief recorder of property records and vital statistics information have made her a strong force throughout the county and region.

During her tenure, Ms. Vann served with 24 County Commissioners and seven County Managers. All along, she worked in earnest to implement changes made at the county level and also worked to keep pace with emerging technologies that fostered public disclosure and increased the ease with which citizens accessed information. To that end, she implemented a "paperless" office by scanning and digitizing documents and forms making working with the Register of Deeds uncomplicated and efficient and saving the county scarce resources.

Ms. Vann was a member of the North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds (NCARD) and served District VIII on various NCARD committees. She has proudly served as its District Secretary, Vice-Chair and Chair. This year Ms. Vann was awarded the Shining Star Award by the NCARD at the State Conference in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

A true testament to her active involvement in the community, Ms. Vann served as President of the Pungo River Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and was the first female board member of the Pungo River Volunteer Fire Department. She is a member of Zion's Chapel Church of Christ in Roper, the Washington County Executive Board of the Southern Albemarle Association, and the Family and Consumer Science Program Committee with the Washington County Cooperative Extension Agency.

Ms. Vann and her husband, John, have two children—a daughter, Erin Vann Gaskill, and a son, Daniel Vann.

Mr. Speaker, the work and contributions of the Honorable Elaine G. Vann will leave a lasting impression on Washington County. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our sincere appreciation for her 31 years of outstanding and dedicated public service and best wishes upon her retirement.

A BAD DEAL FOR AMERICANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, four years ago this month, I stood on the House floor to oppose the so-called health care reform bill (ie: Obamacare), stating my firm belief that:

"We can and must reform our health care system and provide better solutions for those

currently uninsured or underinsured. But we must do so without jeopardizing the quality of health care for these currently insured people and families, many of whom will see their own health care access and quality seriously eroded under the bill."

Unfortunately for millions of Americans, as I and many others predicted four years ago, Obamacare is expensive, forcing them to lose their coverage and undermining our world class system of care. The law's implementation is resulting in many patients having less—not more—health care and they have less say in who their doctor is, what procedures and medications are covered, and what hospitals remain in their network.

The President's promise to insured individuals—that "if you like your insurance plan, you will keep it. No one will be able to take that away from you" and "if you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period"—was, simply, a false promise and a foolish one.

We knew then, and are seeing now, that this was not the case. In fact, my colleagues and I raised these concerns during the debate and several of my speeches included my grave concerns that the bill would cause most Americans to lose access to their current health insurance coverage.

At the time of passage, according to the Urban Institute, approximately 90% of the people in my district had health care coverage. Now, the New Jersey Association of Health Plans estimates that in my state alone, 800,000 people—150,000 with individual plans and 650,000 in employer sponsored small group plans—have or will have their coverage disrupted by Obamacare.

In fact, I have been contacted by many of these constituents who are losing their current health care coverage. One constituent from Lakewood wrote: "I just got a letter from [my insurance company] that my private insurance policy is being terminated due to the new Health Care Law requirements. . . . I am struggling middle class citizen. Where is the president's promise that we will be able to keep our policies?"

Another constituent from Fair Haven wrote: "I am a Vietnam veteran. . . . my wife is a 60 year old breast cancer survivor. . . . [Her insurance company] just referred her to a new policy that is almost twice the cost of the one she had."

Similarly, four years ago, I stated: "The bill also guts Medicare Advantage plans, which offer additional coverage to over 11 million seniors—15,983 in my district alone—who choose Medicare Advantage plans as the coverage that best meets their needs."

Mr. Fredrick Thompson from Hamilton commented: "My 96 year old mother-in-law who has lived with us for the past 16 years with Social Security as her only income just received a letter from [her insurance company] canceling her [Medicare Advantage policy]. This policy was cancelled due to new standards imposed by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). A new policy will increase her cost by 83% plus add a deductible that did not exist in the original policy."

The impact on future Medicare Advantage enrollment is unclear but the costs have increased for seniors, like Mr. Thompson's mother-in-law, many of who can ill afford a higher cost of living.

Many more of my constituents have seen their costs rise dramatically and others are

fearful that they will soon receive a cancellation notice in the mailbox stating they are being pushed off their current plans and must find a new, more expensive plan on a website that doesn't work and does not appear to have the ability to keep their required personal data safe and secure. This is unacceptable.

The impact of Obamacare on small businesses is also troubling—and was predicted. One business owner in my district, April Zay from Hamilton, wrote to me: "I am a small business owner in Mercer County NJ. I am concerned about the effect of the Affordable Care Act on my business and family. . . . I have been trying my best to keep my business afloat, but with the cost of health plans and the loss of revenue is putting my livelihood at risk."

