

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO PATTI ALDERSON

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patti Alderson, who is being honored on April 11, 2014, by the Boy Scouts of America Fort Hamilton District for her service to her community at the "Do a Good Turn Daily" event.

This recognition is awarded annually to an individual in the Butler County, Ohio, community who has demonstrated outstanding character and commitment to others. As a mother, caregiver, volunteer, and fundraiser, Patti has dedicated her life to the service of her family, friends, community members, and those in need.

In 1999, Patti led a group of women to establish The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty. At its founding, and in the fifteen intervening years, the Community Foundation has sought to respond to the needs of the community and provide a vehicle for volunteerism and philanthropy. Among its many initiatives, the Community Foundation has sent children to camp, established a high school-aged student philanthropy group, raised money for the local food pantry, and provided dental screenings to elementary-aged students in need.

In 2010, seeking to help the local youth, Patti stepped in and led the initiative to establish a Boys and Girls Clubs of America in the townships of West Chester and Liberty, Ohio. With hard work and persistence, the Boys and Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty in 2013 became the grateful recipient of a \$750,000 grant, allowing the center to become a reality. The Boys and Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty opened in March of this year and will initially serve approximately 400 students.

I am very proud to call Patti Alderson my good friend, and I extend my most sincere congratulations to her. Her drive is unparalleled; her devotion to serving others is both unwavering and inspiring. Each day, many lives are touched by the initiatives that are the outgrowth of Patti's efforts. Thank you, Patti, for your passion and longstanding commitment to our community.

TRIBUTE TO JAY REAVIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jay Reavis of Innovative Captive Strategies in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jay in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Reavis for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jay on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CONGRATULATING MRS. LEONA DAYTON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Leona Eunice Dayton on her 100th birthday. It is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize the life of such a distinguished citizen.

Mrs. Dayton, known to her family and friends as Bobby, was born on this day in 1914 to Amos and Lelia Brewer in the small town of Erna, Texas. As a member of the "Greatest Generation" she witnessed many historic events during the 20th century and played a part in making this nation great.

Bobby married her high school sweetheart, Jack Cooper Dayton, and together they embodied the entrepreneurial spirit that has defined this country and its people since its inception. With a little bit of luck and a lot of love and hard work, they began several small businesses, including the Dayton Oil Company, which they owned for over 30 years.

Throughout her life, Bobby established herself as a pillar of the community in London, Texas where she devoted herself to the service of others through Eastern Star and as Postmaster of the London Post Office. She could also often be seen at the London Methodist Church teaching Sunday School or playing piano for early morning services.

Today, she continues her commitment to others by spending her days traveling, gardening, and filling her house with love, laughter, and great food. The fruits of her life-long endeavors can be seen by the smiles on the faces of her children, five grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren as they gather to celebrate this momentous occasion.

We all, including my colleagues in the House, could learn a bit from Mrs. Dayton's commitment to family, friends, and community. I am honored to have the opportunity to help celebrate this special day. Her accomplishments throughout her life represent an important part of the American story. Again, congratulations to Leona Eunice Dayton and Happy 100th Birthday.

CONGRATULATING PAUL MONROE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations to Paul Monroe who, after 43 years of dedicated service, will be retiring from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company on Friday, April 11.

Paul began his career at the Fireman's Fund Houston office in 1971 as a loss control trainee, following his graduation with a degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Texas in Arlington. He subsequently became the head of the Loss Control Department in Houston before becoming trained in property casualty insurance sales and underwriting. Over the years, he made a series of transitions and promotions within Fireman's Fund, which included moves to San Antonio, Texas; Greensboro, North Carolina; and New York City. In 2002 he came to the Fireman's Fund headquarters in Novato, California and in his latest job served as Assistant Vice President for Underwriting Quality. In this capacity, he and his team were instrumental in creating a number of systems designed to enhance and provide better consistency in the underwriting process.

Successful people are typically characterized by their discipline and their desire to constantly improve and Paul exemplifies these virtues. He received his Masters in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Houston in 1976 and while living in Greensboro, he obtained his MBA. He has participated in several industry groups and has served as a Board Member of the Pennsylvania Joint Underwriting Association since 2002. His hobbies include golf and running, and he has run seven Marathons, including five in New York City. He has been happily married to his wife Druella (Dru) for 42 years and they have two grown children, Jay and Molly.

43 years is a long time and the world has changed significantly from when Paul first started. Paul Monroe's career has spanned a remarkable period of time, and his dedication to Fireman's Fund and his adherence to the finest virtues of solid character, integrity, mentorship and personal kindness is truly inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering my praise and congratulation to Paul Monroe, and extend our best wishes for a happy retirement to Paul and Dru as they

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prepare for the next chapter of their life together.

IN SUPPORT OF THE UKRAINE,
AZERBAIJAN, AND GEORGIA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the actions of Russia in the Crimean Peninsula.

Now is the time for the United States to show our solidarity with former Soviet states such as Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, while encouraging these nations to continue to institute democratic reforms and modernize their economies.

Countries in the Caucasus region such as Azerbaijan and Georgia are located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe—a strategic location for U.S. foreign policy objectives given that Russia is to the north and Iran is to the south.

With the volatility and strategic importance of this region, the U.S. must continue to work with its allies such as Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia to ensure their sovereignty is protected, especially in light of Russia's actions in the Crimean Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the importance of our country's relationship with Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF THE
YOUNG CHILD

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Week of the Young Child, which is celebrated this year from April 6 to April 12. I also rise to recognize the tireless work of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which was instrumental in launching this week in 1971, and which works every day to create a brighter future for our nation's youngest learners.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is clear: strong investments in early education are vital to America's future. Young children experience astonishing brain growth, forming more neural pathways from birth to age five than at any other point in their lives. Investment in this phase of life pays serious dividends—not just individually, but societally as well. Studies have consistently shown that each dollar invested in quality preschool yields \$7 over the life of a child; and the urgent need for support in this area has never been greater.

Today, one in five American children begins their life in poverty. Among these children are the world's future doctors, scientists, teachers, astronauts, CEOs, innovators and outstanding citizens. As we observe the Week of the Young Child, these facts should give reflective pause to every member of this House. If we fail to provide each American child with a fair opportunity to succeed, we as a society will

fail to reach our full potential. The stakes are high, it is incumbent upon each of us to step up and do what's unquestionably right for America's future.

I would also like to note that when paired with quality child care, early education yields immediate and long-term economic dividends. Too often, American parents are forced to choose between joining the workforce and ensuring the healthy development of their child. The Child Care Development Block Grant reduces this gap by providing a modest subsidy to eligible working parents, allowing them to purchase quality child care for their children, join the work force, and contribute to our nation's economic prosperity. Last month, I was proud to lead 111 of my House colleagues in a letter to House Appropriators supporting this critical program.

In today's day in age, Mr. Speaker, I find it unacceptable that any child's zip code would determine whether they, or their parents, have a fair chance to reach for the American Dream. I look forward to the day when true equality of access to early education is finally achieved, and I'm proud to stand with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, as well as the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children, in working to make this future a reality.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS.
MARGARITA MUÑOZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a lifelong resident of my district on her upcoming centennial birthday. On April 11, 2014, Mrs. Margarita Muñoz will celebrate 100 years of life.

Born in 1914, Margarita is the middle sibling to two older brothers and two younger sisters. When she was a young girl, Margarita's family moved from Arizona to California in search of a better life and settled in downtown East Los Angeles. Margarita attended the local elementary and middle school with her brothers and sisters. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 1932 where she met her sweetheart, Augustine Muñoz.

Margarita and Augustine married in 1935 and gave birth to their first son, Charles, in 1936. The young family was blessed with the birth of their second son, Robert, in 1937, daughter Dorothy in 1943, William and John in 1944 and 1950, and daughter Carol in 1955. In 1955, Margarita and Augustine moved their growing family from East Los Angeles to the city of Montebello. The children attended Eastmont Elementary and Montebello Junior High and Montebello High School. For Margarita and Augustine Muñoz, Montebello proved an ideal place to raise a family.

In 1964, Margarita's husband passed away from a sudden heart attack and was left to raise their children on her own. During this difficult time, Margarita demonstrated tremendous work ethic and resiliency; despite tremendous adversity, she succeeded in providing for her children and giving them a home in which to flourish.

Margarita's life revolved around her children. She dedicated herself to giving them the best

upbringing possible and made sure to instill in them strong values. With her support and guidance, all of Margarita's children went on to be successful members of their community; among many impressive achievements, two of her children earned their masters degrees.

Today, Margarita still lives in the same Montebello home where she and her family settled in 1955. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, gardening, and of course seeing her family, which has grown quite a bit since 1935. At family celebrations and holidays she has the joy of spending time with her 18 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Margarita Muñoz represents the best in our community. Margarita exemplifies the true meaning of family, and her community is grateful to have such a role model of commitment and dedication. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Margarita a very happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JC RISEWICK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize JC Risewick of Seneca Companies in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like JC in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Risewick for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating JC on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
SERVICE OF DR. KULWANT S.
BHANGOO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a respected member of my Western New York community, Dr. Kulwant S. Bhangoo.

Dr. Bhangoo is a specialist in plastic and reconstructive surgery and has a practice in Buffalo, New York. He has earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge and his medical degree from the University of East Africa, where he won the Mulgibhai Madhavani recognition which is awarded to the best student of the year. He completed his surgical training in England before coming to the Mercy Hospital of Buffalo to complete his residency in plastic surgery.

He has conducted his distinguished academic record in Buffalo, where he has been published on subjects including wound healing and scar tissue and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The history of Western New York is the story of immigrants who have brought their experience, training and drive to enrich our community, and Dr. Bhangoo's story is no different. Yet he has remained engaged with his native India. He travels often to conduct workshops and training for surgeons in India and has been recognized for his good work with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Aesthetic Surgeons of India.

Through his hard work and generous spirit Dr. Bhangoo has changed the lives of patients and enriched the careers of surgeons on four continents. We are proud to have him in our community and look forward to many years of his continued service in Western New York.

RECOGNIZING THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, also known as the Meds Yeghern or "Great Crime," to those of Armenian descent.

In the wake of World War I, the Ottoman Empire launched a campaign of terror against Ottoman Armenians. From 1915 to 1923, forced deportations displaced 2 million Armenians. Unarmed men were separated from their families and were either forced into concentration camps or taken away to be executed. Innocent women and children were systematically stripped of their possessions and driven into what is now the Syrian Desert. During these "Death Marches" they were subjected to starvation, sickness, and abuse amid brutal conditions. In the end, nearly 1.5 million Armenians had lost their lives in what became the first genocide of the 20th century.

Although these atrocities occurred almost a century ago, it is imperative to remember the suffering that was endured as a result of unrestrained human malice. To acknowledge this truth is necessary, not just out of respect for our fellow citizens of Armenian descent, but also in hope that we can prevent such heinous crimes from occurring in the future. Very few survivors of the genocide are alive today, which makes preserving the memory and history of this crime even more important.

