

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR NIH AND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to vote to fully fund the National Institutes of Health as we consider appropriations for FY2015.

Restoring the agency to its pre-sequestration spending level is critical to American health and medical innovation. The consequences of insufficient funding for the agency's work are not always immediately apparent but are significant. Serious investments in research are required if we hope to develop new cures, treatments, and vaccines for complex diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's.

Without this type of significant commitment, the costs of Alzheimer's to Americans in 2050 will be a predicted \$1.2 trillion dollars.

As recent events have demonstrated, global health is also becoming a national security issue. We have seen how research conducted at the National Institutes of Health can be key to protecting American health and playing our part as a global health leader. Restrictions on research based on funding limitations can also hinder our efforts to combat such health crises.

Mr. Speaker, as a world leader in research and innovation we must dedicate the appropriate level of funding to the National Institutes of Health.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbia Southern University on the grand opening of their new Center for Continuing Education in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Established in 1993 by Dr. Robert Mayes, Columbia Southern University offers individuals with demanding schedules a way to achieve their dreams of higher education through online learning. By 2001, Columbia Southern was granted accreditation through the Distance Education and Training Council. Columbia Southern went on to become one of the first United States universities to offer a degree program in Vietnam. After Dr. Mayes' death in 2005, his son, Robert Mayes, Jr., was appointed President. Robert built on his father's success and continued to expand Columbia Southern's footprint.

Mr. Speaker, the new Columbia Southern Education Group Center for Continuing Edu-

cation will include staff offices, meeting rooms and a large training area that can be partitioned off to accommodate a variety of training needs. The 10,600 square foot facility will also serve as the regional training center for the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission.

I am proud of the work Columbia Southern does to promote higher learning, and I take pride in knowing they are located in the heart of the First Congressional District. I know I join with many others in saying congratulations on the new facility, and we look forward to continued growth and success.

HONORING JOHN C. ADAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John C. Adams. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending John C. Adams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING BANDERA, TEXAS AS THE COWBOY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1852, despite the danger posed by Indian raids at the time, a group of entrepreneurs acquired land on a cypress-lined bend in the Medina River. The following year, members of the group surveyed the town of Bandera and opened a sawmill and commissary. The town quickly became a thriving settlement due to the success of the founders' water-powered lumber mill.

In the years that followed, local farmers and ranchers prospered, supplying products to United States Cavalry troops at Camp Verde, growing and ginning cotton, and raising cattle, sheep, and goats.

In the 1870s, as the threat of Indian attacks receded, the county became a staging area

for cattle drives and its population grew markedly. It is estimated that between 1874 and 1894, seven to 10 million longhorns and one million horses were driven by 30,000 cowboys to a staging area near Bandera, a major gathering point connecting with the Western Trail. During this time, Bandera became known as a place where cowboys could relax and buy supplies.

Dude ranching began in 1920 when the Buck Ranch took in paying summer guests, with the Bruce Ranch taking the overflow. In the 1930s, the dude ranching industry continued to expand and over 30 dude ranches were operating near Bandera.

Rodeos began in the 1920s when cowboys who worked on ranches displayed the skills they used at roundups and on cattle drives. The first advertised rodeo near Bandera was held at Mansfield Park in 1924. Bandera cowboys became rodeo world champions and were inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

The citizens of Bandera are heirs to a rich western heritage. Today this charming town continues on as a living testament to the courage, talent, and vision of the men and women who shaped the Old West. Since 1920 the community has been a popular tourist destination, each year drawing visitors from around the state and beyond to attractions that include area resorts, dude ranches, rodeos, and hunting and camping areas.

The wild and rugged town of Bandera has long displayed the qualities that earned it the designation, "Cowboy Capital of the World" in 1948.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the rich history of Bandera, Texas and pay tribute to its citizens' many contributions to the Lone Star State.

HONORING DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate a dedicated public servant and a dear friend, Dr. Julian Crocker.

Dr. Crocker has honorably served the educational community for 50 years. He began his career as a classroom teacher after earning both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Vanderbilt University and later earning his doctorate from Harvard University. He has served school districts around the country, primarily serving as the superintendent for multiple school districts over the course of his career including the San Mateo City School District, Palo Alto Unified School District, and the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

This year marks 16 years of Dr. Crocker's remarkable career as the County Superintendent of Schools for the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education. Drawing upon his distinguished career in education, Julian's

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

leadership has helped generations of students successfully prepare for the future. His passion and tireless efforts have succeeded in closing achievement gaps and improving student achievement.

Beyond his role as Superintendent, Julian has served on numerous committees and task forces dedicated to serving the schools, employees, students, and youth of the Central Coast. As an active member and leader of several educational associations throughout the state of California, he has earned the respect and admiration of so many in the educational field. Julian has also served as an adjunct faculty member of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as in the School of Education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

As a military veteran, educator, and community leader, Julian's commitment to helping others and strengthening our Central Coast community is truly inspiring. I thank him for his passion, dedication, and friendship and join our community in wishing him the best in retirement and in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PANHANDLE
HONOR FLIGHT

HON. MAC THORBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 33 veterans from Texas who visited Washington, D.C., on October 10, 2014, through the Texas Panhandle Honor Flight. My wife, Sally, and I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming these heroes to the Capitol.

The veterans on this flight were: Brown, Jerry; Chambers, Obra Gerald; Crittenden, Max; Ediger, Walt; Elliott, Glenn; Godowic, Paul; Hartley, Gary; Hickey, D.W.; Howell, Jack; Hunter, Vaughn; Hutson, James; Jones, Dick; Keller, Walt; Kennedy, James; Kinser, David Wayne; Lewis, Carroll; Mantooth, Billy; McManaman, Dennis; Megert, Russell; Merrick, Jim; Morris, Jerry; Pollard, Patrick; Putnam, Julian; Runion, Thomas; Saiz, Jimmy; Schramm, Bert; Smith, Berry; Smith, Benjamin; Stratton, Henry; Swearengen, Gordon; White, Pete; Wilhelm, Tom; Williamson, Norman.

It was an honor to have the opportunity to visit with these veterans and the volunteers who traveled with them and to show them a symbol of their dedication to this country and the democracy for which they fought. The willingness of the men and women in our military to put their lives on the line to protect our country and all of the freedoms we enjoy deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. I hope that their visit to Washington, D.C., and the Capitol was a small token of our appreciation for all they have given us throughout the years.

Colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and their families for their exemplary dedication and service to this great nation. I want to extend a significant thank you to the local communities, all of the volunteers, and America Supports You Texas for their extensive work in organizing this Honor Flight. This trip would not have been possible without

all of the financial and emotional support of those people.

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN
AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in the 21st century, energy has become vital to modern societies. We no longer have to shop for food each day because refrigerators keep food cold and preserved longer—whether in our homes, in restaurants or during the process of trade. Cell phones, computers, televisions and other electronics require electrical power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world. As we have seen in the current Ebola epidemic, it is necessary that medicines and plasma be kept cold so that they do not lose their potency.

It is both unfortunate and unnecessary that more than half a billion Africans, especially in rural areas, live without electricity.

Perhaps, the great irony is that Africa has more than enough energy capacity to join the rest of the world in utilizing modern technologies that require regular energy supplies. Ironically, 30% of global oil and gas discoveries over the past five years have been in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet currently, only 290 million out of 914 million Africans have access to electricity, and the total number lacking such access continues to rise. Bioenergy, mainly fuel wood and charcoal, is still a major source of fuel. Hydropower accounts for about 20% of total power supply in the region, but less than 10% of its estimated potential has been utilized.

A hearing I convened last week examined the current and prospective impact of U.S. government programs such as Power Africa and Electrify Africa, as well as private international energy projects.

Last year, Chairman ROYCE—backed by Ranking Members ELIOT ENGEL and KAREN BASS—and I introduced H.R. 2548—the Electrify Africa Act. This legislation seeks to build the African power sector—from increased production to more effective provision of energy. H.R. 2548 passed the House this past May, but has languished in the Senate ever since. If no Senate action is taken during the remaining days of this session of Congress, this legislation will have to be reintroduced next year.

Days after the Electrify Africa Act was introduced in the House, the Administration announced its Power Africa initiative and has committed up to \$7.81 billion in various types of U.S. technical and credit assistance and other aid to build the capacity of the African power sector.

