

The leaders of ICC, including the President Stephen D. Jones, Construction Official for Millburn Township/Short Hills, New Jersey; Past President of the Board of Directors, Ronald Piester, Director, Division of Code Enforcement and Administration from the New York Secretary of State's Office; Vice-President Guy Tomberlin, Code Specialist for Fairfax County, Virginia; and Alex Olszowy III, Building Inspection Supervisor, Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky will join ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims in Washington the week of May 19th, to discuss the critical need to support the adoption and enforcement of current building codes, to make sure Americans are safe at home, at work, at school and at play.

The model building codes, produced by ICC, allow every community in the United States to share the advantage of adopting building codes that are adaptable to local conditions, but at the same time incorporate the very latest research, materials, and building practices. This is achieved in a private-public partnership, saving local jurisdictions from bearing the large expense of code revision, updating and coordination. These model codes are produced through the cooperation of thousands of local officials, working with the building industry, to produce codes that represent a consensus on what the minimum safety requirements are for various building types.

Congratulations to the hard working members, and leadership, of the International Code Council.

IN SUPPORT OF VA SECRETARY  
ERIC SHINSEKI

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I rise today in strong support of Secretary Shinseki and his leadership of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. No veterans should ever go without the healthcare they deserve, but it is important to not just focus on anecdotal problems but to look at what the Secretary and the VA have accomplished.

The VA operates 1,700 sites of care, and conducts approximately 85 million appointments each year, which comes to 236,000 health care appointments each day.

The latest American Customer Satisfaction Index, an independent customer service survey, ranks VA customer satisfaction among Veteran patients among the best in the nation and equal to or better than ratings for private sector hospitals.

Since its peak in March of 2013, the VA has reduced the benefits claims backlog by nearly 50 percent, on track to eliminate the backlog in 2015. VA has also implemented an automated electronic claims processing system to better serve Veterans into the future. In 2013, VA paid out \$66 billion in compensation claims to 4.5 million eligible Veterans.

Under the leadership of Secretary Shinseki, VA has also greatly expanded access to earned benefits for Veterans of all eras.

In addition, VA granted presumption of service connection for three new Agent-Orange-re-

lated conditions: Parkinson's disease, hairy cell and other chronic b-cell leukemias, and ischemic heart disease; and for Gulf War Veterans, VA granted presumption of service connection for nine diseases associated with Gulf War Illness.

For all combat Veterans with verifiable PTSD—World War II, Korea, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Operation Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, among others—VA loosened the evidentiary standard to receive benefits.

Since 2009, VA has reduced the estimated number of homeless Veterans by 24 percent. They have conducted over six million clinical visits with over 600,000 Veterans who were homeless, at risk of homelessness (including formerly homeless). In 2013 alone, VA served more than 240,000 Veterans who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless—21 percent more than the year before.

The VA has made progress for veterans of the future by providing Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to more than one million students and decreasing the disability claims backlog by nearly 50 percent.

I welcome Secretary Shinseki's announcement that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will complete a nationwide access review at all health care facilities. As stated, the purpose of this review is to ensure a full understanding of VA's policy and continued integrity in managing patient access to care. As part of the review during the next several weeks, a national face-to-face audit will be conducted at all clinics for every VA Medical Center.

I am confident in the health care our veterans in Florida are receiving. With eight VA Medical Centers in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico and over 55 clinics serving over 1.6 million veterans, the care veterans are getting is the best in the world.

Over 2,312 physicians and 5,310 nurses are serving the 546,874 veterans who made nearly 8 million visits to the facilities in our region. Of the total 25,133 VA employees, one-third are veterans.

In 2013, 37,221 women received health care services at VA hospitals and clinics in Florida, South Georgia and the Caribbean—more than any other VA healthcare network nationwide. This means that more than 75 percent of women Veterans enrolled for VA healthcare in VISN 8 were seen by providers in 2013.