Since the latest recession, small businesses accounted for 67 percent of the net new jobs in this country. They are the engine of a sustained job market and a recovery. Controlling costs and making healthcare policies affordable for these small businesses should be our focus. Unfortunately, Obamacare—both its insurance mandate's sticker price and the crippling taxes on individuals and businesses— incentivizes part-time employment and accelerates the trend away from employer sponsored plans.

My record—on Medicare, Community Health Centers, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Veterans health care, and children with special needs—demonstrates that I remain fully committed to ensuring the federal government plays an appropriate role and provides a health care safety net for those in need of support.

The solutions we put forward during the debate on Obamacare to replace it with responsible health care reform can provide credible health insurance coverage for everyone, strengthening the health care safety net, and incentivizing quality, innovation, and prevention. Reforming the private health insurance market to eliminate denials for pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps and promoting portability between jobs and geographic areas, including across state lines, are proposals I supported and have continued to support. I also support modernizing the tax code to promote affordability and individual control and provide assistance to low-income and middle-class families who seek insurance but cannot now afford the cost.

The administration's temporary decision to allow insurance companies to grandfather in existing plans is not sufficient to stop the bleeding. Obamacare must be suspended and replaced. Suspending and replacing Obamacare would fulfill the President's promise: If you like your insurance plan, you can keep it. Then we can work on real reform that puts patients first, lowers costs and advances solutions rather than creates new problems.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LANCE
CORPORAL CALEB POWER
YOUNG MARINE UNIT'S EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE RED RIBBON WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Lance Corporal

Caleb Power Young Marine Unit in the First District of Virginia to promote Red Ribbon Week. Their efforts in this national drug prevention campaign are impressive. The work these young men and women are doing is vital to our community and shows their commitment to making our schools, cities, counties, Commonwealth and Nation drug free. I am proud to represent the First District of Virginia, where young women and men are striving to make our communities better.

The Young Marine Program is a drug demand reduction program for children ages 8 through the completion of high school that instills the Corps values of teamwork, leadership, and discipline. The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives, with the ultimate goal being the creation of a drug free America.

The Fredericksburg unit of the Young Marines is named after Lance Corporal Caleb John Powers, a Fredericksburg resident and former Young Marine who joined the United States Marine Corps and was killed in action in Iraq in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these Young Marines and their families for their dedication to improving this great Nation.

HONORING RITA BROCK-PERINI

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Rita Brock-Perini on her induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. This accolade is reserved for the men and women in community who have unceasingly served their country after the conclusion of their active duty.

Capt. Brock-Perini epitomizes what this honor stands for. After being raised in a formerly rural region of Arizona as one of ten children, she pursued higher education in nursing at St. Joseph's School of Nursing and Arizona State University. During the Vietnam War, she answered her nation's call for service and enlisted in the Air Force Nurse Corp until 1971. Afterwards, she investigated medical fraud for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services until her retirement in 2003. Today, Capt. Brock-Perini has continued her career in service in a plethora of ways. She is a commissioner on the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission, the Vice President of the Veterans Medical Leadership Council, and a judge advocate for the American Legion. Additionally, she has worked with NPR and the Veterans History Project to share her unique story with generations to come.

From these accomplishments, it is clear that Rita Brock-Perini has dedicated her life to superior citizenship. I am privileged to represent her in congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her induction to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, and in thanking her for all she has done for her country and fellow veterans.

NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the month of November has been set aside to focus the nation's attention on one of the most chronic and debilitating diseases in the nation—Diabetes. It is estimated that the national cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States is \$245 billion. Diabetes is a challenging disease that affects the entire family in many ways, which is why the theme for 2013 National Diabetes Month is Diabetes is a Family Affair.

The theme reinforces the work of National Diabetes Education Program and its work with individuals, families and communities to take action and encourage simple, but important lifestyle changes to improve their health—particularly if they have diabetes or are at risk for the disease. Raising awareness and understanding of diabetes, its consequences, management and prevention of Type II Diabetes are important elements in this month's effort.

Diabetes is a group of diseases characterized by high blood glucose levels that result from defects in the body's ability to produce and/or use insulin. If left undiagnosed or untreated, diabetes can lead to serious health problems such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation and even death. With early diagnosis and treatment and lifestyle changes, people with diabetes may prevent the development of these health problems.

Nearly 26 million children and adults in our country suffer from diabetes. Another 79 million people have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing Type II Diabetes. Unfortunately, the occurrence of diabetes is at least two to four times higher among minority women compared to white women.

An estimated 1.3 million adult New Yorkers (almost one in eight) now have diabetes. A record number of New Yorkers, approximately 5,695 people, died from diabetes and related causes in 2011—about one death every 90 minutes, 16 deaths every day. These numbers are so staggering that diabetes has been declared an epidemic by the NYC Health Department. For too many Americans, diabetes is thought of as a minor hindrance, rather than a life-changing disease.