It seems that every few months, there is yet another discovery of petroleum or natural gas in Africa. Nevertheless, African countries remain net importers of energy, and the distribution of power from the many new sources of energy in Africa remains unfulfilled. This constrains trade and economic progress, social development and overall quality of life in Africa. Even now, one country—South Africa—accounts for two-thirds of Africa's electricity generation. All of Africa produces less than 10% of the energy produced in the United States.

Meanwhile, people across the continent are forced to meet their energy needs by gathering or purchasing charcoal or wood, often putting women in dangerous situations too far from home. Even when such fuels are safely brought back home, their use produces indoor pollution that too often contributes to sickness and early death.

The current situation cannot continue much longer. Even with 13% of the world's population, Africa represents only 4% of the world's energy demand, but this situation is changing. According to a report this year by the International Energy Agency (IEA), since 2000, sub-Saharan Africa has seen rapid economic growth and a rise in energy use by 45%.

We often speak of the rise in African economies, but for that rise to be truly realized, the rates of power generation and supply must match the growing demand for power. Those cell phones that are transforming all forms of commerce in Africa must be charged. The consumer goods the growing African middle class is purchasing need electricity. Africans are increasingly unwilling to accept the blackouts and power surges that have made life so difficult for so long. Africans who have traveled or lived elsewhere know this doesn't have to be their lot in life. In fact, even those who don't travel have seen how others live on their televisions—when power is available for them to operate.

During the colonial period in Africa, countries were limited in their industrialization, but that period is now long past. It must no longer be used as the reason why African countries are behind in the process of industrialization or power generation. Today, this lag in power generation is more due to inadequate or unrealistic regulation, lack of finance for significant power generation projects, underinvestment in power generation even when financing is available, the disconnection of rural populations from national and regional power grids, high costs for electricity and other factors.

These obstacles can be overcome, but they will require international and national collaboration, public-private partnerships and the will of governments and their citizens. We will not get to the point we believe is necessary overnight, but we will not get there at all if we do not take serious measures now and implement them faithfully and completely.

African people, like people everywhere, deserve the benefits that modern technology has produced. Africa has become a prized global consumer market, but that market cannot be fully realized without electricity. Anyone visiting stores in Africa can see the many modern technologies offered to African consumers today; they merely need guaranteed electricity for those goods to be useful.

With regular electricity, young students can not only study under electrical light, but also use computers to advance their studies. Homemakers can keep food fresh longer with refrigerators and can stretch household income farther. And hospitals can preserve blood plasma and medicines that can save lives.

The two panels at the hearing I held last week examined international and national programs to achieve regular, sufficient electrical power in Africa and private projects to add to the supply of energy on the continent. The future of energy in Africa is brighter than it has been in the past, but diligent actions must be taken now to seize the opportunities that lay before us.

HONORING LONE OAK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lone Oak United Methodist Church, a congregation that has been an integral part of the Lone Oak community for generations.

The history of Lone Oak United Methodist Church can be traced back to 1854 when eleven charter members gathered in the private home of Ruffus Elliott at the Sabine Forks, west of Lone Oak, forming the Lone Oak Methodist Episcopal Church South. The members met in the home until 1858 when the church was moved to the Hunt School Building in Lone Oak where they continued to worship until 1871, when the congregation merged with the Hall Church.

The Hall Church, originally known as Hefner's School or Chapel, was a building constructed for the education of the children of the community, but was also available to the circuit riders and itinerant Methodist ministers and to the local Masonic lodge. Having been destroyed by fire in 1884, a new site was selected at 218 Main Street in Lone Oak. The Vernacular Gothic Revival church structure was completed in 1889 and continues to serve the congregation today.

In 1939, Lone Oak Methodist Episcopal Church South merged with other Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestants meeting in Lone Oak to form the Lone Oak Methodist Church. In 1968, with the merging of the Methodist Church USA and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the church became Lone Oak United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the congregation of Lone Oak United Methodist Church for 160 years of fellowship and worship, and 125 years in their present building. May God continue to bless this congregation and their ministry.

H.R. 4012 AND H.R. 1422

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, one of the last actions this chamber took before recessing for the Elections wasn't to act on Comprehensive Immigration Reform or pass a funding measure to avoid another Republican Government Shutdown. We didn't exercise Congress's constitutional role in debating issues of war and peace and take up an Authorization for Use of Military Force in response to the threat of ISIS. And we didn't address our nation's crumbling infrastructure by passing a long-term transportation bill.

Sadly, just as they did then, the most anti-environmental House majority is once again engaging in science suppression and denial simply because they disagree with the findings and the responsible actions taken based on those findings to protect public health and preserve the environment.

H.R. 4012, for example, is an attempt to tie the EPA's hands by restricting the information

it can use in drafting safeguards. If passed, this bill would exclude a host of important data, including university research that is protected by privacy and confidentiality laws, as well as proprietary business information.

Not to be outdone, H.R. 1422 would weaken the EPA's advisory process and make it easier for special interests to be appointed to and influence the Science Advisory Board. Do we really want to have the impartial analysis of our nation's leading experts replaced by big corporate interests? What could go wrong with that?

Unfortunately, the public has grown accustomed to the House majority's repeated efforts to gut important environmental safeguards that protect public health. All told, my friends on the other side of the aisle have voted more than 200 times to block action to address climate change, to halt efforts to reduce air and water pollution, and to undermine protections for public lands, coastal areas, and the environment. The bills before us this week are more of the same.

This know-nothing approach fails the public we are sworn to protect and serve. As elected officials, we have to recognize the valuable role science must play in making good public policy. Not anecdotes . . . not false narratives . . . science.

I urge my colleagues to reject these bills, abandon this war on science, so that we can turn our attention to the pressing issues our country demands we address.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE GREGORY C. PITTMAN FOR RECEIVING THE LIVING LEGENDS AWARD

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gregory C. Pittman and his commendable service to Michigan's Western District as a Muskegon County Probate Judge.

After graduating from Michigan State University with his Bachelor's Degree, Judge Pittman went to Indiana University to obtain his Juris Doctor. After receiving his law degree, he returned to his birthplace in Muskegon, Michigan. On January 6, 1998, Governor John Engler appointed Judge Pittman to the Muskegon County Probate Bench. Judge Pittman has now served the Muskegon County Court System for 16 years, and he currently serves as the presiding Judge of the Muskegon County Family Court. Judge Pittman also promotes the strengthening of Michigan families, and in 2001, was awarded the Michigan Family Forum's Champion of the Family award.

Throughout his career, Judge Pittman has been committed to serving his community, and this has led to him being active in many educational, social, and civic organizations. He has served as the President of the Muskegon Heights Public Schools Board of Trustees, as well as a Trustee of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District. Judge Pittman currently serves his community in many other ways as well. He is a member of the Hackley Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County Board of

Trustees. Judge Pittman is also a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Association Foundation.

For all of his work and commitment, on November 22, 2014, Judge Pittman will be receiving the Living Legends Award at the Muskegon BEAT Awards Ceremony. I want to congratulate Judge Pittman for receiving such a prestigious reward, and thank him for his service to Muskegon County and the state of Michigan.

HONORING DAUGHTERS OF
PENELOPE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from the bipartisan Hellenic Caucus to recognize the 85th Anniversary this week of the Daughters of Penelope. Founded on November 16, 1929, this organization works to improve the well-being of women and afford them the opportunity to make important contributions to the United States.

The DOP is a preeminent international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage.

Since its founding, Daughters of Penelope has worked through its 250 worldwide chapters to promote the Greek ideals of philanthropy, education, and civic responsibility. Throughout its history, local chapters have identified pressing needs and developed solutions to make a difference in their communities.

Through DOP's sponsorship of affordable housing for seniors, domestic violence shelters in Mobile, Alabama and Brockton, Mass., and many other efforts, its members continue to embody the best ideals of citizenship.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have had the privilege to see the significant contributions of the Daughters of Penelope in the Greek American community both in New York and across the country. I am proud to say that DOP has lived up to its mission to contribute to the development of America through Hellenic ideals, and I look forward to its continued success.

HONORING NATHANIEL J.
BRANCATO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel J. Brancato. Nathaniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities.