I am especially pleased at the new Jacksonville Replacement Outpatient Clinic that was recently opened. The two-story, 133,500 square foot clinic provides state of the art technology and increased specialty services including diagnostics, improved laboratory facilities, expansion of women's services, minor ambulatory surgical procedures, expanded mental health telehealth services and additional audiology.

When opened, the Orlando VA Medical Center will include 134 inpatient beds, an outpatient clinic, parking garages, chapel and central energy plant. Currently, the 120-bed community living center and 60-bed domiciliary are open and accepting veterans.

The VA provides quality timely healthcare to our veterans. We have a duty to make sure that all those who have defended this country when called upon receive the care they have earned through their service. I support the Secretary in his nationwide access review and

look forward to hearing his report when it is finished.

IN HONOR OF WALTER "RANDY"  
RANDALL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and dedicated public servant, Lt. Col. Walter "Randy" Randall, USAF (Retired). Sadly, Lt. Col. Randall passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2014. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the Base Theater at Robins Air Force Base. Interment with full military honors will be held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida.

"Randy" was born on November 13, 1946 to the late Katie Randall and Walter Randall, Sr. in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bethune Cookman College and a Master of Science degree from Florida A&M University. After teaching Biology in the Jacksonville Public School System for a few years, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1975.

He earned his commission through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in May 1975; completed several assignments at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas before serving a three-year tour in Germany; was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col.) and served in the Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio before coming to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia in August 1994. He served as the C-5 Transition and Supportability Manager for the C-5 System Program Office since April 1999.

In addition to his faithful service to our country, Randy has served his community with much loyalty and dedication. As the Chairman and longtime member of the Warner Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, he strongly advocated for a regional approach to improving the Middle Georgia community as a whole. He was a firm leader but his friendly approach to all he met gained him tremendous respect in the region.

Randy served as Vice President of Operations for Cirrus Technology and was Senior Vice President of Progressive Consulting Technologies, Inc. (PCTI). He was also a member of the Warner Robins Rotary Club, Tuskegee Airmen's Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9998. He was an active member of Robins Air Force Base Chapel, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Museum of Aviation Foundation's National Board of Advisors, and a longtime official of the Georgia Recreational Football League. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing, and ballroom dancing.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." We are all so blessed that Mr. Randall passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to all those whose lives he touched.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Randy's steadfast friendship and support. I was delighted when, several years ago, his good friend Colonel Curtis Wright, USAF (Retired) introduced us. My wife, Vivian, and I will cherish the wonderful memories we have of Randy's bright smile, upbeat personality, and close friendship.

Randy is survived by his two sons, Walter Andre and Marshall; three sisters, a niece, three nephews, and other beloved relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in saluting Lt. Col. Walter "Randy" Randall, USAF (Retired) for his outstanding service to his country and to his community. We extend our deepest sympathies to Randy's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

#### REMEMBERING DEMI BRAE CUCCIA

### HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Demi Brae Cuccia. Demi was a student and cheerleader at Gateway High School in Monroeville, PA with an outgoing personality and big aspirations for a successful future.

Tragically, Demi was a victim of teen-dating violence, murdered just one day after her sixteenth birthday on August 15, 2007.

Teen-dating violence such as physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and stalking is unacceptable. No child deserves to be subjected to abuse and violence. As a father of six, my heart goes out to the family and friends of Demi, especially her parents, Dr. Gary and Jodi Cuccia.

More must be done in our communities to prevent future tragedies like the one that took Demi. The Cuccia family is working hard to educate Western Pennsylvania students and families about how to recognize and prevent teen-dating violence through the Demi Brae Cuccia Awareness Organization. Because of the Cuccias efforts, Demi's story has also been recognized by national news outlets and in the documentary Teen Dating Violence: The Murder of Demi Cuccia.

It is my hope that thanks to the Cuccias efforts more families can be spared from the tragedy of teen-dating violence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Demi today and in thanking the Cuccias for their commitment to end teen-dating violence.

#### TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA K. RAFFETY

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cynthia K. Raffety, who on June 13, 2014 will step down from an exceptional ca-

reer as a public school mathematics teacher, a profession in which she has been engaged over the past four decades.

Born in Baltimore, MD on February 23, 1948, Cynthia is the daughter of Samuel and Ellen Kirby, an engraver and a nurse, respectively. She graduated from Eastern High School in 1966 and attended the University of Maryland, where she earned a BA in Education—Mathematics. In 1991, Cynthia obtained her Masters of Education from West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC).

Upon graduation from the University of Maryland, Cynthia served as a public school teacher in Prince George's Co., MD, and Gloucester Co., NJ. After a stint as a stay-at-home mom in the mid-70s to raise her two children, Jennifer and Robert, Cynthia returned to teaching in Fairfax Co., VA in 1980, and has been active in the classroom ever since.

Cynthia's most notable contributions as an educator took place in the Upshur County (WV) Public School System. From 1983 to 1990, Cynthia taught 8th Grade Math at the Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School as a member of Team H. She then transitioned to the Buckhannon-Upshur High School, where from 1990 onward Cynthia instructed a wide range of math courses, including: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Dual Credit College Algebra and College Trigonometry. Along the way, in 1991, Cynthia picked up her Masters of Education from West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC).

Outside of her duties as a public school teacher, Cynthia also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics Education at WVWC and Fairmont State University. She also served as Program Director for WVWC's Summer Institute, as well as lead instructor of SAT Math Prep. Cynthia routinely opens her high school classroom to undergraduate and graduate student teachers, as well as students engaged in clinical education research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

In addition to her excellence as a math educator, Cynthia also graciously volunteers her time as the faculty advisor to several school organizations, including the alcohol, smoking, and drug-awareness activities of Teen Institute/RAZEWV, and the civic and volunteer undertakings of Interact (Youth Rotary).

In all of her cherished duties—wife, mother, teacher, mentor, advisor, role-model, and civic leader—Cynthia has displayed unparalleled spirit, drive, and devotion. I am, therefore, honored and pleased to have this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the extraordinary accomplishments of Cynthia K. Raffety. I admire Cynthia's idealism and lifelong commitment to her community, and I join her family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues in thanking Cynthia for her life of service.

#### SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chair, on Tuesday, my amazing wife Rachel gave birth to our seventh child, a fifth daughter to add to our brood. And whether it is our seventh or seventeenth baby, the first few days always feel the same. The curiosity of who this little girl will become is just as high with her as it was when our oldest was born.

We wonder, will she have an affinity for math or be drawn to the classics? Will she excel in music or languages? Will she have an interest in history or world affairs? With all of our children, we know only time can answer these questions, but her schooling will certainly play a part.

It is a sentiment shared by millions of parents. That is why I rise in strong support of H.R. 10, the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act. I am a proud co-sponsor of this legislation, and am happy to see it on the floor, especially today.

My congressional district has the 25th highest number of charter schools in the country. All parents want choices and opportunities for our children and charter schools provide those options. Schools no longer have to be dictated by where families buy their house, and a zip code should no longer dictate the quality of education our children receive. These things should be chosen based on the education parents want their children to receive.

Demand for charter schools has never been higher. Currently, over 1 million student names are on waiting lists for a public charter school. From New York City to rural Wisconsin, these schools play an integral role in educating our children. As our new baby girl grows up, we will value the choices she is given because of the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act.

I'm thankful for the committee's work on this important bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2014, I missed rollcall vote 194 and 195. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 194 and "yes" on rollcall 195.

#### HONORING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

### HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

Sixty-six years ago, the state of Israel celebrated its first independence day. The creation of a modern Jewish homeland is no small achievement, and I am honored to join with Israelis and millions of other people around the world to continue this celebration.