Today, I call on my colleagues to join me in somber remembrance of the 1.5 million Arme-

nians who perished during this dark period of history, and to honor the strength and resolve of the Armenian community still working to deal with this tragedy.

HONORING DR. ANNETTA CHEEK ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CENTER FOR PLAIN LANGUAGE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Annetta Cheek on her retirement as Chair of the Center for Plain Language. Annetta has been a tireless advocate for plain language. She spent 25 years as a Federal employee witnessing firsthand the government's failure to communicate effectively.

While serving as a government employee, Dr. Cheek was the chair of PLAIN, a federal interagency plain language advocacy group. In her role as chair, Annetta administered the group's website, and taught courses on plain language to different government agencies. Annetta also spent four years as the chief plain language expert on Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government.

In 2003, Annetta founded the Center for Plain Language, a non-profit organization dedicated to plain language advocacy. Annetta has served as Chair of the organization since 2003. In her role as Chair, Dr. Cheek has urged both the Federal Government and the private sector to communicate in a clear and understandable way.

Dr. Cheek's biggest success was her work to pass the Plain Writing Act into law. I was honored to work with Annetta in writing this important legislation which requires government agencies to communicate in plain language. Thanks to her great work in getting the Plain Writing Act passed millions of Americans are now receiving easy-to-understand communication from the Federal Government.

I'm very proud of Annetta, and honored to call her a friend. I congratulate her on retirement, and wish her and Charles all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL MAYFIELD HAMM

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Gail Mayfield Hamm.

Gail was a pillar of strength within San Pedro, California. She loved children, and for over three decades, she was a respected elementary school teacher at Barton Hill Elementary. She was also a long time volunteer at the Toberman Neighborhood Center, which offers beneficial programs to community including youth mentoring, a food pantry, legal services, and gang intervention. In fact, Gail was one of the founding members of the philanthropic Toberman Auxiliary, which raises money through a gift shop to fund Toberman programs.

Despite being so active in her neighborhood though, she cherished her time with her own family comprising of three surviving children, nine grandchildren, and six great grand children.

I had the honor of working with Gail while on the Los Angeles City Council and I found her dedication and good nature to be inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, ask that all the members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Gail Mayfield Hamm.

CONGRATULATING THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Seattle Seahawks on being named the Washingtonians of the Year by the Association of Washington Generals. Given each year to those who have demonstrated leadership, selflessness, generosity, and compassion in their service to others, this award is a well-deserved recognition of all that the Seattle Seahawks have contributed to our community.

Though their work off the field may be less visible than their stellar on-field performances, it is no doubt equally as valuable. From individual visits by players and coaches to area hospitals, to the innovative work of the Seattle Seahawks Charitable Foundation, the team has contributed to the well-being of our community at all levels of the organization.

A shining example of this is the work of the Seattle Seahawks' "A Better Seattle" program. This program, in partnership with the YMCA and the City of Seattle, has invested in the future of our youth in powerful ways. Through their support of the YMCA's "Alive & Free" street outreach program, the Seattle Seahawks have helped to transform the lives of hundreds of youth in our area by ensuring a safer and more peaceful future. Combined with the many other youth and child focused efforts of the Seattle Seahawks, the Seahawks organization has solidified itself as one of the greatest advocates for the welfare of young people in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Seattle Seahawks on their recognition as Washingtonians of the Year. They are richly deserving of this award, and I look forward to their continued excellence on and off the field.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN ROLLENHAGEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Erin Rollenhagen of Entrepreneurial Technologies in Urbandale, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an

impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Erin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Rollenhagen for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Erin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2014

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, owning a home is the cornerstone of achieving the American Dream for many Americans. Homeownership is a source of pride and develops robust and stable communities. However, for many prospective first-time homeowners, the process of purchasing real estate may be confusing and daunting and may leave uninformed buyers victims of unaffordable or predatory loans.

I believe that we must support access to homeownership and the financial literacy necessary to become a successful first-time homeowner. That is why today I am introducing the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2014 which would provide a discount on Federal Housing Administration, or FHA, upfront mortgage insurance premiums of 25 basis points to first-time homebuyers who complete a housing counseling program certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD. This bill would encourage first time homebuyers to take advantage of these critical counseling resources that can increase their financial literacy skills and capabilities.

Currently, HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance Program provides counseling to consumers on the entire spectrum of housing counseling needs: from finding and financing, to maintaining and owning a home. Studies have shown that homebuyers who receive pre-purchase housing counseling courses are nearly one-third less likely to fall behind on their mortgage, and that housing counseling can improve prospective borrowers' access to affordable, prudent mortgage loans. Consequently, an additional anticipated benefit is a reduction in delinquencies and defaults by better-informed first-time homebuyers that should serve to strengthen the FHA's Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

Mr. Speaker, for many Americans, their home is the largest financial asset they will ever own. Ensuring that first-time buyers have the knowledge and tools necessary to be successful homeowners is an objective that we can all share. My thanks goes out to the bipartisan group of original cosponsors who recog-

nized the importance of this legislation, including the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus.

I urge my colleagues to join in our efforts to increase financial literacy by cosponsoring the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2014.

HONORING SGT. FELIX CONDE-FALCON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero.

A native son of Puerto Rico, Sgt. Felix Conde-Falcon volunteered to join the Army in 1963 and was soon stationed in Texas at both Fort Bliss and Fort Hood. He settled in the Lone Star State with his wife and young family before answering the call to fight for freedom in Vietnam.

On April 4, 1969, while serving as platoon leader in the vicinity of Ap Tan Hoa, Vietnam, Sgt. Conde-Falcon showed extraordinary leadership under heavy fire as he took out multiple enemy positions. While his heroic actions saved the soldiers serving with him, he was shot and killed just as he eliminated the final bunker. He was laid to rest in Rogers, TX.

Nearly a half century later, Sgt. Conde-Falcon was awarded the Medal of Honor. Reserved for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, it is our nation's highest military tribute.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, generals, admirals, and fellow warriors of all ranks would honor the hallowed custom of saluting him. This simple gesture of respect, admiration, and courtesy speaks volumes about the reverence shown to Medal of Honor recipients.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, he would know how grateful his nation is for his service, his heroism, and his commitment to duty. He'd know how admired he is by his fellow soldiers. Because of his valor, many of his platoon brothers were able to return home. Some would honor promises made in the jungles of Vietnam and spend decades tracking down Sgt. Conde-Falcon's family to let them know of his bravery, leadership, and the impact he had.

Were Sgt. Conde-Falcon still with us, he would have seen his family grow and prosper. His children carried on the tradition of proud service in the military. His son Richard would receive the Medal of Honor on his behalf.

Sgt. Conde-Falcon's name, like those of over 58,000, is enshrined forever in black stone at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Those extraordinary men and women, from a multitude of races, faiths, and backgrounds, fought for a country brave enough to confront its past imperfections and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow. His story, like all of theirs, was one of sacrifice and devotion to freedom.

There is no more deserving recipient of the Medal of Honor than Sgt. Felix Conde-Falcon. Despite a life cut short, this brave warrior's patriotism, valor, and commitment to service reflect the very best of both America and Central Texas. May his legacy remind us of the values and freedoms we must never cease to defend.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 18, 2014, AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for designation of April 18 as a day of honor for Journeymen Linemen.

Accordingly, I have introduced a resolution to recognize April 18, 2014, as National Lineman Appreciation Day in order to honor these brave men and women for their contributions to protect public safety.

Linemen are often the first responders during a storm or other catastrophic event, which means these brave men and women are often required to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes. Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines every day of the year in order to protect the nation from dangerous electrical currents.

The profession of Lineman is steeped in tradition and family, both professionally and personally. Generations ago, Linemen climbed poles using hooks and blocks, but as technology has grown through the years, inventive Linemen have pioneered advancements with innovative materials, altering the direction of line work for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the extraordinary commitment and courage demonstrated every day by the nation's Linemen.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 143RD ARBOR DAY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Arbor Day which in Illinois takes place on April 25th. This year will mark the 65th Arbor Day celebrated by the state and the 143rd in the United States. This event that is held each year to recognize and celebrate the critical role trees play in our communities and in our daily lives.

There are very few things as intrinsic to a nation as its land. Trees are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving strength to our people. That is why in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. Since then, Arbor Day has become a holiday celebrated throughout America and the world.

In addition to their magnificent beauty, trees provide vital ecological services to humanity. They reduce the erosion caused by wind and water on our precious topsoil, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate the earth's temperature, and provide habitats for our wildlife. In addition, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper and wood for our homes. Our dependence on trees acts as a reminder that we are eternally reliant on nature and that we must do our best to pay back the debt we owe to our environment.

If our nation is to continue being the greatest nation on earth, it is important that we continue to safeguard what makes us great, our people and our resources. I urge each and every citizen to help make our communities greener, cleaner, and more pleasant places to live by joining me and taking the time to plant a tree. It is with great gratitude and pride that I rise to honor and celebrate Arbor Day and all that it stands for.

HONORING IOWA MIDDLE LEVEL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR GARY HATFIELD

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gary Hatfield on being selected as the Iowa Middle Level Principal of the Year. Gary serves as the principal at Taft Middle School in Cedar Rapids which is in my district. Gary was selected because of his leadership in implementing a system of learning supports for students and teachers.

Mr. Hatfield began his career as a math teacher at Wilson Middle School. In 2008, he came to Taft Middle School to serve as the principal. He received his bachelor's degree in math from Iowa State University, and master's degrees in middle school math education and educational administration from the University of Northern Iowa.

Mr. Hatfield was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa middle level principals, and he is now a candidate for National Middle School Principal of the Year. Gary has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Cedar Rapids community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE OPTIONS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ACT

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the bipartisan Strengthening Healthcare Options for Vulnerable Populations Act.

This legislation, which I will introduce today, extends the authorization of Medicare Advantage Dual Special Needs Plans, D-SNPs, and makes necessary improvements to this valuable program for vulnerable seniors.

Special Needs Plans, or SNPs, are a type of Medicare Advantage Plan with membership limited to a specific population with specific diseases or characteristics, and tailored benefits, provider choices, and drug formularies developed to best meet the needs of the group they serve.

Dual Special Needs Plans, or D-SNPs, are plans developed for individuals who are both Medicare and Medicaid eligible. The Medicare dual eligible population is low-income and more likely to have complex and costly

healthcare needs. Nationally, it costs \$300 billion to care for this population. D-SNPs are driving improved care outcomes and greater efficiency eliminating redundancies between the two programs.

There are 125,000 dual eligible individuals in Arizona and nine million nationally. More than half of the dual eligibles in my state are enrolled in a D-SNP.

D-SNPs in Arizona are well-run and have demonstrated success: 31 percent lower rate of hospitalization; 43 percent lower rate of days in hospital; 9 percent lower emergency use; 21 percent lower readmission rate; 3 percent higher preventive care services.