Over the many years Nathaniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathaniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Nathaniel J. Brancato for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FIGHTING EBOLA: A GROUND LEVEL VIEW

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the world community has known of the Ebola Virus Disease, more commonly called just Ebola, since it first appeared in a remote region near the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976. In previous outbreaks, Ebola had been confined to remote areas in which there was little contact outside the villages or areas in which it appear. Unfortunately, this outbreak, now an epidemic, spread from a village to an international center for regional trade and spread into urban areas in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone that are crowded with limited medical services and limited resident trust of government. The unprecedented west African Ebola epidemic has not only killed more than 5,000 people, with more than 14,000 others known to be infected. This situation has skewed the planning for how to deal with this outbreak.

In our two previous hearings on the Ebola epidemic, on August 7th and September 17th, we heard about the worsening rates of infection and challenges in responding to this from government agencies such as USAID and CDC and NGOs operating on the ground such as Samaritan's Purse and SIM. The hearing I held yesterday was intended to take testimony from non-governmental organizations providing services on the ground currently in the affected countries, especially Liberia, so we can better determine how proposed actions are being implemented.

In its early stages, Ebola manifests the same symptoms as less immediately deadly diseases, such as malaria, which means initial health care workers have been unprepared for the deadly nature of the disease they have been asked to treat. This meant that too many health care workers—national and international—have been at risk in treating patients who themselves may not know they have Ebola. Hundreds of health care workers have been infected and many have died, including some of the top medical personnel in the three affected countries.

What we found quite quickly was that the health care systems in these countries, despite heavy investment by the United States and other donors, are quite weak. As it happens, these are three countries either coming out of very divisive civil conflict or experiencing serious political divisions. Consequently, citizens have not been widely prepared to accept recommendations from their governments. For quite some time, many people in all three countries would not accept that

the Ebola epidemic was real. Even now, it is believed that despite the prevalence of burial teams throughout Liberia, for example, some families are reluctant to identify their suffering and dead loved ones for safe burials, which places family members and their neighbors at heightened risk of contracting this often fatal disease when patients are most contagious.

The porous borders of these three countries have allowed people to cross between countries at will. This may facilitate commerce, but it also allows for diseases to be transmitted regionally. As a result, the prevalence of Ebola in these three countries has ebbed and flowed with the migration of people from one country to another. Liberia remains the hardest hit of the three countries, with more than 6,500 Ebola cases officially recorded. The number of infected and dead from Ebola could be as much as three times higher than the official figure due to underreporting.

Organizations operating on the ground have told us over the past few months that despite the increasing reach of international and national efforts to contact those infected with Ebola, there remain many remote areas where it is still difficult to find residents or gain sufficient trust to obtain their cooperation. Consequently, the ebb and flow in infections continues. Even when it looks like the battle is being won in one place, it increases in a neighboring country and then reignites in the areas that looked to be successes.

The United States is focusing on Liberia, the United Kingdom is focusing on Sierra Leone, and France and the European Union are supposed to focus on Guinea. In both Sierra Leone and Guinea, the anti-Ebola efforts are behind the pace of those in Liberia. This epidemic must brought under control in all three if our efforts are to be successful.

Last week, I, along with Representatives KAREN BASS and MARK MEADOWS of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, introduced H.R. 5710, the Ebola Emergency Response Act. This bill lays out the steps needed for the U.S. government to effectively help fight the west African Ebola epidemic, especially in Liberia—the worst-hit of the three affected countries. This includes recruiting and training health care personnel, establishing fully functional treatment centers, conducting education campaigns among populations in affected countries and developing diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.

H.R. 5710 confirms U.S. policy in the anti-Ebola fight and provides necessary authorities for the Administration to continue or expand anticipated actions in this regard. The bill encourages U.S. collaboration with other donors to mitigate the risk of economic collapse and civil unrest in the three affected countries. Furthermore, this legislation authorizes funding of the International Disaster Assistance account at the higher FY2014 level to effectively support these anti-Ebola efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH, SAN JOSE FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose for 150 years of service, fellowship and stewardship to the San Jose community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Mother Church, was founded in New York City, in October 1796. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was named the Freedom Church because it struggled mightily for the dignity and emancipation of Black people in America.

In 1864, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose was founded in San Jose and has continued in the tradition of the Mother Church to fight for the dignity, emancipation and rights of all people and has been recognized by the City of San Jose as the oldest Black church in San Jose.

On November 23, 2014 the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will celebrate 150 Years of service to the San Jose community and is planning for the community service demands of the future.

RECOGNIZING E. ROBERT CHAMBERLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOURCEAMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize E. Robert Chamberlin on the occasion of his retirement from SourceAmerica at the end of this year. Located in my district, SourceAmerica is a national non-profit that creates employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chamberlin leads a network of more than 500 affiliated non-profit agencies that participate in the AbilityOne Program, which currently provides employment to more than 128,000 people in the United States who are blind or have other significant disabilities. I, and more than 100 of my colleagues, are proud to partner in these efforts as AbilityOne Congressional Champions.

Mr. Chamberlin joined SourceAmerica as Vice President of Operations in December 1999, following a career with the U.S. Armed Forces, and he was appointed CEO in January 2001. During his Navy career, he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral and held key positions afloat, overseas, and ashore. Later, as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he served as the Department of Defense's representative on the AbilityOne Commission, the Federal agency which oversees the AbilityOne Program.

Throughout his career, Mr. Chamberlin has been tireless in his efforts to improve the employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition to promoting the hundreds of thousands of individuals employed through

the SourceAmerica network, Mr. Chamberlin has provided critical leadership on a number of new employment initiatives, including the establishment of the Institute for Economic Empowerment, the Pathways to Careers Employment Initiative, and the AbilityOne Design Challenge for assistive technology. In addition, he has helped to expand SourceAmerica's outreach to the private sector through new partnerships with large corporations and franchise organizations. Those efforts are particularly important for preserving work opportunities given the current constraints on federal agency budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished military service and career accomplishments of Mr. E. Robert Chamberlin, and I want to personally commend him for his commitment to safeguarding the rights and opportunities for all Americans, especially those with significant disabilities.

HONORING JACOB P. COGLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob P. Cogley. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jacob P. Cogley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF FETHULLAH
GÜLEN

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the exceptional work of Fethullah Gülen. Mr. Gülen has long stood as a pillar of peace and humanity and as a model for opposition in the face of rising dictatorship.

A respected member of the Pennsylvania community, Fethullah Gülen has worn many hats throughout his life. A vocal leader of the Turkish civic movement, Mr. Gülen has been forced to live in a self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania for fear for his safety.

The founder of the 'Gülen Movement,' Fethullah Gülen has long been a voice of reason in a world of turmoil. Widely known as a highly-respected leader, he has encouraged Turkish citizens to vote for those who are respectful to democracy and the rule of law,

rather than one party or another. He has consistently promoted a moderate blend of Islam in a time of growing radicalism and is well known for his global network of educational establishments, extending to over 140 countries. His views promote a tolerant Islam, emphasizing hard work and education, as well as building bridges between the Muslim and Western world and science and religion.

While the global community looks to Turkey with both growing concern and enduring hope, it is my honor to commend Fethullah Gülen for his tireless efforts to promote the ideals of peace, democracy, an educated electorate, and the human rights of the Turkish people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
SMITTCAMP

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Earl Smittcamp who passed away on the morning of October 20, 2014 at the age of 96. Earl's passion for farming and education exemplify the meaning leadership.

Earl was a prominent agriculture business leader. He alongside his wife Muriel, founded Wawona Frozen Foods which currently leads the industry in development and distribution of fruit and fruit products. A 1939 graduate of Fresno State, Earl recognized the value of hard work and education and spent his time giving back to his community.

Earlier in his life, Earl honorably served our country in the U.S. Marines Corps during World War II. Upon his return, he and his wife purchased her father's 200 acre fruit ranch. Their small business went on to dominate the frozen food market, making Wawona Frozen Foods one of the oldest peach processors in the U.S.

Wawona Ranch flourished into a full agricultural operation ranging from fruit farming, packing, frozen-food production to food processing. Earl's sons Bob and Bill manage the business. The Smittcamp's success made a \$2 million donation to Fresno State in 1997, possible. This generous donation helped establish the Smittcamp Family Honors College. The Honors College offers a rigorous academic program for top students. The Smittcamp Family Alumni Center was also later established and opened in early 2000.

