

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE  
JANUARY 8, 2011 TUCSON SHOOT-  
ING

**HON. MARTHA MCSALLY**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, four years ago, our community was shaken to its core by an act of senseless violence that took the lives of six of our own and wounded thirteen others. They were our friends, neighbors, and loved ones. Our community still carries the enduring pain of their loss but also the bright recollection of their lives and memories.

We remember the victims and what they came to do that day: speak with their elected representative. We remember the selfless acts of bravery and love by those who put themselves in harm's way, even giving their own lives to save others. We remember how the city of Tucson came together, in grief and consolation, to move forward with a spirit of compassion and strength that was felt across the nation.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families and loved ones of those lost or wounded, who carry the pain of what happened on that quiet Saturday each and every day. We are inspired by their courage; made stronger by their strength.

Today, as the bells ring out from the University of Arizona and in the moments of silence that follow, our community, united and strong, proclaims with one voice: we will never forget those we lost.

Christina Taylor Green  
Dorothy Morris  
John Roll  
Phyllis Schneck  
Dorwan Stoddard  
Gabriel "Gabe" Zimmerman

HONORING DYLAN LEE WISDOM

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dylan Lee Wisdom. Dylan 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 1900, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dylan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dylan 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, Dylan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dylan Lee Wisdom for his ac-

complishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FATHER LOUIS LOHAN

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Father Louis Lohan upon the occasion of his retirement from active priesthood with the Diocese of Biloxi after 43 years of service.

Father Lohan, a native of Ireland, was ordained a priest in June of 1971 and traveled to the United States in August of the same year to join the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi.

A man of unwavering faith and commitment to serve, Father Lohan was appointed as Pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Long Beach, Mississippi, where he has served for the last 21 years.

While appointed as Pastor, Father Lohan was influential in the restoration efforts of the church, office complex, community center, and elementary school after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina destroyed them all.

Prior to his tenure in Long Beach, Father Lohan served at other churches along the Gulf Coast as well as overseas in Saltillo, Mexico.

His humble spirit and encouraging demeanor has been an asset, not only to his parishioners, but to the community as a whole.

I would like to send Father Louis Lohan my congratulations on the legacy he has left. He has touched the lives of thousands, and he will never be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

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 \$18,097,814,959,110.13. We've added \$7,470,937,910,197.05 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF 21ST CENTURY  
SAFEHOUSE PROGRAM

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 21st Century Educational Safehouse Pro-

gram for providing high-quality, innovative programming for the at-risk youth in Lexington, Kentucky since 2010.

The 21st Century Educational Safehouse Program is an after-school program, coordinated by The Martin Luther King Academy, within the Fayette County Public School System, that provides a safe, drug-free environment for the most vulnerable youth in Fayette County. The program serves all middle and high school students in the district at three community based program sites. It also includes at-risk students from private, parochial, and homeschools located in Fayette County.

To date, the 21st Century Educational Safehouse has served nearly 3,000 students. Students are recommended for the program by their school's Youth Service Center, Social Worker, Counselor, and/or community partner. The program's curriculum focuses on a variety of issues including, tutoring, mentoring, educational enrichment, STEM, college/career preparation, and the arts. Students show remarkable improvement in the areas of behavior, character, and academic ability at the conclusion of the year-long program. Our community benefits greatly from the program's passion for pro-actively educating the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 21st Century Educational Safehouse Program's dedication to ensuring a brighter future for the at-risk youth in Fayette County. This program's positive impact on our community and our Commonwealth is far-reaching and I commend them for their honorable mission.

HONORING MS. BETTY BERRY

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Ms. Betty Berry. Ms. Berry was a beloved mother, daughter, and friend. With her passing on October 26, we look to Ms. Berry's personal legacy of leadership, service, and the outstanding quality of her life's work.

Born on December 21, 1932, Ms. Berry dedicated her life to community service and activism in the city of Oakland, California. She received numerous accolades for her leadership and service to the community.

A longtime friend of Ronald V. Dellums, she led fundraising efforts that helped him get elected to the United States House of Representatives numerous times and was a staunch supporter of him during his time as Mayor of Oakland.