But D-SNPs are not just about controlling cost and improving healthcare delivery for a vulnerable population. D-SNPs, because of their innovative and targeted services, are a valuable option for seniors trying to live with dignity or people with disabilities trying to live fuller lives.

Bonnie Grant is in her 60s and lives in south Phoenix. Through her D-SNP, she has access to a transportation called Van Go. Bonnie uses the service to go shopping and other places "instead of being stuck at home." She said that it helps because "instead of being holed up in your home," she can be engaged in the community and enjoy her life.

The Van Go benefit is the type of creative service offered by D-SNPs that improve the wellbeing of enrollees.

Joseph Ford lives in suburban Phoenix. He was disabled in a car accident. The hands-on managed care he receives through his D-SNPs, including in-home visits, allows Mr. Ford to stay in his home and live a fuller life. Keeping individuals like Mr. Ford in their homes instead of institutional care facilities is better for the beneficiary and a significant cost savings to the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

We need creative and commonsense solutions to control the cost and improve the quality of services provided to this vulnerable population, which includes seniors and single working mothers. That is what D-SNPs are doing and that is why we introduce this bill today.

The Strengthening Healthcare Options for Vulnerable Populations Act will allow seniors to have greater choice, help drive down cost and improve outcomes.

First, this bill extends authorization for D-SNPs and requires that plans fully integrate Medicare and Medicaid services, while providing states with flexibility to make the plans work for their citizens. This long term authorization will create stability in the SNP program, thereby allowing states, the federal government and the private sector to begin to develop consistent strategies for addressing care for dual eligibles. Beneficiaries will also know that the plan they have chosen will not be taken away.

Second, the bill directs CMS in coordination with State Medicaid Directors to develop a clearly defined role for state Medicaid agencies in contracting and oversight of integrated D-SNPs.

Third, the legislation follows the recommendation of National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) to designate the Medicare-Medicaid Coordinating Office within CMS as the dedicated point of contact to assist states with ongoing D-SNP administration issues, including eliminating redundancies and

improving coordination of Medicare and Medicaid services and streamlining the flow of information to beneficiaries. The bill would also allow HHS to adjust Medicare's processes, timelines and requirements to improve the seamless delivery of patient-centered services across the care continuum.

Fourth, the bill provides additional protections to beneficiaries by requiring CMS, in coordination with states, to establish a streamlined dispute resolution process and by requiring Medicare to continue to provide coverage during the dispute process.

Lastly, our legislation improves the Medicare Advantage star ratings program to better evaluate and incentivize D-SNP performance. The bill directs CMS to take the necessary steps to recognize and incentivize performance by plans who serve more difficult or complex populations like the dual population.

Ensuring that vulnerable seniors continue to have access to these valuable plans is an important part of ensuring that they can live out their golden years with dignity.

The Strengthening Healthcare Options for Vulnerable Populations Act extends an important program for one of Arizona's most vulnerable populations. This bill ensures that seniors and others in these plans will be able to keep the managed care services they have selected. This bill provides states with greater flexibility to control cost and provide improved services. Finally, this bill can help control cost for a very expensive population nationally while at the same time improving healthcare outcomes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA STACKHOUSE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Andrea Stackhouse of Neumann Monson Architects in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Andrea in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Stackhouse for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Andrea on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING GARIFUNA-AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the 217th anniversary of the forcible transfer of the Garifuna people from St. Vincent to Central America, which is to be observed on April 12, 2014. Each year this day serves as an important reminder of the rich history and heritage that is an intrinsic part of this community, and of the history of the United States. This commemoration is the culmination of Garifuna-American Heritage Month, which celebrates the important and unique contributions of the Garifuna community to my home borough of the Bronx, to New York City, and to our nation as a whole.

The Garifuna community has a unique heritage, language, and culture. As descendents of West African slaves, Venezuelan Caribs and Arawaks, Garifuna community has long been an important part of several nations, including Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Nicaragua. The Garifuna people first arrived in New York City in the 1930s as part of the merchant marines, and their numbers quickly grew in several neighborhoods. The Garifuna people are now a long established part of the fabric of New York City, and of my district in the Bronx. Today, I am proud to be able to pay tribute to their history and their future.

Mr. Speaker, Garifuna-American Heritage Month celebrates the unique cultural contributions and ethnic pride this community has provided to the melting pot that is New York City. I am confident that this month will continue to exist as an important cultural landmark celebration for many years to come. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the significance of April 12th in the history of the Garifuna people, and in recognizing their contributions to New York City and to our nation.

HONORING MAINE'S PUBLIC
SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maine's Public Safety Dispatchers for their essential service to our communities in times of emergency. Maine's public safety telecommunicators are committed to putting the safety and interests of the community before themselves, and I would like to commend them for their invaluable hard work and commitment to ensuring our safety.

These unsung heroes are our country's "unseen first responders." They are the men and women who answer the calls of those citizens asking for help with a promise that help is, in fact, on its way. We place our trust in these individuals every day of the year and rely on their knowledge and professionalism as they make critical decisions, obtain information, and quickly dispatch needed aid. Regardless of the call, they always answer with compassion,

persistence, and patience. As a result, their work is imperative to our country's citizens, police, fire and emergency medical assistance personnel.

They remain calm in times of crisis and helpful in times of hurting. Their voices guide a young mother through infant CPR, talk an accidental victim out of going into shock, and provide comfort to those who have been harmed or injured as they wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Yet, they seldom witness the product of their good work because they do not see the young mother's face when her infant begins to breathe again or the accident victim's face as first responders come into sight. It is for these reasons that they deserve our special appreciation and recognition.

In addition to the services they directly provide to the general public, they also handle governmental communications related to forestry, conservation, highway safety, and natural disasters. This means that while most individuals seek shelter during a flood or blizzard, the public safety telecommunicators are at their posts ensuring that everyone in their communities, including the police officers and firefighters, return home safely.

These telecommunicators are selfless, skilled, and often overlooked. Their daily service to the public goes without due recognition by the many beneficiaries of their services. Today, I would like to take a moment and extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of the state of Maine and applaud them for their honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition and appreciation of the many public safety telecommunicators of Maine.

HONORING THE EAST BAY RE-
GIONAL PARK DISTRICT'S 80TH
BIRTHDAY**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the East Bay Regional Park District (the District) for 80 years of creating beautiful parkland and open spaces in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The District has over 114,000 acres, 65 parks and 1,200 miles of trails, which allow people to enjoy nature, outdoor recreation, and environmental education experiences.

Through its Healthy Parks, Healthy People Campaign, the District has worked to promote awareness of the parks, trails and events they offer to both counties. The District has always been forward thinking in planning how to manage and conserve our nation's resources while also providing the public with a variety of recreational activities.

East Bay Regional Parks has been a key participant in conservation for eighty years. The Park District has been created a master plan for the East Bay to preserve our resources through good management while also providing the public with a variety of recreation and outdoor activities.

I ask my colleagues to congratulate the East Bay Regional Parks on its 80th birthday and to recognize its invaluable contributions to our natural resources and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
CLEBURNE COUNTY 911**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today ask for the House's attention to honor the Cleburne County 911 for their outstanding service to the citizens of Cleburne County.

The second week of April is designated as National Public Safety Communicator Week. This is a time to honor the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community. The Cleburne County 911's mission states that they strive to provide effective public safety services through the appropriate dispatch of fire, police, medical, and rescue units with the least possible delay. They live up to this mission each and every day.

Like all of East Alabama's 911 public safety personnel, Cleburne County's Public Safety Communicators provide local citizens with an invaluable service. They offer peace of mind, and they provide the highest level of emergency communications service possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Public Safety Communicators at the Cleburne 911 for their dedication to protecting the citizens of Cleburne County.

HONORING IOWA ASSISTANT PRIN-
CIPAL OF THE YEAR RYAN
DAVIS**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryan Davis on being selected as the Iowa Assistant Principal of the year. Ryan serves as the assistant principal at Vinton-Shellsburg High School in my district. Ryan was selected because of his commitment to student success, his vision of student learning and his work with parents and the community.

Mr. Davis began his career as a science teacher in Minnesota. In 2008, he came to Vinton as the assistant principal and at-risk coordinator. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, his master's degree in educational leadership from Southwest State University and his certificate in education administration from Saint Mary's University.

Mr. Davis was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa assistant principals, and he is now a candidate for National Assistant Principal of the Year. Ryan has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Vinton-Shellsburg community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

TRIBUTE TO SHANE STARK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Shane Stark of

Carrier Access in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Shane in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Stark for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Shane on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING OAK LAWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL'S DRAMA TEAM

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oak Lawn Community High School's Drama team for winning two state championship titles at the Illinois High School Association's Drama & Group Interpretation State finals.

On March 29th the drama team was in Springfield to compete at the Illinois High School Association Tournament. Oak Lawn was awarded first place in the drama finals for their performance of "The Normal Heart" by Larry Kramer. Cast members included Taylor Lindemann, Leonardo Quezada, Joe DeLaMora, Lauren Montesano, Danny Swanberg, Jonathan Cortez, Charlie Doria, Carl Seibel, Vaughn Smith, Josh Cash, with Riley Faille as the student director.

In addition to the first place in the drama final, Oak Lawn took first place in the group interpretation finals for their performance of "She Kill Monsters" by Qui Nguyen. Cast members include Laura Akouris, Erin Beland, Kaeley Clark, Cameron DeLaMora, Paul Harris, Valentina Lopez, Tina Maciaga, Joey Probst, Emily Salomone, Andrew Waterstraat, with Julia Bugaj as the student director.

This tremendous achievement is made possible through the hard work and enthusiasm of the students, and the dedicated guidance of their coaches. This tournament showcased the tremendous talent and dedication that is fostered in the Oak Lawn drama program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding talent of the Oak Lawn Community High School's drama team, and to congratulate them on their winning performances.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BERNICE HUDSON WASHINGTON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Bernice Hudson Washington, a beloved public servant remembered for her extraordinary display of compassion and kindness as a life-long addiction and home service counselor in the city of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Bernice Hudson Washington passed away on Sunday, April 6 at the age of 84. While I join the Tuscaloosa community in being deeply saddened by her passing, I know her legacy is one that will live on in the lives of those she touched through her work as a counselor.

Mrs. Washington was the proud mother of a daughter, Alice Page of Northport, grandmother of Sonja Henley and Vanrayburn Thames and stepmother of Betty Dickerson.

After helping her brother to overcome alcohol addiction, Mrs. Washington was drawn into a lifelong career counseling and empowering those who suffer from addiction. She began her career as an addiction counselor in 1972 when she joined the inaugural staff at Indian Rivers Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.

Mrs. Washington established the Insight Center, a center that offered preventive programs for alcoholics and drug addicts, in 1974. She directed the Insight Center until her retirement in October 1994. The Insight Center was dedicated in her honor on May 29, 1993, as the Bernice Hudson Washington Insight Center.

Mrs. Washington spent 20 years as a certified addiction counselor at the Insight Center. During this time, she expanded the concept of addiction treatment by helping the families of addicts to overcome the difficulties associated with addiction.