In addition to his businesses, Earl also received the following government appointments: Sixth Acting Disaster Governor of California by Governor Ronald Reagan from 1966 to 1972, served on the California State Board of Agriculture from 1970 to 1972, was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon to the White House Conference on Food and Nutrition in 1969, served as chairman of the Federal Farm Credit Board in 1971, and finally in 1976 Earl was appointed to the U.S. Advisory Committee on Regulatory Programs.

In 1993 Earl's hard work was recognized by The Fresno Chamber of Commerce's Leon S. Peters Award. Other awards include Clovis' Outstanding Citizen in 1962, Fresno State's Outstanding Alumnus in both 1963 and 1980. In addition, Earl was inducted into the Frozen Food Hall of Fame in 2005.

Earl met his wife Muriel at Fresno State in 1940 and the two happily married. In 2009 he

was preceded in death by his wife. They are survived by their four children and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Earl Smittcamp. Earl's children, grandchildren, relatives and many friends have an outstanding role model that they will hold in their hearts forever. His presence will be greatly missed but his legacy will surely live through the Smittcamp family's deep commitment to supporting the community and the university.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,955,187,358,115.74. We've added \$7,328,310,309,202.66 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING BEULAH LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON ITS
PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the New Haven community and all of those gathered this evening in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Beulah Land Development Corporation—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization.

Dedicated to making a difference in a distressed community, the Beulah Land Development Corporation was founded in 1994 with a simple mission—to improve the quality of life for area residents through providing homeownership opportunities for families, the creation of affordable housing for seniors, and supporting innovative economic development initiatives. BLDC also seeks to empower community residents by providing or acting as a gateway to programs and initiatives that provide education, technical and financial assistance to repair and beautify their homes, improve their economic status, and prepare for a sustainable future.

Over the course of the last two decades, BLDC has invested millions in the revitalization of blighted properties. The Orchard Street Townhouses and additional revitalization of several properties along Orchard and Henry Streets have enabled first-time homebuyers to realize their dreams. The Walter S. Brooks Elderly Homes, named in honor of one of the founding members of BLDC, provides safe, affordable rental units for our seniors. Looking to the future, BLDC has recently worked to redevelop a brownfields site where they plan to

provide accessible community based health services.

Perhaps what is most special about BLDC is that it is a family affair. The Brooks family have been and continue to be dedicated community activists. Bishop Theodore Brooks and his late brother, Walter, seeing a real need, opened the doors of BLDC as a way to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Today, BLDC is still led by President and CEO Bishop Theodore Brooks and his son, Darrell, works tirelessly by his side. They understand that a home is not simply a place to rest your head—it is a source of comfort and security for families. By making these investments, they are not only leading by example, they are empowering residents and inspiring a renewed pride in and commitment to their community.

For their many invaluable contributions to the Dixwell neighborhood and the New Haven community, I am honored to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Brooks, his son Darrell, the Brooks family and the staff and supporters of the Beulah Land Development Corporation as they celebrate the organization's platinum anniversary. I have no doubt that even as they celebrate this special occasion, their vision and leadership will continue to make a difference in our community and in the lives of others for many more years to come.

CONGRATULATING MERLE
SIDENER ACADEMY FOR HIGH
ABILITY STUDENTS, A BLUE RIB-
BON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate the Merle Sidener Academy for High Ability Students in Indianapolis, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that the Sidener Academy is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While 420 schools nationwide received nominations, only 287 were chosen as National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Since opening its doors in 2008 as a magnet school for Indianapolis' gifted and talented students, the Sidener Academy has grown to

nearly 400 students and offers a 2nd–8th grade curriculum. The school was named in honor of Merle Sidener, a prominent figure in the Indianapolis community. After making a successful career in journalism, Sidener eventually served as the President of the Indianapolis Board of School Commissioners.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at the Sidener Academy give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to the Sidener Academy. I am very proud of you.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JUSTICE MARVIN BAXTER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to recognize Justice Marvin Baxter for his honorable service to the state of California. For decades, Justice Baxter served as a dedicated leader who willingly and unselfishly gave his time and talent to make our state a better place.

Marvin Baxter was born in Fowler, California on January 9, 1940. He grew up on his family farm as a second generation American. All four of his grandparents emigrated from Armenia in the early twentieth century. After graduating from Fresno State, he went on to the University of California's Hastings School of Law, where he earned his law degree in 1966.

Justice Baxter began his lifelong career in law in 1967 as a Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. Two years later, he continued on at a private practice focusing on civil law. Justice Baxter worked with the firm Andrews, Andrews, Thaxter, Jones & Baxter for 14 years before he moved back to public service acting as Appointments Secretary to Governor George Deukmejian. In that capacity, Mr. Baxter advised the Governor on judicial and executive appointments.

After working in the Governor's office for five years, Mr. Baxter was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal for the Fifth District. In 1991, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Subsequently, in 2002, Justice Baxter was elected by the California voters to serve an additional 12 years as associate justice.

Throughout his career, Justice Baxter has been a part of many landmark decisions. He is known amongst his peers for being straightforward and clear headed in the courtroom. Colleagues will miss the most senior Supreme Court justice for sound feedback they could regularly count on.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Justice Marvin Baxter for his service to the state of California. Although his time on the California Supreme Court has come to an

end, Justice Baxter has made a lasting impression and we commend him for his hard work and dedication.

HONORING AIXA TORRES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Aixa Torres, a tireless advocate for New York's working families. Born in Santurce, Aixa moved with her parents and sisters to New York City in 1955. Attending public school, she graduated from Central Commercial High School as a certified Bookkeeper. She has lived for over 50 years in the Lower East Side (LES) with her siblings Silvia, Aurea and Arthur.

In 1971, Aixa married the late George Carmona, Jr. and had two children, George III and Liza Noemi. She still lives in the LES with her daughter and grandchildren Mia Noemi and Elijah Michael Daniel.

Aixa has committed her life to caring for her community. For more than three decades she assumed leadership roles on numerous committees and boards for various organizations in the city including parent associations and Action for Progress Adult Day Care center. For twenty-two years she has advocated for District 1 families.

Aixa was elected President of Alfred E. Smith Resident Association in 2010, representing over 4,300 tenants in twelve buildings. Now serving her second term as president, Aixa has stood out as a courageous, committed and caring fighter for Smith residents. She has worked to end neglect and abuse by city agencies, helped stop attempts to develop luxury apartments on open spaces, while caring for residents in the crisis of Hurricane Sandy.

During her tenure as president she and the association have received citations from the New York City Council and recognition from the New York State Assembly and Senate for her work on behalf of Smith residents. Aixa was honored by the New York City Council Women's Caucus at the Inaugural #WOMENLEAD Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, this month, Aixa will be retiring from her post as a District 1 Family Advocate. While she is leaving her position with the New York City Department of Education, anyone who knows Aixa recognizes she will certainly remain an active and welcome voice in our community. Today, I would ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting someone who has been a champion for New York residents and a stalwart defender of our city's families—Aixa Torres.

IN MEMORY OF RICK RICHARDSON

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, a great Georgian, patriot, and personal friend—Rick Richardson, who passed away on November 14th from a sudden stroke.

Rick served the Georgia GOP for 25 years as the president and a national board member of the State Young Republicans, and 4th District chairman.

He had a tremendous impact on his fellow staff, the chairmen of the State Party, and all 159 counties in Georgia through his humble and hard-working attitude.

Rick was not only the party's "go-to guy" for history on any level but a great friend to all who knew him.

Rick's father and mother should take great pride in raising a son who touched many lives and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

In return, Rick, who lost his father at a young age, stayed by his surviving mother of 92, whom he cared for and loved.

Today, may we reflect on Rick's singular character and the tremendous work he did for Georgia, his family, and country.

Let us not forget him—a proud son, faithful servant, and example of what it means to be a selfless leader.

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS INHUMAN, BARBARIC, AND A TERROR ON THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in Iran there is no freedom of speech or press. Criticize the government of Iran and you can be arrested, tortured, and even killed. The MEK, an opposition group that only wants freedom for the Iranian people, has seen that firsthand. Hundreds of its members have been executed for doing nothing more than protesting the government.

It isn't just political dissidents who are persecuted in Iran. There is no freedom of religion in Iran. If you are not a Shiite Muslim, you never know when you might be dragged off to jail.