Diabetes is 24/7, 365 days a year and it takes extraordinary efforts to live an ordinary day with diabetes.

I am committed to educating the public about how to stop diabetes and support those living with the disease. I applaud the efforts of the New York Chapter of the American Diabetes Association and other diabetes support

and education programs, including St. Lukes/Roosevelt Endocrine Clinic, Mt. Sinai Endocrinology, Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, Montefiore Conical Diabetes Center and North Bronx Health Care Network for their continued service to the residents of the 13th Congressional District.

As a proud cosponsor of the Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act, aimed to promote diabetes research, treatment and prevention in minority populations, I will continue supporting the issues surrounding diabetes and the many people who are impacted by the disease."

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate former Senator Richard Lugar of my home state of Indiana. Senator Lugar received the Medal of Freedom today from President Obama at a ceremony at the White House.

Few other political leaders in our state's history have rivaled Senator Lugar's accomplishments during his over 40 years of service to Indiana. His work as the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and support for biofuels research has helped Hoosier famers and brought jobs to rural Indiana. Senator Lugar is recognized around the world for his work on stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In 1991, Senator Lugar partnered with Senator Sam Nunn to establish a program aimed at eliminating latent weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. Over 7,500 nuclear warheads have been deactivated through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, making the world a far safer place. As the President of the Lugar Center, Senator Lugar continues to lead, lending his knowledge and wisdom to policy makers working to tackle the foreign policy issues of our day.

Like so many others, Senator Lugar has played an essential role in inspiring my own career in public service. My grandmother Helen Rotzien was a Ward Chairman in Indianapolis when Dick Lugar was first elected mayor. Throughout my childhood, my grandparents repeatedly cited Senator Lugar as a model of achievement and integrity in public service. Later, as I began my own career in public service in Indiana, Senator Lugar took special interest in a young state legislator and Executive Director of the Indiana Republican Party. I will always be grateful for his friendship and guidance.

I ask the entire 6th District to join me in congratulating Senator Lugar on receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a Navy veteran, Indiana public servant and internationally respected statesman Richard Lugar's life has been dedicated to service to his country. Senator Lugar's leadership and public service is an example that all Hoosiers can aspire to.

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 15TH ANNUAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of the 15 Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Fifteen years ago, the tragic murder of transgender musician Rita Hester in Boston offered our nation a glimpse into the daily struggle and injustice suffered by transgender Americans. In honor of her memory, transgender activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith founded the first Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1998 as an occasion to remember all those who have been lost due to violence and prejudice against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Despite significant advances in the struggle for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality in recent years, many people do not realize or recognize that transphobia exists, and transgender individuals continue to face discrimination in every major aspect of their day-to-day lives.

Tragically, members of the transgender community are too often the victims of hate-motivated violence. Each year around the world, hundreds of transgender individuals of all ages—particularly transgender women of color—are brutally attacked, injured, or murdered simply because of who they are, and the list of names to memorialize grows ever longer. In 2013 alone, this figure topped 238 lives lost, but we know that the real number of deaths is much higher as many cases go unreported and uninvestigated.

All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, as well as live free from fear of discrimination and harm. For transgender indi-

viduals, the lack of access to culturally competent health care, disproportionate rates of poverty and homelessness, resorting to survival sex or attempting suicide, maltreatment by law enforcement, and employment discrimination remain serious challenges to their well-being. As a nation, we must do more to address these issues, root out stigma and racism, and foster greater inclusion in our society.

At the federal level, one of the immediate steps that we can take to protect the rights of transgender individuals is to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013 (ENDA), a bipartisan measure that strengthens basic employment protections for all Americans and, in my opinion, is long overdue. On November 7, 2013, the Senate sent a clear message that employer discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity should be outlawed when it passed ENDA by a vote of 64–32. I urge Speaker BOEHNER to reconsider his position and allow the House to vote on passage of a fully inclusive ENDA as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, transgender rights are human rights. As we observe the 15th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, let us not only remember the lives of all those whom we have lost to transphobic hate, but honor their memory and sacrifice by recommitting ourselves to making a difference in the lives of LGBT individuals and other vulnerable communities as a whole. I will continue working tirelessly with my colleagues in Congress, the Obama administration, and civil rights advocates to ensure that our laws recognize LGBT persons and provide them with equal opportunities to succeed.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate com-

mittees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on developing a plan for a smooth transition.

SD-538

DECEMBER 11

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine protecting seniors from medication labeling mistakes.

SD-562

DECEMBER 18

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy, focusing on continuing the conversation.

SD-562