Mrs. Washington's opened her home to recovering addicts providing them with home-cooked meals and games of checkers and dominoes on the weekends.

Mrs. Washington also served as resident commissioner for the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority and provided invaluable counseling services to first-time homeowners. The housing authority dedicated a nine-house development for new homeowners in her honor in 2012 as the Bernice Hudson Washington Estates.

At the dedication ceremony for the Bernice Hudson Washington Estates, one of the new homeowners explained his admiration for Mrs. Washington to a local reporter, "She molded me and my mom, my thinking and the type of person that I am," he said. "If God can give me just a little bit of what she did to inspire people, I'll be so grateful."

Mrs. Washington best explained her motivation: "It meant a whole lot to me to be able to help give some of these folks that I work with a chance to have some of the stuff that I had," she told a local reporter. "Because we'd share what we had with others, we grew up doing that—sharing. So it meant a lot for me to just keep doing what my father was doing for others. That's all I know—to give."

Mrs. Washington has been described by family members and community leaders as a

true public servant with a contagious spirit who, through her actions, inspired those around her to serve others.

Mrs. Washington has made an indelible mark on the city of Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama. Today, we pay tribute to her resolute dedication and concern for those who suffer from addiction and her extraordinary contributions to first-time homeowners.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Bernice Hudson Washington for her inspirational servant leadership. We are truly grateful for this extraordinary public servant.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. CLARENCE ROSTAD

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Clarence Rostad of Big Timber, Montana. Clarence Rostad was born on April 28th, 1914, in Big Timber, Montana, to George and Susanna Rostad. Clarence and his ten siblings grew up on the East Fork of the lower Sweet Grass Creek and on the family's ranch on the Boulder River near McLeod. It was here that his love for ranching and farming truly developed.

Clarence attended school at Big Timber Grade School. After a few years of working on the ranch, he attended college classes at Montana State College. He also served his country in the United States Army. In 1946 he married his beloved wife Ruth, whom he shared 57 years on their ranch on the Boulder River. The two raised six children and regularly hosted their 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Clarence loves his ranch on the river—but even more, he loves welcoming others to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and the blue-ribbon river surrounding his ranch. Clarence's desire to welcome strangers to the ranch resulted in having friends of multiple generations in the same family—all of whom have enjoyed the ranch and the company of Clarence's hospitality, as well as him serenading them with his harmonica.

One of Clarence's great loves in life, in addition to his family and ranching, is his love for God. As evidenced in his patience and love for his family and ranching, Clarence is a strong man of faith in his Lord Jesus Christ. As described by his family, his love of raising sheep and cattle has truly blessed him with the heart of the Good Shepherd.

Today, one of Clarence's greatest desires is to honor God through playing sacred music on his harmonica. Having learned to play his harmonica in the solitude of the foothills and mountains in the Boulder River valley, Clarence has the great ability to play complex tunes despite not having any formal music education. Clarence keeps his mind refreshed and his heart renewed by playing music of faith that expresses his love for God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Clarence, who has led an outstanding life dedicated to loving God, his family, and loving his neighbor as himself. I wish him many more joyful years of health and happiness.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF
FRESH NEW START

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, several years ago I had the privilege of employing a brilliant and dedicated young staffer named Francis B. Gibbs. Francis was one of my first campaign staffers and I was privileged for him to come with me to Washington as I began my congressional career in 2001. He was a trusted aide and a true friend who always gave me the straight answer. He left my office to become Legislative Director, then Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Connie Mack and later served as Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Transportation. Rooted in principle, Francis was an honest, committed public servant, friend to many, and devoted husband to LeAnne and father to children Couper and Riley. He faced a world of possibility and wasn't afraid to tackle challenges head on.

So it was devastating when he received a cancer diagnosis that turned his world—and that of his family—upside down. It was a challenge that, despite every effort, he ultimately was unable to overcome. Francis passed away on May 17, 2013, at the age of 40, leaving behind grieving family and friends who could only ask themselves the age-old question: "Why?"

Struggling with the "why" and feeling overcome by the pain that comes with losing someone you love so much can be debilitating. Our human nature tells us to withdraw from the world, to isolate and self-protect. And as hard as it is to pick ourselves up and carry on, it is the only way that beauty can be born from ashes.

LeAnne Holdman Gibbs did just that. In the midst of her own pain, this extraordinary young widow and mother of two young children decided that she needed to honor Francis' wish for her and reconnect with the world after a year of cancer-caregiving. So she took a group of girlfriends on a trip to Florence, Italy, using the trip to renew and refresh, to rediscover passions, and to dream about her future.

But it didn't end there. Before his death, Francis and LeAnne talked about how she might use her own experience to inspire other young women who were in a similar situation. As she began her own widowhood journey, she was surprised and frustrated to find that there were so few resources dedicated to serving young cancer widows who had been their spouses' primary caregivers. She was determined to do something about that, and has since dedicated herself to supporting such women.

The concept for a not-for-profit corporation was born.

With tremendous courage, hard work, and help from a core group of friends, LeAnne founded Fresh New Start, an organization "that seeks to refresh and renew the young woman who has lost her husband to cancer and to offer encouragement and support as she both starts and endures her journey through widowhood." Fresh New Start will sponsor trips/retreats for selected candidates and up to three adult friends to give other young cancer widows the opportunity to

"renew, refresh, and restart." The corporation will also serve these women by providing connections to other young cancer widows and additional resources for them and their caregivers.

Fresh New Start officially launched on the first day of spring—March 20, 2014. I am proud of LeAnne for honoring Francis' memory by launching Fresh New Start and offer my congratulations on the creation of an organization that will benefit many young widows for years to come and honor the legacy of a friend I miss dearly, Francis B. Gibbs.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE W. KOCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend George W. Koch who passed away on January 26, at the age of 87.

George William Koch was born on April 8, 1926, in Cincinnati. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he received a bachelor's degree in business in 1948, a bachelor of laws degree in 1950 and a juris doctor degree in 1950, all from the University of Cincinnati.

After working as an assistant city attorney in Cincinnati, George became director of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants before joining Sears and then the Grocery Manufacturers of America.

George led the Grocery Manufacturers of America, GMA, trade association from 1966 to 1990. He was an inspiring leader who led the GMA to become one of the most influential and effective trade associations in America. Last year, George W. Koch received the first-ever Grocery Manufacturers Association's Leadership in Public Policy and will name the award in his honor going forward.

As consumers, we all benefit from George's leadership in promoting good practices at stores and grocery chains across America.

Among his countless achievements, George is responsible for leading the initiative at GMA to introduce the Universal Product Code in 1974, and the development of tamper-resistant packaging in the wake of the Tylenol poisonings of 1982.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen Lawton Koch; his six children, Jorie Koch Kenny, Daniel, Patrick, Robert, Monte, and Lucy Lawton Koch; and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend George W. Koch and to wish his family peace and solace during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO CHRYSTAL TAMILLO

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Chrystal Tamillo of Flemings Steakhouse in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Chrystal in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Tamillo for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Chrystal on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes earlier this week in order to attend the memorial services held for the victims of the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, TX, last week. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

April 7, 2014:

Rollcall No. 165, Motion to Recommit H.R. 1872—"nay."

Rollcall No. 166, Passage of H.R. 1872—"yea."

April 8, 2014:

Rollcall No. 167, Motion to Recommit H.R. 1871—"nay."

Rollcall No. 168, Passage of H.R. 1871—"yea."

Rollcall No. 169, Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 544—"yea."

Rollcall No. 170, Adoption of H. Res. 544—"yea."

April 9, 2014:

Rollcall No. 171, Substitute Amendment No. 1—"nay."

Rollcall No. 172, Substitute Amendment No. 2—"nay."

Rollcall No. 173, Substitute Amendment No. 3—"nay."

Rollcall No. 174, Passage of H.R. 4414—"yea."

HONORING DR. ROBERT EDWARD
PAINE, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Dr. Robert Edward Paine, Jr.—also known as Dr. Bob or Grandoc—of Salem, Virginia, who "completed

his earthly tour-of-duty" on Wednesday, March 19.

Born on April 28, 1925 in Roanoke, Dr. Paine was an athlete, student, veteran, caregiver, volunteer, friend, lifelong learner, and more. He graduated from Jefferson High School, and then went on to graduate from the University of Richmond before completing requirements for his MD degree from the Medical College of Virginia.

During World War II, Dr. Paine served in the U.S. Navy Reserves and during the Korean War, served on the staff of Fleet Air Atlantic. Dr. Paine had internships and residencies at Norfolk General and "old" Lewis-Gale Hospital, and he also did post-graduate work in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He had a solo practice in Salem for 15 years, and had the first EKG machine in town. In 1967, Dr. Paine set up the first alcohol and drug rehabilitation program at the Salem VA hospital, where he continued volunteering even after his retirement.

Dr. Paine tended patients at seven area hospitals and medical centers over the years, and taught students at area hospitals as well. He also served as a volunteer physician with such groups as the Andrew Lewis High School football team, Boy Scout Troup 54, the 1964 National Boy Scout Jamboree medical team, and the Red Cross.

Throughout the years, Dr. Paine was active with Salem Presbyterian and later St. Paul's Episcopal, Friends of the Salem Library, the Salem and Roanoke Valley Historical Societies, the Salem Museum, the Salem Sports Foundation, the City of Salem Long-range Planning Committee, the Military Order of World Wars, the Mayflower Society of Virginia, the Magna Carta and Jamestown Societies, and the Island Ford Hunt Club (for the camaraderie and nature). He also was a 32nd-degree mason with Lakeland Lodge, and a member of Scottish Rite and Kazim Temples.

Roanoke Valley's 1982 Father of the Year for Family Life, Dr. Paine's and his wife Alice had two children, Robert Parson Paine and Emily Paine Carter.

Those who knew him well are heard to talk of Dr. Paine's wit, generosity, kindness, humor, determination, and humility, all of which have made the Roanoke Valley a better place to live. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Paine's family and loved ones. His love for his family, friends, neighbors, and community will always be remembered and cherished in Salem and throughout the region.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chair, I will vote for the budget proposal framework put forth by Chairman PAUL RYAN.

I vote to reaffirm my support for the principles behind the bipartisan Ryan Murray budget agreement;

For efforts to simplify our nation's tax code to make it simpler and fairer for all involved;

For repeal of the president's misguided and unworkable health care law;

For efforts to reign in the president's wasteful spending proposals and burdensome regulations, which are preventing our economy from reaching its full potential;

For efforts to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the support they need;

For efforts to responsibly reduce our \$17 trillion plus debt, which is a national security concern;

And for efforts to balance our nation's budget—the President's budget proposal never achieves balance.

Mr. Chair, I will vote for efforts to reform our entitlement programs to ensure that they are preserved and protected for future generations. This budget proposal is a thoughtful document that forces the Congress to face reality—these programs, which are on autopilot, are simply unsustainable in their current form.