Just like religious minorities, women too are treated like second-class citizens and denied basic human rights. Domestic violence, that evil tactic of cowardly men, is not illegal in Iran. In October, a string of acid attacks injured women deemed "badly veiled." Again, the people rose up. But these protestors were also met with tear gas, violent beatings, and arrests.

But there's a remarkable thing, Mr. Speaker, about repression: it cannot suppress the innate desire in all of us to be free.

In 2009, we saw the people of Iran fight against tyranny. Thousands of Iranians marched defiantly in the streets, protesting the fraudulent election of Ahmadinejad.

In response, police on motorbikes ran over protestors, fired tear gas, beat them with batons, tortured them, shot them. Over a hundred protestors were murdered in the 2 weeks that followed the election.

Today, President Rouhani would like us to believe that life in Iran has changed. The truth is that life in Iran has not changed. President Rouhani's words are empty lies.

The Iranians are freedom-loving people, and they deserve the basic human rights. Today, with this bill we tell the people of Iran that they do not fight alone. That we stand together with them against the Supreme Leader and all his

cronies. And one day, hopefully soon, we will stand with them in Tehran to celebrate the downfall of the Iranian regime.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING HONORARY CONSUL BERJ K. APKARIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mr. Berj K. Apkarian upon his appointment as the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno. This is a monumental occasion for not only Berj but for Fresno's entire Armenian community.

In 1979, Berj immigrated to Fresno, California, from Syria, and he has since been a very active member of Fresno's Armenian-American community. He is the Executive Director of Physician Relations at Community Medical Centers and is also a professor at California State University, Fresno, where he leads the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Armenian Studies.

In 2009, the City of Fresno established a sister city partnership with the city of Etchmiadzin in Armenia. The partnership enhances the bond between Fresno and Armenia, and Berj was instrumental in forming the relationship. To further strengthen our city's ties with Armenia, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Armenia was established on August 14, 2014.

As Honorary Consul, Berj will continue to play an integral role in strengthening our Valley's relationship with Armenia. In addition to forming a stronger relationship with Armenia, Berj plans to take a team of medical professionals to Armenia to educate and provide healthcare services for residents living in rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Berj K. Apkarian as he begins to serve as the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno.

CELEBRATING PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join those celebrating the month of November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and to thank the Pulmonary Hypertension Association for its work in furthering understanding of this life-changing disease.

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is a chronic, complex, and life-threatening lung disease marked by elevated blood pressure in the lungs. The Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) is a nonprofit organization that seeks ways to prevent and cure pulmonary hypertension and to provide hope for the PH community through support, education, advoca-

cacy and awareness. I am particularly proud of the work that the PHA Midwest Chapter is doing to provide support for people living with pulmonary hypertension and those who care for them. Their efforts to raise awareness and push for research into improved treatments and, ultimately, a cure are critical.

PHA is a young organization that is changing the history of this illness. From simple beginnings—four women around a kitchen table in Florida in 1990—PHA has evolved in size and complexity. When the association was founded, there were no support groups to help individuals and caregivers cope with this disease. Today, PHA serves more than 13,000 members and supporters with over 245 support groups that provide knowledge, support, hope and empowerment for the PH community. PHA continues to work every day to find a cure for pulmonary hypertension and believes that no one should face this disease alone.

On November 22, PHA Midwest and the PH community will mark Pulmonary Hypertension Month by hosting the inaugural O2 breathe Hearts PHor Hope Gala. The gala is an opportunity both to focus attention and to recognize the accomplishments and advances made in the PH field, while honoring those who made these advances possible. This special evening will honor Stuart Rich, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago Medicine with the 2014 Heart PHor Hope Legacy Award. A dedicated researcher, passionate physician and continuous supporter of PHA, Dr. Rich has been a groundbreaking leader in the pulmonary hypertension field for more than three decades and continues to show his dedication and support of the PH community.

The PHA Midwest Chapter is a valuable resource, and I am grateful for the job that it is doing to raise awareness through next week's gala and the annual marathon, to provide assistance, and to push for greater research and medical breakthroughs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHELE MARLENE VENABLE

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michele Marlene Venable and extend my condolences to her family.

Michele, a resident of Florida's 23rd Congressional District and a long-time constituent of mine from the city of Hollywood, tragically passed away on November 8th after a battle with stomach cancer.

All of us that knew Michele could tell you that she represented the very best in our community.

She was dedicated to selflessly helping others, putting her community first, and empowering the most vulnerable.

She was a beacon of light for so many.

She will be tremendously missed, but never forgotten by our South Florida community.

I will remember Michele most for her work as Director of Social Services at the Jubilee Center of Broward County.

In this position, Ms. Venable coordinated delivering food, clothing, and vital personal

items to Broward County's homeless and needy.

She also worked to connect countless numbers of South Floridians with legal aid, veteran's services, Medicaid assistance, and emergency shelters.

She has capably led the Jubilee Center over the past decade and raised it to new heights.

It is worth noting that Volunteer Broward recently honored the Center as the "Agency of the Year" for all volunteer groups serving Broward County.

This is a tribute to Michele's tireless and fierce leadership.

She always demanded the best from herself and those around her in the service of others.

Poverty and despair can be powerful forces in society, but they certainly met their match when confronted by Michele's force of will to bring hope to others.

It is also not surprising that before her tireless efforts at the Jubilee Center, she served our community through her ministry work as a pastor.

Anyone who has ever worked with her will tell you that Michele was driven by an astounding love for people.

I and many of my Congressional District Office staff as well as my children, have had the honor of joining Michele every year to help the Jubilee Center serve Thanksgiving dinner to the less fortunate in our community—a job Michele did with grace and pride.

This year on Thanksgiving we will again gather to help our community—Michele Venable's community.

I am sure that we will all be missing Michele's warm smile and bright disposition.

But we honor her memory if we carry on her amazing commitment to helping those less fortunate in our community.

In this way her spirit of compassionate altruism lives on and inspires others to walk in her footsteps.

In this time of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for Michele Venable and a life well lived in service to our South Florida community.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ANNUAL COWBOY CHRISTMAS COOK-OFF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off which takes place each December, in Mission, Texas.

The Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off is an International Barbeque Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds benefiting the Silver Ribbon Community Partners, who provide emergency relief assistance and educational programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Talented barbeque chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken. The Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star-style food and music and I thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HARRIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Harris for being the recipient of the 2014 Agriculturist of the Year award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. John has made countless contributions to California's agricultural economy, and his efforts deserve to be honored.

John was born into a family with strong agricultural roots. His parents grew cotton and grain on their family farm. John attended the University of California at Davis (UC Davis), and later, founded Harris Ranch. Harris Ranch is one of the leading producers of agricultural goods in the nation. His products include: almonds, pistachios, citrus, and various vegetable crops.

Under John's leadership, Harris Ranch has been a leading beef producer in California's Central Valley for years. Additionally, Harris Ranch is the largest cattle feeder ranch in the state, and it produces over 150 million pounds of beef a year.

Harris Ranch also breeds thoroughbred racing horses. This year, Harris Ranch received national media attention because of the racing horse champion, California Chrome.

John served as the president of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association and is currently a member of the executive committee in the association. John is also a member of the California Horse Racing Board and served as a chairman in 2004, 2005 and 2009. He also is a member of the Jockey Club, and is a very dedicated man to the sport of horse racing.

John is an active community member, and he is a strong supporter of Saint Agnes Medical, the California Cattlemen's Association, and Western Growers Association. Additionally, he supports agricultural education and donates to UC Davis, California State University, Fresno, and the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. John Harris. He is truly deserving of this recognition, and I thank him for all of the contributions he has made to California's San Joaquin Valley.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. MEREDITH CARTER FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career and accomplishments of Dr. Meredith Carter. For more than three decades, Dr. Carter has served as an educator, nonprofit administrator, member of the Hamilton County Council and so much more.

Born on May 27, 1939, in Cutler, Indiana, Dr. Carter is a lifelong Hoosier. After graduating from Cutler High School, Dr. Carter

earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in biology from Butler University. He then went on to earn an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Ball State University.

Dr. Carter began his tenure on the Hamilton County Council on January 1, 1983. Since then, he has been a leading contributor to the exceptional economic growth and development Hamilton County has experienced. His leadership played a critical role in endeavors such as the building of the County Judicial Center, remodeling of the County Courthouse and the building of multiple transportation infrastructure projects.

