

serves Vietnam with distinction, and I thank him for all he has done to advance the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, a relationship which is based on mutual trust and understanding.

During my visit to Hanoi in December 2012, I also had the privilege of meeting with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of trade relations between the U.S. and Vietnam, I wish to praise him for the remarkable service he renders. His leadership has led to improved relations between our two countries, and I acknowledge his significant contributions.

I also acknowledge the contributions of Madam Tong Thi Phong, Vice-Chair of the National Assembly, who I met again in December 2012 while in Hanoi. Madam Phong is an exceptional leader and one of only two female members of Vietnam's Politburo. I commend Madam Phong for the significant contributions she has made to her country and ours. Her work is of great consequence.

I also recognize Vietnam's Politburo which is comprised of 16 members who are actively engaged in promoting cooperation between the United States and Vietnam. The Politburo's past and present contributions to the bilateral relationship are the reason we are celebrating 20 years of trade relations between our two countries.

Having served in Vietnam during the War and having since visited Vietnam on several occasions in my official capacity both as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have seen Vietnam in many ways. I stand as a witness to the beauty, progress, goodness and strength of the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership.

I have worked side-by-side with many of Vietnam's Ambassadors to the United States and have acknowledged their work accordingly. But, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of trade relations between our two countries, I pay special tribute to His Excellency Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong who I consider to be a colleague, a friend, and a brother.

Ambassador Cuong represents the government and people of Vietnam with full integrity and unwavering commitment. In recognition of his tireless efforts in building a forward-looking relationship between our two countries and, in special consideration of our abiding friendship, I enter his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to stand as a testament of our work together.

I am thankful for the twists and turns of life that have led me back and forth to Vietnam. I returned to Vietnam after 40 years and, at a dinner hosted by the National Assembly of Vietnam, I had long discussions with my counterparts who had also served in the Vietnam War. Although we were once enemies, we embraced each other as friends who share the same hopes and dreams for our families, friends and nations. We recognized that the broken times of Friday are behind us. Sunday has come. Peace is here.

And so, I applaud former President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, former Senator and now U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, members of the House and Senate and, on Vietnam's part, President Sang, Prime Minister Dung, the Politburo, and the National Assembly for building a path of peace and

prosperity. I especially honor those who have gone before us, because nothing we accomplish is possible without the perseverance of those who went first. I also acknowledge the contributions of those unnamed who have contributed in small and great ways to make this day possible.

The U.S.-Vietnam partnership is stronger than it has ever been, and I would be remiss if I did not attribute much of the strength of our partnership to the veterans from both sides who have brought about change. While we should not rest until the United States fully addresses and rectifies the Agent Orange issue, I am pleased for now that both governments and our people are about the business of deepening U.S.-Vietnam ties. I am proud to be part of this historic undertaking. I am proud to be a friend of Vietnam and, without doubt, I believe the best is yet to come.

HONORING THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of The Ohio State University Marching Band. Their outstanding innovation and halftime shows were recently featured in a national commercial for the Apple iPad that aired during the Super Bowl.

Since being founded in 1878, the all-brass and percussion Marching Band at Ohio State has led the way by creating new techniques and utilizing innovative technologies. Their iconic Script Ohio has in recent years been joined by animated formations that seem to float across the field.

Recently the Band gained more national prominence as their performances have garnered a lot of attention on YouTube. The Band's halftime show on October 6, 2012, celebrated many popular video games including Super Mario Bros., Tetris, and The Legend of Zelda, and has received over 16 million views.

For the 2013 season, the Band began using iPads to learn formations more quickly and more effectively, while saving money and paper. Seniors Ryan Barta and Charlie King deserve recognition for the idea, while the Band's director, Jon Waters, deserves credit for embracing it. The project would not have been possible without support from Ohio State's Digital First Impact Grant and its Office of Energy and the Environment. As a result, the 2013 season saw many halftime shows grab national headlines, with tributes to Hollywood and Michael Jackson receiving over 16 million and almost 10 million views respectively. Their use of cutting-edge technology while honoring the Band's traditions has made it a well-respected part of Buckeye Nation.

As an alumnus of the band, I am proud to extend heartfelt congratulations to all those who have helped The Ohio State University's Marching Band—The Best Damn Band in the Land—continue to be such a complete and resounding success!

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIDGEWATER INTERIORS ON ITS DESIGNATION AS THE 2013 MINORITY MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the executive team and employees of Bridgewater Interiors, LLC on their company's distinction as the 2013 Minority Manufacturer of the Year by the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Greater Detroit region has a rich history of innovation and is a community that is made strong through the diversity of its residents. Launched in 1998, as a joint venture between Detroit-based Epsilon Technologies, LLC and Johnson Controls, Inc., Bridgewater Interiors is a modern embodiment of these legacies. From its local beginnings, the management team and employees of Bridgewater Interiors embarked on a commitment to deliver high quality products that range from automotive seating systems to overhead systems and center consoles. As a testament to its success, Bridgewater Interiors has grown into a national Tier 1 supplier to the Big Three with over 1,500 employees at four sites across the country.

Bridgewater Interiors prides itself on being a goal-oriented organization that promotes and recognizes the dedication of its employees. To promote high morale amongst its employees, Bridgewater's leadership team has created a work environment that is responsive to employee concerns, creates an open-door policy for access to senior management and that strives to recognize employees for their contributions to their organization's success. In support of its commitment to the ongoing training of its workforce, Bridgewater Interiors provides its employees with a tuition reimbursement program for college studies. Given these commitments to product quality and its employees, it is little wonder that Bridgewater Interiors has been named one of Metropolitan Detroit's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for by the 101 Best and Brightest organization.

As the leader of a certified Minority Business Enterprise, Bridgewater Interiors' President and CEO, Ron Hall, Sr. has been committed to supporting diversity both within his company and the manufacturing industry. As a result of his commitment to the principles of diversity, Mr. Hall effectively leveraged his leadership at Bridgewater Interiors to hone the organization and mission of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council—now one of the premier minority business organizations in the country. In addition to his work within the manufacturing industry, Mr. Hall serves as the Vice President of Minority Business Development at New Detroit, Inc., the nation's first urban coalition, as well as taking a leading role at other local organizations, including the American Diabetes Association of Michigan, Southeastern Michigan Junior Achievement and St. John's Hospital of Michigan.