And we must reform these programs because they consume roughly two thirds of our nation's spending. We must preserve our ability to quickly respond to any crisis, foreign or domestic, while still ensuring we have the ability to make the needed investments that will spur economic private industry growth and ingenuity.

Just like the bipartisan Ryan Murray budget agreement, I do not agree with every line in this budget framework, and I will work to improve any future legislation that may be considered as a result of its adoption. But I do agree that we have a duty to offer ideas in the public sphere. I will vote yes because our fiscal challenges are real, and they must be addressed.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I will vote for H. Con. Res. 96 because I continue to believe the Congress has a responsibility to produce a budget each year. As a longstanding member of the House Appropriations Committee, I feel it is important that Congress have an open and honest debate about the fiscal challenges our country faces, especially our out-of-control entitlement spending that continues to deplete the federal coffers of resources to invest in defense, infrastructure, education, science and research on cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, autism and other diseases. These investments are what made America great in the 20th century, but are on track to

be completely overtaken within a decade due to unchecked entitlement spending growth.

When I came to the floor to vote for last year's budget, we were \$16.7 trillion in debt. Today, we are over \$17.5 trillion in debt. That's a nearly trillion dollar increase in one year. It's projected to grow to over \$27 trillion in 10 years, another \$10 trillion increase. Our unfunded obligations and liabilities are now projected to be well of \$70 trillion, and CBO's February 2014 budget outlook projected this year's deficit to be about \$514 billion. These numbers get worse with each passing year.

Equally troubling, this mounting debt is increasingly held by foreign countries. In 1970, 6 percent of debt held by the public was in foreign hands. In 1990, it was 19 percent. Today, nearly 50 percent of our publically held debt is in foreign hands—and it is held by countries like China and Saudi Arabia which certainly do not share our interests or values.

My vote today reflects my desire to advance the congressional budget process to confront these serious challenges. While there are many good things in this budget, my vote should not be interpreted as a reflection of my satisfaction with the legislation itself. Simply put, I believe this is a flawed proposal that stands no chance of being adopted by both chambers of Congress this year. I continue to have serious concerns with several of the provisions and believe it falls short of being a plan that can garner the bipartisan support necessary to put our nation on a path towards fiscal responsibility.

Most notably, this budget once again falls short in its failure to incorporate most of the recommendations of the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Regrettably, another year has gone by where the president and both the Republicans and Democrats in Congress have failed to advance the only bipartisan fiscal reforms that would address our debt and deficit in a manner that could result in real progress.

As I have repeatedly said, I would much prefer to vote for a bipartisan budget modeled off the Simpson-Bowles plan. It could be improved by incorporating changes in existing law and other proposals, such as those produced by the discussions between the president and Speaker BOEHNER, and plans offered by Alice Rivlin and Pete Domenici, and Representative RYAN and Senator WYDEN. Like the Ryan plan before us today, I do not agree with every line in the Simpson-Bowles plan. But only a budget based on this model can put our nation on a sustainable, long-term path to replace sequestration and reform our nation's entitlement programs so they will exist for future generations.

As much as both sides might prefer that their party control both chambers of Congress and the White House, this is simply not the case. And it's unlikely to change until 2016 at the earliest. Either the Congress can get serious about adopting budget reforms that have bipartisan consensus and could be signed into law, or we can continue having these same quixotic debates, year after year, while our debt and deficit grow unabated. The debt and deficit numbers continue to get worse, and none of the actions taken by the Congress—including sequestration—have made a meaningful impact on our fiscal situation.

For the last eight years I have been working toward finding consensus on bipartisan budget reforms based on the premise that all Americans, not just one group or another, will have

to give something towards reducing our debt and deficits. Starting in 2006, during the Bush Administration, I began advocating for a bipartisan commission—the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission—to identify budget reforms that could win the support of both Republicans and Democrats. The Simpson-Bowles Commission, appointed in 2010, was formed largely in response to efforts in the House and Senate to advance the SAFE Commission. The commission's co-chairs, former Senator Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, ultimately produced a package of bipartisan reforms that was serious and effective.

Unfortunately, President Obama and congressional leadership have spent the last three years running away from the Simpson-Bowles recommendations. When my colleagues and I have brought legislation to the floor of the House based on these recommendations, the efforts have fallen short due to a lack of support from both Republican and Democrat leadership. I believe their misguided opposition represents a failure of leadership that they will come to regret in the years ahead, as our budget challenges grow more and more dire.

To date, we have instead been presented with tepid proposals that fail to meaningfully impact our debt, or proposals, like this budget, that embrace a vision for budget reform that stands little chance of passing and becoming law.

This year, President Obama has retreated from even modest budget reforms that he has proposed in the past, such as chained CPI. I believe history will not look kindly on his failure to lead efforts to bring both parties together around meaningful reforms to address this existential national threat. His failure to lead over the last five years is directly reflected in the budget that the House has passed today, which reflects a conservative blueprint for budget reform rather than reforms based on bipartisan consensus.

There's a certain irony that the budget approved today continues to draw from only one section of the Simpson-Bowles framework: making our federal workforce contribute more towards its retirement and taking steps towards ending the defined benefit retirement plan. Yet again, the Congress is targeting just one group of Americans for additional sacrifice—just as has been done for offsets in past budget agreements. This flies in the face of the Simpson-Bowles vision of shared sacrifice among all Americans in fixing our debt and deficit and, as I have said many times, is just wrong. To cite the Simpson-Bowles recommendations as an excuse to single out additional cuts to federal employees is disingenuous and inappropriate.

My colleagues often forget that while there are many federal employees in the capital region, it is worth noting that more than 85 percent of the workforce is outside of Washington. They also may not realize that more than 65 percent of all federal employees work in agencies that support our national defense capabilities as we continue to fight the War on Terror.

The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. CIA, FBI, DEA agents, and State Department employees are serving side-by-side with our military in the fight against the Taliban.

Federal employees include the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who are working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs across our borders.

They are the medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and autism. They are the VA doctors and nurses treating veterans from World War II to the present day. They are the NASA astronauts and engineers working to support the International Space Station and build our nation's exploration program. These are just a few examples of the hardworking people that serve our country each day that this budget unfairly targets.

I am also concerned with a provision in the budget that would only replace one federal employee for every three vacancies. Do we really want to cut the number of FBI and Border Patrol agents and VA doctors by two-thirds? This proposal amounts to an indiscriminate sequestration of the federal workforce. While there may be some agencies where reductions are necessary, I do not support this indiscriminate approach of doing so. Taken together, these proposals on federal employees may very well undermine the federal workforce.

It is often said that budgets are about choices, and I fear that yet another year will go by where we fail to make the tough choices—yet tough choices that members from both parties can support—to make real progress in confronting our debt and deficit. Until the president and congressional leadership start to incorporate the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, or a bold plan like this that gets control of the debt and deficit, into their budgets, we will likely never address the structural reforms that must be made to responsibly get our nation's fiscal house in order. This should be done in a manner that involves shared sacrifice from all Americans, not just certain groups of Americans.

I am proud to have served on the House Appropriations Committee for most of my tenure in the Congress, where each year we produce appropriations bills that make tough choices, yet the bills often pass with bipartisan support. Over the last several years, the full Appropriations Committee has made more than \$100 billion in cuts to discretionary spending. The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, which I chair, has contributed more than \$12 billion towards those cuts. But we approached these cuts in a responsible manner and I am proud that we have often had bipartisan support for the bills we produce. It can be done, but it requires leadership.

Mr. Chair, this budget is constructive for advancing the debate about our nation's fiscal challenges, and my vote today reflects my support for the process. But until this Congress passes a budget based on the bipartisan reforms recommended by the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, it is unlikely we will ever make real progress towards reducing our debt and deficit in a substantial way. It's time for leadership—from the president and both Republicans and Democrats in Congress—to deal with this issue.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WIGGSY SIVERTSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to Wiggys Sivertsen on the occasion of her retirement from San Jose State University where she has been a Personal Counselor and Licensed Clinical Social Worker for forty five years.

Wiggys Sivertsen has given generously of her time and considerable talent to the students at San Jose State, supporting them in their personal struggles and helping them achieve their professional goals. The student evaluations on an online site speak volumes about this extraordinary woman. "Awesome teacher and subject! Best class I have ever taken in college." "Concerned/outgoing/extremely funny/sensitive. Busy woman that will make time for you." These are only two of many, many outstanding evaluations.

Wiggys Sivertsen earned a Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and a Master's degree in Social Work from Tulane University. In the early 1980's, Wiggys, fearless and ahead of her time, cofounded Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) to advocate for members of the LGBT community to address burgeoning discrimination against the LGBT community. She envisioned and designed BAYMEC to educate our communities and advocate for the rights of all.

Wiggys has spent thousands of hours lobbying elected officials for hate-crime legislation, marriage equality, and other LGBT rights. In addition to BAYMEC, she founded two other LGBT advocacy groups: Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth, a legal organization; and Open Mind Network, Inc, an organization which is an educational platform to inform organized groups of the legitimate rights of LGBT communities. She has also worked side-by-side with several community organizations and law enforcement to achieve these goals.

Wiggys's contributions to our country have been recognized by the Civil Liberties Union "Don Edwards Defender of Constitutional Liberty" Award, and the California State Special Recognition Award for Service to the Lesbian and Gay Community. She was also recognized by the San Jose Mercury News as one of "The Millennium 100, Pillars of Their Communities".

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Wiggys Sivertsen for her extraordinary career as an educator at San Jose State University, and for her unwavering commitment to social justice for all, particularly the civil rights of the LGBT community. Her contributions will live on as her lasting legacy, and we honor her for strengthening our community immeasurably and making our country a more just and equitable one.

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY WHIPPLE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Timothy Whipple of Iowa Economic Development Authority in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Timothy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Whipple for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Timothy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COLUMBIA REGIONAL CENTER OF INNOVATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable economic partnership under way in the Pacific Northwest, where the Columbia River Gorge joins the states of Oregon and Washington. This initiative, the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation, is aimed at streamlining the region's education to prepare its students for the modern workforce, in turn, bringing economic growth and development to the region.

With economies originally based firmly in agriculture and natural resources, communities within the Columbia Gorge have become a center for a burgeoning technology sector, anchored by a Google data center in The Dalles, Oregon, and a Boeing subsidiary, Insitu, in Bingen, Washington. Quality of life, outdoor recreation, and natural beauty helped attract those employers.

While regional prosperity beckons, challenges remain. The cost of housing in the area makes it difficult for persons on low to moderate incomes to live where they work. There are significant infrastructure concerns, most notably two interstate bridges serving the central Columbia Gorge. And most importantly, the continued growth of the region's technology sector requires a skilled workforce. This is a special challenge in a region where 80,000 people are dispersed over a rural area

roughly the size of Massachusetts. Innovation, creativity and collaboration are essential to address these common challenges.

The Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation is a cross-sector partnership that brings together private industry, economic development, a regional housing authority, workforce training, K-12 school districts, early childhood education, community colleges, the land-grant universities of Oregon and Washington, and other regional public and private universities to find solutions to these challenges. The result of this partnership is improved cooperation across the state line; innovative strategies to construct "attainable housing" for the region's workforce and tackle infrastructure concerns; and promoting job creation through improved access to industry-specific skills.

This dialogue will continue on Friday, April 18, when the first-ever Columbia Gorge Education and Industry Summit takes place on The Dalles Campus of Columbia Gorge Community College, and on May 16, 2014, when the first-ever Columbia Gorge Bi-State Legislative Summit will bring together state lawmakers from Salem and Olympia. The goal is to recognize the Columbia Gorge as a bi-state region with common concerns, which can best be resolved through improved cooperation across the state boundary in partnership with the federal government, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending local leaders of the bi-state Columbia Gorge for their innovation and courage in addressing the economic challenges that still confront their region. Their hard work deserves our recognition.

WORKER'S MEMORIAL DAY RESOLUTION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, millions of workers worldwide come together to recognize Worker's Memorial Day. Worker's Memorial Day commemorates those who have been injured or killed on the job. My own family experienced tough times when my Dad was permanently injured in a workplace fall when I was very young.

Over the past several decades in the United States we have made great progress in preventing injuries and deaths at the workplace. However, there is still work to be done as each year more than 5,000 Americans are killed due to workplace related injuries, and millions more experience occupational injuries and illnesses. Work related accidents are still too common in the United States. An average 16 Americans are killed each day due to workplace injuries. It is clear we must continue work towards ensuring that every workplace is a safe one.

While in the United States we have improved workplace safety in recent decades, the numbers across the globe are overwhelming. It is estimated that nearly 2 million workers die each year due to work related accidents or diseases worldwide. More people are killed due to workplace injury or disease than are killed in war.

As a member of Congress, I will continue to fight for workplace safety. I'm also committed to recognizing Worker's Memorial Day and the millions of workers across the world who have given their lives while on the job. That is why I'm proud to have co-introduced a resolution honoring Worker's Memorial Day with Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. We must continue to honor the millions of men and women who have given their lives for the continued progress of humankind. As long as I'm in office, I will continue to work towards strengthening the middle class and advocating for workplace safety.

RECOGNIZING THE ALARMING MORTALITY RATE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, April has been designated Minority Health Awareness Month, and I want to shine a spotlight on a crucial minority women's healthcare issue—the alarming mortality rate of African-American women from breast cancer. In the last few months, both the New York Times and Los Angeles Times featured articles about the disparity in mortality rates between African-American and white women with breast cancer.

The New York Times wrote "After her doctor told her two months ago that she had breast cancer, Debrah Reid, a 58-year-old dance teacher, drove straight to a funeral home. She began planning a burial with the funeral director and his wife, even requesting a pink coffin. . . 'I was just going to sit down and die.'" That is heartbreaking.

Much progress has been made over the last two decades to increase awareness, screening, and treatment of breast cancer, but unfortunately this progress has not been made for all women. In the 1980s, the mortality rate for African-American and white women were nearly identical.

Today, shockingly, African-American women are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. Much of this difference results from a lack of screening, access to life-saving treatments, and quality of treatment.

Additionally, the higher difference in the death rate from breast cancer varies by region. In my city of Los Angeles, sadly, an African-American woman with breast cancer is 70 percent more likely to die than a white woman. This is not true in other cities, such as New York, where the disparity is nominal. Clearly, this demonstrates that public health improvements can be made to improve the survival rates for African-American women.

Therefore, I am introducing a resolution to highlight the high mortality rate for African-American women confronting breast cancer. My hope is that this resolution will bring awareness to this injustice to ensure that quality screening and treatment is available for all women, regardless of race. This is an issue of life and death and we must take every action available to ensure that every woman has access to the resources and treatment she needs to survive.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL DANIEL D.
PICK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly great American on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. On April 18, 2014, Colonel Daniel D. Pick will relinquish his command of Commandant of the Defense Language Institute for the Presidio of Monterey and retire from the Army after 29 years of exemplary service. It is my great pleasure to have had the opportunity to get to know this soldier scholar. He truly represents for me the highest qualities of military leadership: courage, vision, integrity, and keen understanding of the broader world that we live in. Peace is best served when we can bridge cultures. In light of his commitment to military language capacity, his own language and cultural skills, and his experience as a diplomat and soldier overseas, Colonel Pick, is the personification of this truth.

In 1987, Colonel Pick graduated from the University of Washington and began his Army career as an active duty military intelligence officer. His early career took him many places, including serving as a scout platoon leader and battalion S2 in 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment in Garlstadt, Germany. In addition, he had a deployment to Operations Desert Shield/Storm in January 1991 as S2 3/66 Armor Battalion. Following his graduation from the Military Intelligence Officer Advance Course, Colonel Pick served with 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) as Commander, Military Intelligence Detachment and Group S2.

Colonel Pick became a Middle East Foreign Area Officer (FAO) in 1996. His FAO assignments include: Kuwait Land Forces Advisor, OMC-Kuwait; FAO Assignment Officer, Army Human Resources Command, WAD.C.; Executive Officer, Human Intelligence Team, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Northern Iraq; Army attaché, U.S. Embassy, Amman, Jordan; Policy Officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense; and FAO Program Director, Defense Language Institute.

Colonel Pick holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization from the University of Washington, a Master of Military Studies from Marine Corps University, Quantico, and a Master of Arts degree in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University. He speaks Arabic, Persian-Farsi, Persian-Dari, and Assyrian. He is a graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Defense Language Institute Basic Arabic Course, Jumpmaster Course, Military intelligence Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Ranger School and Airborne School. In addition, his decorations include the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal with an oak leaf cluster, and Iraq Campaign Medal with arrowhead device.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in extending our most sincere gratitude for Colonel Pick's service to our Nation. The United States is a more secure and fruitful place as a consequence of his efforts. I want to wish Colonel Pick, his wife Karen, and children Dalton and Lauren, all the best as he transitions from active duty to what will surely be an active and fruitful second career of con-

tinued public service. And while the Army is losing one of its most capable officers, the Monterey Bay region is retaining one of its most capable citizens.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT DON CARTER**

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a man who has dedicated much of his life to the educational system in Kern County.

Superintendent Don Carter recently announced his retirement after 38 years of service, serving as Kern High School District Superintendent over the past 10 years. A graduate of West High School, Don went on to earn his master's degree from California State University, Bakersfield and an Ed.D from the University of La Verne. In 1976, Don joined the teaching staff at Bakersfield High School as a math and science teacher before eventually becoming the school's assistant principal and principal. After serving as the district associate superintendent for instruction, he was promoted to Superintendent in 2004.

Though his tenure at Kern High School District is coming to an end, his impact will be long-lasting. Serving California's largest high school district, Don was responsible for the oversight of 18 high schools and over 3,700 employees. A strong advocate of academic achievement, Kern High School District's performance index improved every year under Don's tenure, including the significant improvement in the number of graduates that met entrance requirements for the University of California and California State University systems.

As a proud former student of Superintendent Carter, I know personally of his dedication and steadfast commitment to ensure that every student he taught, and every student within our high school district, had the opportunity to achieve academic success. On behalf of a grateful community, I am honored to thank Don Carter for his dedication to our youth and I wish him a well-deserved retirement.

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARJORIE
KECK**

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marjorie Bertha Keck, who passed away on April 6, 2014, at the age of 93. She was a beloved wife and mother to four children who was known in recent years for saying, "Growing old isn't for wimps!"

She was all about family. Whether it was hosting boat rides on the bay or a day at the ballpark with the Oakland A's, Marjorie would always find a way for family and friends to relax together amongst their busy lives.

As a devout follower of the Lord, her family and friends rejoice that she is reunited with

her beloved husband Lee, and is in the arms of her Savior. She will be missed by all, but her spirit and love will always be with us.

TRIBUTE TO JASON WHITE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason White of Warren County Economic Development in Indianola, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jason in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. White for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jason on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

**99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The 9th Congressional District of Michigan, which I represent, is home to a vibrant Armenian-American community. Every member of this community has been tragically affected by the Armenian Genocide, despite the distance of time. I am proud to call them my friends. And I am proud to stand with them today.

This time every year, we pause in solemn remembrance and honor the victims who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire 99 years ago. The Armenian Genocide, an intentional and systematic campaign of mass murder, began with the deliberate targeting of 300 Armenian leaders and culminated in one and half million dead and 500,000 forcibly exiled from their homes.

And while the primary purpose of Armenian Remembrance Day is to remember, it also serves another important purpose. Indeed, the act of remembering, the commitment to never forget, sends a clear message to the world that we cannot abide a culture of impunity. That we will not gloss over historical atrocities.

That we must not fail to hold to account those responsible for gross human rights violations. If we fail to remember horrific acts like the Armenian Genocide, we doom ourselves to repeat the most tragic chapters of history.

Accordingly, during my time in Congress, I have cosponsored House resolutions that have clearly stated the U.S. record regarding the true nature of the Armenian Genocide—an officially orchestrated ethnic execution of innocent men, women and children.

In closing, I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

HONORING APRIL GREEN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, April Green.

Born April Smith, Ms. Green was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia to Janet Smith Thomas on April 12, 1969. Raised by Janet and Daniel Thomas in Jacksonville, Florida, she was educated in the public school system, graduating from Sandlewood High School in 1987. Upon completion of high school she attended Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia where she majored in biology and played on the basketball team. April then enlisted in the Air Force Reserve, and shortly after enlisting was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Storm, where she served in the Medivac Unit as a medical assistant.

After serving her country and completing college at Georgia Southern she returned to Jacksonville, Florida and began a career in banking. After many years at Barnett Bank of Florida, reaching the position of Vice President of Loans, April was called upon to serve in a different capacity. In 2003 she was contacted by her pastor, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr. to provide leadership in the role as the church administrator and chief financial officer. At Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, April oversees the day to day operation of the church staff, finances and development. Bethel is the oldest African American Church in the State of Florida with a membership of approximately 11,000.

Always wanting to give back to the community and having a passion to assist kids with their quest to attend college and further their education, April started the Jacksonville Pistons, a non-profit organization that would accomplish that goal. She created a traveling basketball organization for boys and girls between the ages of 8–17 with an emphasis on academic achievement and personal growth. To date she has mentored over 200 kids whom attended college.

As she celebrates her 45th birthday, I speak for the entire Fifth District in thanking April Green for all her hard work serving the Jacksonville Community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chair, yesterday, I missed the House's vote on Mr. MULVANEY's Substitute Amendment to H. Con. Res. 96. The Substitute Amendment that Mr. MULVANEY called for was the President's Budget for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2024.

I was unfortunately not present while the voting occurred. However, I would like the RECORD to reflect that it was my intention to vote "no" on the President's Budget.

NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING ALLIANCE COMPLAINT AGAINST SAFEGUARD PROPERTIES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the National Fair Housing Alliance and the Toledo Fair Housing Center filed a Federal housing discrimination complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development against Safeguard Properties headquartered in Ohio. Safeguard is the Nation's largest privately held mortgage field services property preservations company. Their business model involves maintaining and marketing bank owned, foreclosed homes (REO properties). The National Fair Housing Alliance and its member organizations have recently gathered evidence that shows that companies like Safeguard are neglecting and failing to maintain foreclosed homes in minority and low income neighborhoods.

In Toledo, Dayton, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Memphis, Safeguard has failed to prevent blight from entering into the neighborhoods that are most venerable in our country. In an Office of the Inspector General report they were named as one of the preservation companies that would provide inaccurate information and would manipulate photos of foreclosed properties that it managed in their reports to Fannie Mae. We cannot allow these big corporations to continue taking advantage of the American people. I would encourage more States and representatives to investigate situations like this and send a message to these companies that we will not sit back and allow them to profit off of the suffering of the American people any more.

HONORING IOWA SECONDARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AIDY PHOMVISAY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aiddy Phomvisay on being selected as the Iowa Secondary Principal of the year. Aiddy serves as the principal at Marshalltown High School which is in my

district. Aiddy was selected because of his work in creating a culture of high expectations for all learners.

Mr. Phomvisay began his career as a ninth and tenth-grade teacher for the Ames Community School District. In 2008 he came to Marshalltown to serve as the principal. He received his bachelor's degree, master's degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational leadership, and his superintendent certification from Iowa State University.

Mr. Phomvisay was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa secondary principals, and he is now a candidate for National High School Principal of the Year. Aiddy has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Marshalltown community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE VANDE HOEF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Julie Vande Hoef of Clive, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 600 business leaders and growing.

Julie Vande Hoef currently serves as Policy Advisor to Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds. She maintains a wide breadth of expertise on several policy issues including agriculture, natural resources, financial services, insurance, cultural affairs, and trade. Growing up on a family farm in Jackson County, Julie's family endured and survived the 1980s farm crisis. Since then, Mrs. Vande Hoef has immersed herself in government service to promote policies that benefit the people of Iowa. Before working for the Office of the Governor, Julie served Iowa Congressman Jim Leach as a Legislative Assistant, directed government affairs for Policy Works, and was a member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's government affairs committee. Mrs. Vande Hoef has also donned a bulletproof vest in Iraq as she represented the United States and instructed women and minorities on the merits of democracy. Amidst all her impressive accomplishments and continued service to our state, Julie's top priority remains being the best wife and mother she can be to her husband Dustin and their son Tyson. In all aspects of her life, Mrs. Vande Hoef is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Julie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Vande Hoef for utilizing her talents to better both her community

and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Julie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING REV. DR. ALBERT LOUIS PATTERSON, JR. OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, SENIOR PASTOR OF MOUNT CORINTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, COMMUNITY LEADER, AND GODFATHER OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson, Jr., an amazing leader who touched and changed the lives of thousands for the better through his pastorship of the Mount Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, which he led for 36 years. This beloved man of God was requested to join our Lord on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson, Jr., or "Dr. Pat" as he was affectionately known by many, trained and mentored hundreds of preachers of the gospel. Among his peers, he was regarded as the acknowledged master and 'Godfather of Expository Preaching.' One of his proteges, the Rev. Robert Earl Houston, put it best:

He wasn't just an expository preacher. He was a preaching lyricist of the highest order. To hear Dr. Patterson was to hear gumbo-lytic preaching—he hit you with the text, oratory, poetry, interrogative statements, engagement, tenacity for the truths of the text, humor and truth. You would leave a preaching moment with Dr. Patterson in awe.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share just a few of the highlights of the remarkable career of this extraordinary preacher, pastor, theologian, husband and a father of three children.

His traveling companion was his beloved wife, Melba and he had three children—Anthony, Albert III, Alan, and Alette.

Rev. Patterson was recognized three times by his peers as a "Living Legend." He taught and preached at the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and lectured for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, for the Promise Keepers, and the Preachers Division, National Baptist Congress.

Rev. Patterson was named by Ebony Magazine as one of America's greatest black preachers and was inducted into the Morehouse College Hall of Preachers. Rev. Patterson pastored congregations in California and Texas and was the author of three books: "Joy For the Journey"; "Wisdom in Strange Places"; and "Prerequisites for a Good Journey."

Mr. Speaker, the Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson lectured at the Morehouse College of Religion, the American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee and the Mid-American Theological Seminary. He conducted revivals in more than 25 cities and preached more than 100 sermons and lectures in the National Baptist Convention.

The Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson lived a consequential life in the service of his community, his family, and our country. He has gone on to receive his great reward, a place in the Lord's loving arms.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

I ask that a moment of silence be observed in memory of the Rev. Dr. Albert Louis Patterson, Jr., of Houston, Texas.

THE WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINER SERVICE ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this Congress matter of utmost importance—The World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act, which was included in the omnibus veteran's bill, FIR 2189. The bill passed the House on October 28th, 2013.

The World War II Merchant Mariner Service Act directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for Veterans status of an individual who performed service in the Merchant Marines during World War II.

The Merchant Marine is a civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Navy, but not a uniformed service, except in times of war when, in accordance with the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, Mariners are considered military personnel. In an effort to support the American war effort during World War II, they became an auxiliary to the United States Navy. Their mission was to transport bulk war materials including food, clothing, and weapons, as well as troops to all areas of conflict as well as domestic coastal installations.

During their missions in open waters, Merchant Marines often encountered the enemy and took hostile fire. Almost 250,000 Merchant Marines served during World War II and approximately 10,000 were killed while serving and protecting the United States.

In 1977 President Jimmy Carter signed into law the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977. This bill granted authorization to the Secretary of Defense to determine the service performed by an "organized group of citizens" to be considered "active service" for purposes of Veterans benefits and established the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board and Advisory panel. In 1988, President Reagan signed a bill into law granting veteran status to merchant mariners who served in war. Moreover, the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 expanded Merchant Marine Veteran benefits to include burial in a National Cemetery.

I am proud that the Borough of Manhattan Community College is working on a documentary titled "The Sea of My Brother" about my constituent Gabriel Frank, an 85-year-old veteran of the World War II and Korea, who served in the merchant marine for 23 years, and whom I had the honor and privilege to meet.

The film follows the fight of Gabriel and others for the passage of a bill in Congress, H.R. 1936—Honoring Our WWII Merchant Mariners Act of 2013, to provide a benefit to veterans who served in the US Merchant Marine during

1941–1946. From rallying his fellow veterans to meeting with politicians, Gabriel and his comrades passionately fight to win this dignity for their community.

Today, elderly veterans continue their fight for this recognition. Their strong, positive and fighting spirit will not let them give up as they choose to advocate for their fellow veterans, leaving a legacy of inspiration for all.

I am urging the Senate to act on their Omnibus Bill so this important legislation can be acted into law.

HONORING NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker: I rise today to honor 32 high school students from Highland High School and Moriarty High School that will represent New Mexico this month in the We the People National Finals, a three-day academic national civics competition on the U.S. Constitution. During the competition these exceptional students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional principles in simulated congressional hearings before panels of judges.

The We The People program of constitutional study was initiated in 1987 and since its inception more the 30 million students have benefited from the program. The program divides students into teams where they are able to learn together and challenge each other. Surveys have shown that these students are more civic minded, politically active and have a better understanding of how the government functions.

Highland High School was the winner of the New Mexico We the People state competition and Moriarty High School is a wild card entry. I commend these students and their dedicated teachers and coaches for participating in this instructional program that fosters attitudes that students need in order to participate as effective, responsible citizens.

School: Highland High School; Teacher: Bob M. Coffey; Students: Ethan Alley; Ezra Geilin Baldwin; Dakson Byle; Kathryn Cook; Giuseppe DeLeers-Certo; Diana Garcia; Hannah Glasgow; Brendan Heath; Rachel Lentz; Angelina Malagodi; Pilar Martinez; Gabriel Pereira De Medeiros; Morgan Roberts; Alexandra Shomaker; Sahleah Tubbeh; Francisco Viramontes; Rosemary White.

School: Moriarty High School; Teacher: Amy Page; Students: Arianna Abrams; Peter BrownShelbee Geyer; Mason Howells; Tyler Cruz Howse; Brian Landes; Emily Montano; Alexander Neverdousky; Allison New; Alicia Page; Rachel Pozzi; Jenna Purpura; Tony Ramirez; James Saunders; Cassandra Scott; Griffin Woolery; Donzlynn Worthington.

I congratulate these outstanding students and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to my trusted, long-time friend, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Zev is retiring at the end of this year after forty years of exceptional public service.

I first met Zev more than four decades ago when he headed California Students for Soviet Jews at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA). It was clear at that time that Zev was driven by idealism, an inherent sense of fairness, and a commitment to public service. And, it was clear that he was a pragmatic problem solver and knew how to get things done.

Zev started his career in elected office in 1975 at the age of twenty-six after winning a hard fought grassroots campaign for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council against a much more experienced candidate who had the strong support of the Democratic political establishment.

Zev chaired the Los Angeles City Council's Finance Committee and worked very hard and very creatively to find solutions to difficult budgetary problems. As chair of the Police, Fire, and Public Safety Committee, he fought against the Los Angeles Police Department's use of choke-holds and against the department's intelligence activities, which included spying on critics of the department and individuals who held liberal political beliefs.

Two of the most intractable problems Zev tackled on the City Council were unrestrained commercial development and traffic congestion. He co-authored Proposition U, which proposed to halve the size of new buildings allowed on most of the city's commercial and industrial property. The initiative passed by a wide margin in 1986. He then worked for Proposition O, which passed in 1988 and blocked Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s long battle to drill for oil along the Los Angeles coastline.

Zev served on the Los Angeles City Council until 1994 when he won a seat on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. A strong environmentalist, Zev made major significant progress in protecting precious county land. He sponsored the 1996 Proposition A park bond to protect open space and develop urban parks and inner-city recreation programs countywide. He led the effort to acquire more than 7,000 acres of county parkland and worked hard on the purchase of the 588-acre King Gillette Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains from Soka University.

As the largest, most populated county in the United States, Los Angeles County has complex transportation needs. Zev has championed a diversity of transit alternatives to most efficiently and cost-effectively meet the needs of the different communities and geographic make-up of the County. He has worked to bring to densely populated areas subway access and to less densely populated areas light rail and busways. He advanced the Orange Line busway in the San Fernando Valley, which has been tremendously popular. He has fought for the new light rail Expo Line,

which, upon completion, will travel from Downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. And, he has been a driving force to extend the subway to the Westside of Los Angeles.

Zev also led the effort to rebuild and modernize the world famous Hollywood Bowl amphitheater which re-opened in 2004, and he was instrumental in the development of Walt Disney Concert Hall, the home of the L.A. Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also helped fund major investments in the L.A. County Museum of Art and the County's Museum of Natural History.