Along with his academic achievements and 32 years as an elected official, Dr. Carter is a fixture in the Hoosier education and development communities. Dr. Carter taught for eight years in the public school system before completing a 38 year distinguished tenure as a professor, administrator and chancellor with Ivy Tech Community College. He also serves on the boards of JANUS Development Services, Inc and Aspire Indiana. JANUS is an organization committed to providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to join the workforce and play an active role in their community. Aspire Indiana provides comprehensive community mental health services, working on issues ranging from youth and family services to helping people overcome substance abuse.

With these accomplishments and many more, it is clear to see that Meredith Carter has been a strong advocate for the people of Hamilton County and the State of Indiana. I am proud to represent a district with a legacy of dedicated public servants like Dr. Carter.

Dr. Carter has dedicated his life in service to Hamilton County, the state of Indiana and the United States. I join the entire Hamilton County community in thanking Dr. Carter for his service and congratulating him on a remarkable career. Although his tenure as an elected official is coming to a close, Hamilton County looks forward to many more years of having Dr. Carter as a key figure in the community.

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Career Development Month.

In conversations with businesses across my home state of Rhode Island, I have been hearing a constant refrain: Employers have job openings but are unable to find local, skilled workers with the expertise necessary to fill the open positions. Meanwhile, job seekers find it hard to acquire these skills without the proper training, a vicious cycle that continues to hold back our economy.

As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, closing the skills gap is one of my top priorities. In order to match students with the skills they need, I have introduced the bipartisan Counseling For Career Choice Act. This bill would help to make sure that school counselors and students know of the full range of options available to them post-graduation. By tracking

workforce trends and increasing collaboration between employers and educators, we can help students to make informed decisions regarding their career paths.

Comprehensive career counseling is a vital component of skills training and helps to better align school curricula with local workforce trends and available post-secondary opportunities. While not every job will require a college degree, some sort of postsecondary education will be necessary. Whether it comes from a community college, a skills training program, or on-the-job-training, we need to change what it means to be college- and career-ready. We need to provide students with the knowledge and experience that will truly prepare them for what's next.

However, we cannot neglect the skills gap that remains for people already in the workforce. Many workers need to learn new skills to advance their careers, and although they may not have the option to work with a school counselor, they can foster connections with career development professionals.

Across the nation, career development professionals help students to achieve their goals by providing professional development resources, scientific resources and advocacy. Each November, career development professionals celebrate the achievements of their clients with career-focused events and activities including the National Career Development Association (NCDA) Poetry and Poster Contest. In fact, this year marks the 49th successful competition, which is appropriately titled, "Reimagining Life's Possibilities: Celebrating First Jobs Through Encore Careers."

NCDA represents a broad range of members that provide career intervention and support services. Members include school and college counselors, One Stop Career Center counselors, Veterans Administration counselors, and private practice counselors, coaches and consultants. NCDA supports its members by providing research, advocacy and training. Last year, NCDA celebrated its 100th year of providing professional service to individuals seeking career advancement and success.

I would like to thank all career development professionals for their dedication to helping Americans improve their skillsets, find quality employment and achieve their professional and personal goals.

RECOGNIZING THE 55 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BARTLETT, IL BY MR. BILL "TIK" TIKNIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. Bill "Tik" Tiknis, a resident of Bartlett, Illinois, in my Congressional district.

Bill Tiknis moved with his family to Bartlett in 1956 and dedicated his life in service to his community. Bill gave a remarkable 55 years of service in jobs including serving as Village President, Village Trustee, and the Founder and President of the Bartlett Chamber of Commerce. He was a volunteer Fire Fighter and later District Commissioner of the Bartlett Fire Protection District and was a Charter Member

of the Bartlett Rotary and President of the Hanover Township Foundation. Bill's leadership in these roles left an indelible mark on Bartlett and has created a lasting legacy.

Apart from his time spent in local government, Bill helped organize youth football in Bartlett and created the Bartlett Park District. While he was Village President, he helped preserve a town landmark by working to purchase Bartlett Hills Golf Club with overwhelming support from the community. The Village now has a "Bill Tiknis Golf Classic" in his honor.

Recently, the Village of Bartlett has named the seventh of April as Bill Tiknis Day and Hanover Township Administration Center renamed their building the "Bill Tiknis Campus" at a ceremony attended by over 200 community members and leaders. He is a true living legend in the Village of Bartlett.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mr. Bill Tiknis as a wonderful example of citizenship and service and wishing him much success in his next chapter.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Fresno Historical Society's Civil War Revisited celebration, taking place on October 18–19, 2014.

On September 29–30, 1990, more than 10,000 visitors in Fresno's Kearney Park were able to travel back in time to witness four battles between Union and confederate soldiers that originally took place in 1864 near Atlanta, Georgia. Three hundred volunteers from throughout California were sponsored by the Civil War Reenactment Society to assemble and act in authentic Civil War battles complete with cannon volleys, musket fire, rebel yells, costumes, and charging horses.

These volunteers were educated in depth about the lives of the characters they portray, leaving visitors with a broader view of the times and lives of people during the time period. Such authenticity allowed the audience, and over 4,000 students to learn firsthand, vivid history lessons from conversations with soldiers in the 1864 setting.

Over the 25 years of its existence, Civil War Revisited has grown to be one of the largest civil war reenactments in the Western United States. So much so, that it is often referred to as "an American history class for thousands."

In 2001, the event expanded by adding a school day program called "Time Travelers at the Civil War." This program allows students to interact with historical figures such as President Lincoln, Clara Barton, Walt Whitman and Harriet Tubman. Additionally, they are able to speak with military re-enactors to learn about life as a part of the war effort, but they are also able to speak to blacksmiths and dress-makers in order to get a glimpse into day to day life in the era.

A unique component of the school day program is a play, featuring a cast of students who bring the voices of children of the Civil

War period to life, known as Readers' heater. Students often rehearse at school leading up to a performance during the Civil War reenactment. To date, the Time Travelers program has hosted 22,000 students from throughout the San Joaquin Valley since its establishment. This allows students to learn about history using a more interactive, unique perspective, as opposed to solely reading about the period in textbooks or watching videos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of the Fresno Historical Society in its 25 years of excellence in accurately reenacting such an important point in American history.

THE DEDICATION OF A BUST OF VÁCLAV HAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, Democrats and Republicans from both the House and Senate came together to dedicate a bust of former Czech President Václav Havel that will be displayed prominently in the U.S. Capitol building.

President Havel was both a playwright and a freedom fighter. His literary works artfully undermined the totalitarian Communist system under which Czechs languished from 1948–1989, and he co-founded the Charter 77 Movement that called out the Communist regime for human rights violations as well as the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted, which supported dissidents. He was among the leaders of the Velvet Revolution twenty-five years ago this month, which ended Communist rule and finally opened the door to democracy and freedom of expression.

To his credit, President Havel navigated the difficult process of fostering a democratic political culture in the Czech Republic's new institutions of government while instilling hope for the future in a people whose yearnings and optimism had been suppressed for a generation. In office, he oversaw the first free and fair elections in over four decades and worked to build friendly ties with nations that had been shunned by the Communist bloc. When he retired in 2003, the Czech Republic had developed a vibrant democracy, had joined NATO, and was on the cusp of entering the European Union.

Václav Havel died in 2011, but his legacy continues to inspire freedom fighters and democratic activists throughout the world. In an op-ed in the Washington Post earlier this week, Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy, wrote about Havel's affection for the United States and the values it embodies: "When he addressed a joint session of Congress just three months after the revolution, Havel spoke with deep feeling about his country's indebtedness to the United States, including for President Woodrow Wilson's great support for the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918, U.S. sacrifice and leadership in three wars—two hot and one cold—to save freedom in Europe, and the American founding documents that 'inspire us to be citizens.'" President Havel's advocacy on behalf of dissidents and freedom fighters

around the world created a forceful, universalist legacy.

President Havel once wrote: "The real test of a man is not how well he plays the role he has invented for himself, but how well he plays the role that destiny has assigned to him." Václav Havel passed that test in sharp contrast to another leader who today is failing it miserably.

Russian President Vladimir Putin came into office in 2000 with an opportunity and an obligation to help the people of his nation transition from the ills of Soviet Communism and foreign aggression to real democracy and peaceful coexistence with other nations. Sadly, over the past fourteen years he has sabotaged Russia's democratic transition by suppressing dissent, fostering a cult of personality, and pursuing violent and aggressive actions against Russia's neighbors.

This has been on full display over the past year in Ukraine, where one year ago courageous protesters gathered in Kiev's Maidan Square to reject Putin's attempts to pull their country closer into Russia's orbit and away from greater democracy and economic opportunity. The Maidan protests and the regime's violent response to them ushered in a new beginning for Ukrainian democracy, with free and fair elections held earlier this year. Unwilling to accept the decision the Ukrainian people have made about the future they want for their own nation, Putin's Russia has violated Ukraine's sovereignty by illegally annexing Crimea as well as sending troops and equipment across the border into southeastern Ukraine, much as it has done in the nation of Georgia.

Vladimir Putin could have used his leadership of Russia to meet the challenge history presented to him and his nation after the fall of Communism. Instead, he seeks to reverse the course of history through his desire to re-create an autocratic and expansionist Russian empire. Putin might have played the role destiny assigned him, but instead he crafted a character that will surely be remembered as one of the chief antagonists of our age—not only for the democratic world but for the Russian people who yearn to be part of it.

The world needs more leaders, philosophers, activists, and humble agents of positive change like Václav Havel, and not those like Vladimir Putin who subvert democracy and upend regional peace and security. I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to President Havel and remembering his extraordinary contributions to his nation, to Europe, and to the world.

CONGRATULATING HAMILTON
SOUTHEASTERN JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) Junior High School in Fishers, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the U.S. Department of Education, is

awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that HSE Junior High is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While 420 schools nationwide received nominations, only 287 were chosen as National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Serving more than 1,200 students in the 7th and 8th grades, HSE is one of the largest junior high schools in Indiana's 5th district. The high level of performance displayed by HSE students is undoubtedly a product of the community's dedication to educational excellence.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at HSE Junior High School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Hamilton Southeastern Junior High School. I am very proud of you.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION AND THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the partnership between the Economic Opportunities Commission and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. WIC provides care for women with low to medium income, who are pregnant or have a child who is less than five years old.

In 1968, CBS aired a documentary titled "Hunger in America," that shed light on widespread malnutrition across low income communities. The following year, the White House formed a council to address the issue and a recommendation stemming from the council was to focus on providing nutritional food and education to low income pregnant women and children.

When the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 was amended in 1972, the WIC was authorized as a pilot program for two years. The EOC was one of the agencies participating in the WIC as a pilot program, and they issued the first WIC vouchers in the state of California.

In 1975, the EOC established WIC as a permanent program based on the premise that

early intervention during critical times of growth and development can help prevent future medical and developmental problems. The Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program is a federally-funded health and nutrition program for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, post-partum and children under 5 years.

Throughout the years, the caseload of the EOC WIC has steadily risen to its present high of 37,500 participants. WIC consists of 72 staff members made up of Registered Dietitians, WIC Nutrition Assistants, Local Vendor Liaisons, Breastfeeding peer counselors, and administrative support staff.

The goal of WIC is to enhance the quality of life for women, infants and children by providing them with healthy food and the knowledge and opportunity to make healthy choices in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Women, Infants and Children has provided support for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under five years of age and their mothers for nearly 40 years, and they will continue to give them physical aid and knowledge to help improve the quality of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program in providing aid and support to mothers and children who are in need.

REMEMBERING CARL E. SANDERS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of former Governor of Georgia and Chairman Emeritus of Troutman Sanders LLP, Carl E. Sanders, and thank him for his service to country and community.

A Georgia native, Sanders excelled in athletics and attended the University of Georgia on a football scholarship. In 1943, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps to fight in World War II and served honorably as a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber pilot. After the war he completed his degree and entered the University of Georgia Law School. In 1947, he received his LL.B. degree, was admitted to the bar, and married Betty Bird Foy. They settled in Augusta, where their two children, Betty Foy and Carl Edward, Jr., were born.

Sanders's political career began in 1954 when he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and again two years later when he advanced to the State Senate. In 1962, Sanders became the first Georgia Governor elected by popular vote. At the time, he was the youngest governor in the country at 37. He substantially expanded and advanced transportation and education, and supported the Civil Rights movement in a place and in a time where the movement wasn't as popular.

After leaving the Governor's office in 1967, Sanders founded the law firm now known as Troutman Sanders LLP, which has grown into an international firm with more than 600 attorneys. Sanders managed the firm for 25 years and continued to serve the firm as Chairman Emeritus and as a partner—who continued to come to the office most days until his passing.

Sanders was a role model and community leader, his colleagues and friends will always

remember Sanders as a mentor and inspiration to Georgians and Americans everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Carl E. Sanders's wife of 67 years, Betty and the rest of his surviving friends and family during this most difficult of times.

THE U.S. AND UK HAVE A UNIQUE
BOND ACROSS THE POND

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Great Britain have come a long way since we overthrew the tyranny of King George and claimed independence, liberty and freedom. Today, both of our nations stand for those three words.

From the Nazis to the Soviets, throughout the 20th century our two countries have fought those who wanted to take away freedom from others.

That fight continues today. Our troops spilled blood together fighting al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. We oppose the mullahs in Iran that want to build a nuclear weapon and use terrorism to kill Americans and Britons in Iraq. We decry the anti-semitism at the UN. We beat back the aggression of the Russian bear. We fight for the freedom of the Internet. Pick almost any conflict around the world and Great Britain has our back.

We have nuclear agreements with lots of countries, but our agreement with the UK is the most comprehensive. That is fitting. It shows how deep our relationship runs.

H.R. 5681 would extend the U.S.-UK nuclear agreement, which has to be renewed every 10 years.

I am an original cosponsor of this bill because the UK is a strong ally of the United States. It is in the interest of the American people that the U.S. and UK continue to strengthen one another.

A RESOLUTION HONORING
MONSIGNOR FELIX S. DIOMARTICH

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following resolution:

Whereas Monsignor Felix S. Diomartich is the oldest priest in the City of Los Angeles and the Sibenik region of Croatia;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich was born on November 2, 1914 in Zlarin, Croatia making him 100 years old;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich is celebrating 77 years of service in the priesthood;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich began his life's journey at the parish of Vodice as the Associate Pastor;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich earned two doctorate degrees theology and church law at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy and obtained the title of the lawyer of the Sacra Romana Rota;

Whereas after Monsignor Diomartich came to the United States and served at three par-

ishes in the Archdiocese of New York before he was invited to serve at St. Anthony Croatian Church in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich served for 36 years as an administrator and as a pastor at St. Anthony Croatian Church;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich supported organizations such as the St. Ann's Altar Society for Women and the Holy Name Society for Men;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich founded two new societies for American-born young adults called the Anthonians and the St. Anthony's Women's Guild;

Whereas Monsignor Diomartich's other accomplishments at the parish include the St. Anthony's Annual Picnic Festival, the building of a new rectory, and remodeling and expanding the original parish hall;

Whereas Pope Paul VI awarded Monsignor Diomartich the title of Monsignor in 1978;

Whereas the Croatian National Association and Foundation awarded Monsignor Diomartich with its Lifetime Achievement award in 2008;

Whereas although Monsignor Diomartich has retired from its administration, he continues to reside at the St. Anthony Croatian Church, helping with masses and confessions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes that Monsignor Diomartich through his passion of spreading the word of God, has inspired and guided the residents of Los Angeles and has brought unity and pride to the Croatian community.

RECOGNIZING THE HOLY TRINITY
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
OF FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy Trinity) of Fresno, California in celebration of their 100th anniversary. Holy Trinity's service and dedication to bettering the quality of life in the Fresno community deserves to be recognized.

The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church that stands today on the corner of Ventura and "M" Street was constructed in 1914. It was the first church ever built in the tradition of Armenian Church architecture in the United States of America. The gorgeous brick church was designed by Fresno's first Armenian architect, Lawrence Karekin Cone. Upon its completion, a handful of soil delivered from the Monastery of St. Krikor the Illuminator Erzeroum, Armenia, was placed in the infrastructure. Additionally, sacred objects from St. James Monastery in Jerusalem were brought as a symbol to bridge the church with the homeland and Holy Land. Holy Trinity is the first and oldest Armenian Church in the western United States. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 31, 1986.