On health care, Zev has worked to secure the viability of our nation's second largest public health system and pushed for reforms that have brought access to care for millions of vulnerable individuals. He led the push for more primary care and strong partnerships that endure today between LA County's public system and primary care clinics throughout the County. He has been a tireless advocate for implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its expansion of Medicaid. Medicaid expansion alone has brought health coverage to more than 300,000 uninsured individuals in LA County.

One of Zev's most passionate goals has been the end of homelessness in LA County. In 2007, he initiated Project 50, a pilot project using a "housing first" approach for the most chronically homeless individuals on Skid Row. Project 50 was so successful that the VA created Project 60 in Los Angeles and uses the "housing first" model to work with veterans who are chronically homeless veterans. Zev showed that it is not only possible to help the dispossessed regain their dignity and their lives, but that it can be done while saving taxpayer dollars.

Zev's extensive accomplishments as County Supervisor have touched every part of LA County and improved the lives of every County resident. LA County, the State of California, and our nation owe Zev a debt for his tireless work. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Zev for his exceptional service and extending to him, his wonderful wife Barbara, and their two children, Mina and David, our very best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEO ALEXANDER VOSKAN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and service of Leo Alexander Voskan.

From the day he was born in New York in 1915, Leo had a keen thirst for adventure. The son of Armenian immigrants who came to the United States in search of a better life for their family, Leo spent his childhood on the waterfront in New York City.

By the time Leo reached High School, he had developed into quite the athlete and was the quarterback for his high school's football team and was also a member of the school's track team. His physical talents extended beyond the athletic field and onto the stage. As an avid dancer, Leo taught dance for the Arthur Murray Studio and was also a competitive dancer at the famous Rainbow Room in New York's Rockefeller Center.

While attending New York City College following High School, Leo was forced to leave school and assume the responsibilities of the family's manufacturing business due to his father's failing health.

With World War II looming on the horizon, Leo voluntarily enlisted into the U.S. Army for both patriotic and family reasons. Leo's goal was to keep his younger brother George out of the military as long as he possibly could so that he could maintain the family business while Leo went overseas to fight.

While serving as a member of the U.S. Army's Signal Corps, his superiors recognized his leadership potential and sent him to Officer's Candidate School where upon his commission he earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Leo was in command of a Combat Engineering Platoon that participated in the Normandy invasion, where despite his leadership; many of his men were lost including his Company Commander. Leo was given a battlefield promotion and assumed Command of the entire Company.

In Normandy, Leo's Company fell under the command of General George Patton and went on to liberate France and eventually fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Leo was also involved in the liberation of several concentration camps across Nazi Germany.

Upon returning home Leo and his brother George resumed their roles in the family's manufacturing business. During this period, Leo also met the love of his life, Joan. Leo and Joan soon married, moved to the New Jersey suburbs and began their family. Leo was a loving father to four children, Craig, Gail, Lynn and Diane who tragically died of pneumonia at the age of three.

In 1952, Leo moved his family to Longwood, Florida to start an orange grove business which was devastated in the freeze of 1958. Always the determined entrepreneur, Leo continued his professional life by starting several businesses including, a night crawler supply company and a pallet manufacturing company which helped sustain his family. Leo was also passionate about politics and teaching others about business including real estate licensing.

Leo's zest for life will always be treasured by those who knew him and his service to our nation will never be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing the distinguished life and service of Leo Alexander Voskan.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican Budget for fiscal year 2015. We have two choices in front of us

today. Two choices on the programs and investments we must fund and prioritize to balance deficit reduction with economic growth.

The prosperity of our Nation is dependent on a strong middle class. Regrettably, the Republican budget would increase taxes on middle class families, provide huge tax breaks for the wealthy, and place the burden of paying for those tax breaks on working Americans, and their children.

We have seen this budget before—a couple of times, in fact. It's the same budget Chairman RYAN brought us in 2013, and in 2012. It is a budget that works for the one percent at the expense of the other 99 percent. It shifts future costs to seniors by ending the Medicare guarantee and raising prescription drug costs. It cuts investment in our Nation's infrastructure, slashes funding for program, that keep children from going hungry, and guts education through cuts to Pell grants and K–12 education. Republicans have proposed a budget that attacks the very foundation of the middle class. It is a path that will lead to economic uncertainty for millions of Americans, and it is not a budget I can support in good conscience.

Democrats have offered a fair and balanced alternative budget that preserves our social safety net, keeps the promises made to our seniors, and asks all Americans to pay their fair share in reducing the deficit. Rhode Islanders understand more than most the toll unemployment can take on families and our communities. The Democratic alternative extends emergency unemployment insurance so those who are still struggling to find work can keep paying their bills. It provides \$76 billion for early childhood education and ensures college affordability by lowering student loan debt and including new repayment options. It provides funding for public transit, our highways, and supports critical investments in research and development, clean energy, manufacturing, and programs that make our industries competitive globally.

I have a responsibility to my constituents, and to every American, to make sure that policies we enact in Congress provide for the long term health and prosperity of our Nation, which include getting people back to work, giving our businesses the support they need to grow, and building a skilled workforce to meet the demands of a 21st Century economy. The Republican budget takes us in the wrong direction. I urge my colleagues to reject the Republican Budget and support the Democratic alternative that keeps our promises to our seniors, preserves our social safety net, and balances deficit reduction with job growth and economic recovery.

HONORING SADIE AND DOUG HODO

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doug and Sadie Hodo of Texas. In light of their commitment to Christian higher education in Texas, Houston Baptist University is dedicating the Sadie and Doug Hodo Residence College on their campus.

Dr. Doug Hodo served as the second President of Houston Baptist University from 1987

to 2006. During that time, Dr. Hodo's wife, Sadie served as First Lady of Houston Baptist University.

It is a true honor to acknowledge Doug and Sadie Hodo's service and dedication to Houston Baptist University as well as their commitment to Christian higher education.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hodo, Houston Baptist University developed new academic programs and expanded its campus facilities. During his service as president, he created an integrated leadership team that resulted in informed decision making and effective internal communication processes for the University. As First Lady of Houston Baptist University, Sadie Hodo served the university with grace and distinction.

On February 18, 2014, the Houston Baptist University Board of Trustees unanimously approved the dedication of the residence college to Doug and Sadie Hodo. The dedication will take place on April 28, 2015.

Sadie and Doug Hodo's visionary leadership and extraordinary love for students built Houston Baptist University to be the great University that it is today—and they kept Christ at the center of both the University and their own lives while doing so.

God bless Sadie and Doug Hodo and God Bless the United States of America.

UCONN BASKETBALL WINS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with enormous pride to congratulate the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams on a season of unprecedented athletic achievement.

Under coaches Kevin Ollie and Geno Auriemma, the Huskies won both national championships, making UConn the only school to complete this feat twice.

The men's team pulled off a gritty title run, defeating St. Joe's, Villanova, Iowa State, Michigan State, Florida, and Kentucky and shocking the nation as a seven-seed. And the women's team continued a tradition of dominance, winning their ninth national championship and going 40–0 this season.

This double victory takes more than talent to accomplish. It takes perseverance, sacrifice, and a commitment to the team ideal, and the men and women of UConn have shown each in surpassing measure.

They have shown that, through hard work and dedication to a common goal, anything is possible. I congratulate both teams on two amazing victories, and I look forward to seeing them in action again next season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 9 and 10, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district, including attendance at

the memorial services for the victims of the tragic shooting at Fort Hood and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 171 through 177.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 171 I would have voted "no" (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Rep. Mulvaney of South Carolina Substitute Amendment No. 1).

2. On rollcall No. 172 I would have voted "yes" (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Congressional Black Caucus Budget, Rep. Moore of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment No. 2).

3. On rollcall No. 173 I would have voted "yes" (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Progressive Caucus Budget, Grijalva of Arizona Substitute Amendment No. 3).

4. On rollcall No. 174 I would have voted "no" (April 9)—(H.R. 4414, Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014).

5. On rollcall No. 175 I would have voted "no" (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Rep. Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4).

6. On rollcall No. 176 I would have voted "yes" (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Democratic Alternative Budget (Rep. VAN HOLLEN—Budget)).

7. On rollcall No. 177 I would have voted "no" (April 9)—(H. Con. Res. 96, Republican Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Resolution (Rep. RYAN—Budget)).

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE POWELL NEAL

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Frankie Powell Neal.

Frankie was a loving woman and a devout Christian. She was dedicated to serving others in all aspects of her life. For over 30 years, she cared for our veterans as a nurse at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital and Harbor UCLA Medical Center. Frankie was also the matriarch of a great family that includes three children, eight grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

I have the distinguished honor of having a strong relationship with her son, Long Beach City Councilman Steve Neal. I know that she would be proud of his achievements and service to the great residents of the community in which he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life of Frankie Powell Neal.

HONORING IOWA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR KIM TIERNEY

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Tierney on being

selected as the Iowa Elementary Principal of the year. Kim serves as the principal at Denver Elementary School which is in my district. Kim was selected because of her leadership in implementing professional learning communities.

Mrs. Tierney began her career as a teacher in the Waukee Community School District. She has been the Principal at Denver Elementary for six years. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary and middle school education from the University of Northern Iowa, and her master's degree in educational leadership from Iowa State University.

Mrs. Tierney was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa elementary school principals. The National Association of Elementary School Principals will also honor her as a National Distinguished Principal this fall in Washington, D.C. Kim has proven that she is a leader at her school and throughout the Denver community. I'm proud to call her a constituent, and congratulate her on all of her success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 4, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I would have voted: "no" on rollcall vote No. 157 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 539), "no" on rollcall vote No. 158 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 539), "yes" on rollcall

vote No. 159 (on agreeing to the Connolly amendment to H.R. 1874), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 160 (on agreeing to the Israel amendment to H.R. 1874), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 161 (on agreeing to the Cicilline amendment to H.R. 1874), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 162 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 1874), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 163 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1874, with instructions), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 164 (on passage of H.R. 1874).

TRIBUTE TO TYLER DE HAAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Tyler De Haan of Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 600 business leaders and growing.

Originally from Storm Lake, Tyler obtained his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northwestern University in Orange City and his master's degree in Public Administration from Drake University. As Principal Financial Group's Internal Wholesaler, Tyler has excelled at his role by implementing a new customer relationship management system while increasing the efficiency of his sales territory and sales totals as a whole.

Outside of work, Mr. De Haan is an active leader in the Iowa Republican Party serving in leadership roles with the Dallas County Republicans and the 3rd Congressional District Executive Committee. He has also been extensively involved in countless candidates' races as well as organizing the nationally influential Iowa Caucuses. As a member of the Waukee United Methodist Church, Tyler serves on the Finance Committee and as worship leader. Mr. De Haan has also volunteered his time to assist with several fundraising events for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Tyler resides in Urbandale with his wife Stacie and their daughter Isabelle. In all aspects of his life, Mr. De Haan is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Tyler in the U.S. Congress and it is with great pride I applaud Mr. De Haan for utilizing his talents to better both his community and our great state. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Tyler on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.