For the past 100 years, Holy Trinity has served the spiritual needs of Fresno's Armenian community. The church has a strong history of assisting the Armenian community by providing various services to those in need.

Most notably the church was essential to the lives of immigrants fleeing from fear of genocide by the hands of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. The church continued these charitable efforts by providing aid and services to displaced persons during World War II, after the fall of the Soviet Union, and wars in the Middle East.

Holy Trinity works daily to build upon a strong community. The social hall, Sunday school building, and Fresno's first Armenian day school are all resources used by individuals to connect with one another and demonstrate their faith. Holy Trinity's goal to keep the Armenian Apostolic tradition alive through service to the Armenian and Fresno community is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Fresno, California as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Holy Trinity's outstanding history and service to the Fresno Community deserves to be honored.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 14, 2014 I was not present to vote on H.R. 5682, legislation approving the Keystone XL Pipeline. Had I been present for roll call No. 519, I would have voted "YES."

HONORING RAFFAELA CICARELLI
ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to wish Raffaella Cicarelli a very happy 100th birthday! Rae, a cousin of my mother Luisa, has been a very special part of my family's life and today she joins my mom as a centenarian!

Rae's story is like that of many others of her generation. Born in Amalfi, Italy in November of 1914, her father left Italy for America when she was just a toddler. At the age of five, she, her mother and her uncle traveled to America to join him. Her family settled on Wooster Street in New Haven, Connecticut. Along with my grandparents, her parents ran Canestri's Pastry Shop above which both families lived.

Rae received her education at Dante and Columbus Schools in New Haven and when she was old enough to work, she was employed by Strouse Adler located in New Haven, making garment labels for brassieres and corsets. She worked at Strouse Adler for thirty-two years. And, much like my own mother, after working her day job, Rae would come home and work at the pastry shop as a sales person.

At just twenty-six years old, Rae married in St. Michael's Church in the heart of Wooster Square. After her wedding, she and her husband settled in a home on Lighthouse Road

and lived there for thirty-one years. She raised three children, two sons, Anthony and Albert, and one daughter, Joanne; and today she is the proud grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of another eight. After her husband passed away in 1979, Rae moved to Quinnipiac Avenue to live with her son.

When Rae was young, she enjoyed basketball and baseball. At 100 years young, Rae enjoys doing word search puzzles, and watching and listening to her television. She is involved in recreational activities such as exercise groups, special events, entertainment and playing games such as Bingo, Pokeno, trivia, Five-Card Bingo and more. She is very active and recreates independently, praying the rosary, and reading prayers daily.

Marking decades of hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in Rae's life. Over the years, she has witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress—indeed, she has lived through some of the most exciting times on our nation's history. I am honored to call her family and very proud to stand today to wish Raffaella Cicarelli a very happy 100th birthday! My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENE
DIGIROLAMO

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania State Representative Gene DiGirolamo of Bensalem Township has been honored for more than a decade of legislative work to combat drug and alcohol addiction in Bucks County and across our commonwealth. For his commitment, Representative DiGirolamo is being recognized by Steps to Recovery, a Bucks County behavioral health treatment center.

Amid rising problems of opiates, such as heroin, and abuse of prescription pain medications which have contributed to a sharp increase in drug overdose deaths, Representative DiGirolamo has remained an outspoken advocate in the fight against these trends.

His legislative advocacy led to Senate Bill 1182, the "Good Samaritan" law. This law includes provisions that give families and all emergency personnel access to the life-saving drug, Narcan, which is used to counteract the deadly effects of a drug overdose. In Pennsylvania, the law also allows fire and police personnel to have Narcan on hand for a drug overdose emergency.

Therefore, I congratulate my friend Representative DiGirolamo for his dedication, compassion and outstanding leadership and wish him continued success.

RECOGNIZING ERNA'S
ELDERBERRY HOUSE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erna Kubin-Clanin, proprietress and

chef of Erna's Elderberry House Restaurant. Erna's Elderberry House is a small town treasure located in Oakhurst, California.

In 1982, Erna purchased a nine acre property for the restaurant. In the beginning, she had to overcome a few challenges, but in 1983, construction began, and the following year, the doors opened for Erna's Elderberry House. Now, on October 19, 2014, she is celebrating the restaurant's 30th anniversary.

Erna takes pride not only in the food she prepares, but also in the annual events that she holds, such as "A Night in Vienna" and Erna's signature "Elderberry Harvest Dinner." These events, along with the delicious meals she prepares daily, are the reason why so many tourists from Yosemite National Park and the surrounding areas make sure to visit the notable restaurant.

Guests continue to return to the restaurant to experience the quality of food and service. Only the freshest and most pristine ingredients from local Central Valley farms are purchased for the unique cuisine that is on the menu. They also work with the Maitre'd Hotel to ensure flawless service and hospitality and with the Cellar Master to create an extraordinary wine list, which complements the menu each evening.

For more than fifteen years, the restaurant has maintained the Elderberry House Cooking School. It provides knowledge of the culinary arts to its patrons and transforms the restaurant into a creative arena where inspired cooks can develop their skills under the guidance of the executive chef.

Continuing upon her culinary dreams, Erna opened the enchanting Chateau du Sureau in 1991, the elegant Villa Sureau in 1999, and the magical Spa du Sureau in October 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 30 years of outstanding culinary experience created by Ms. Erna Kubin-Clanin. She has undoubtedly made lasting contributions to the San Joaquin Valley and the entire state of California.

BERGEN 350TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Penelope, the leading international women's organization dedicated to promoting the ideals of ancient Greece. Founded, November 16th 1929 in San Francisco, California the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the wellbeing of women through community service and volunteerism. Especially, I would like to honor the Daughters of Penelope District 5 who represent chapters in New Jersey for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of women across our great state.

Nationally, one example of the great work done by the Daughters of Penelope can be found in the Penelope House, a shelter for battered women in Mobile, Alabama. The Penelope House focuses on the prevention of domestic violence through education and public awareness. The Penelope House helps victims of intimate partner violence to gain social

and economic independence through shelter, counseling, and advocacy.

Clearly, the Daughters of Penelope deserves our recognition and support as they continue to expand the opportunities, status and well-being of women and their families around the globe. Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope on reaching such a milestone and I look forward to continuing to see the charitable efforts of such a dedicated group of people.

RECOGNIZING THE FRESNO AREA
HISPANIC FOUNDATION FOR
BEING NAMED 2014 CHAMBER OF
THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation for being selected as the 2014 Chamber of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation (FAHF), a member of the national Hispanic Chamber, was selected from more than 200 chambers for their exceptional service and commitment to promoting and supporting Hispanic businesses in the region. The award was announced at the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's national convention in Salt Lake City.

The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, led by President/CEO Dora Westerlund, was founded in 2001 by a group of business owners determined to find effective and engaging ways to address the needs of a dynamic and emerging population. The FAHF, which is the only Hispanic Foundation west of the Mississippi to own its facility—The Downtown Business Hub, has evolved into a one-stop shop that offers an array of resources ranging from networking opportunities to micro-loan programs. In addition, the FAHF offers bilingual workshops on small business lending and courses on business licenses, market research, operations management, and financial statements, to name a few.

The FAHF also has a very strong philanthropic presence in the San Joaquin Valley. Since its inception, the FAHF has focused on assisting underserved families in the region by providing academic scholarships and personal enrichment activities. Through their scholarship program, the FAHF has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships, and their Lend-A-Hand program provides over 600 parents and 350 children with free food and toys during the holidays. Additionally, the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, in conjunction with the Mexican Consulate in Fresno, established the Plaza Comunitaria in 2003, which touches the lives of local children and families through the center's annual events and fundraisers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation for being selected as the 2014 Chamber of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Their unwavering dedication to the success and growth of Hispanic businesses in the San Joaquin Valley and their work to enrich the lives of local families is truly commendable. The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation has served as a catalyst for economic

growth and sets the standard for Chambers of Commerce throughout the nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
NOVEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD-106

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine improving financial institution supervision, focusing on addressing regulatory capture.

SD-538

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Scher, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, Elissa Slotkin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, David J. Berneau, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SH-216