For all of her work supporting organization dedicated to equality, Ms. Berry was known as the consummate fundraiser. She was famous for her annual "100 Men Cooking for a Taste of Freedom" event, which raised money for the National Association for the Advancement

• 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.

of Colored People (NAACP) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

Additionally, she was a staunch advocate for workers represented by the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

On a personal note, Betty was a dear friend for many years. She supported all of my efforts for elected office and constantly encouraged me. This community will miss Betty's physical presence but will always cherish wonderful memories and the results of her hard work.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Ms. Betty Berry. Her dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the state of California. I join all of Betty's loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING ANDREW JOHN  
STOCKMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew John Stockman. Andrew 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 394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew 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, Andrew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HEALTH SPENDING RISES ONLY  
MODESTLY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article.

[From the New York Times]

(By Robert Pear)

WASHINGTON.—Spending on health care in the United States grew in 2013 at the lowest rate since the federal government began tracking it in 1960, the Obama administration said Wednesday.

It was the fifth straight year of exceptionally small increases in the closely watched indicator. The data defied critics who had said such slow growth would not continue for long once the recession ended in mid-2009.

Health spending totaled \$2.9 trillion last year, up 3.6 percent from 2012, the administration said. The share of the economy de-

voted to health care, which appeared to be growing inexorably for decades, has been the same since 2009.

“The 3.6 percent increase in 2013 is the lowest increase on record in the national health expenditures going back to 1960,” said Micah B. Hartman, a statistician at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and lead author of the report, published in the journal *Health Affairs*. “The next lowest increase was 3.8 percent in 2009. These rates are within the range of the recent low rates of growth in health care spending, between 3.6 and 4.1 percent from 2009 to 2013.”

Spending for health care in 2013 averaged \$9,255 a person, government economists and statisticians reported. Health spending grew at about the same pace as the economy and accounted for 17.4 percent of the gross domestic product, which reflects the total output of goods and services.

Among factors restraining the growth of health spending, the administration pointed to new limits on Medicare payments to hospitals and health maintenance organizations; automatic across-the-board cuts in federal spending required by a 2011 law; and the proliferation of high-deductible health insurance plans, which tend to discourage the use of care by requiring consumers to pay more of the cost.

Faster growth in Medicaid spending offset some of the slow-down in spending by Medicare and private insurance in 2013, officials said. The 2013 figures did not show the effects of major expansions in coverage that took effect this year.

Moreover, the data did not answer a question hotly debated by health policy experts and economists: whether the recent slow-down in health spending was attributable to aftereffects of the recession or to cost-control features of the Affordable Care Act, signed by President Obama in 2010. The civil servants who wrote the report said some provisions of the law “exerted downward pressure” on health spending while others “exerted upward pressure.”

“The key question is whether health spending growth will accelerate once economic conditions improve significantly,” the report said. “Historical evidence suggests that it will.”

Marilyn B. Tavenner, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the report was “another piece of evidence that our efforts to reform the health care delivery system are working.”

Retail sales of prescription drugs totaled \$271 billion last year, accounting for 9.3 percent of all health spending. This proportion has not increased substantially in recent years, but it results from two divergent trends: an increase in the use of high-cost specialty drugs and greater use of low-cost generic medicines.

“Higher prices for specialty drugs were due in part to expensive new medicines—in particular, those used to treat multiple sclerosis and cancer—as well as more rapid price increases for existing specialty drugs,” Mr. Hartman said. “Although specialty drugs accounted for less than 1 percent of prescriptions dispensed, they represented almost 28 percent of total pharmacy-related prescription drug spending in 2013.”

At the same time, the report said, the share of prescriptions filled with generic drugs climbed to 80 percent in 2013, up from 73 percent in 2011.

Under the Affordable Care Act, federal and state officials review insurance rates to identify “unreasonable increases in premiums,” and the government requires insurers to spend at least 80 percent of premium revenue on medical care and quality improvement activities. These provisions helped hold down health spending, the report said.

The government reported lower use of inpatient and outpatient hospital services in 2013, coinciding with requirements for patients to share more of the cost under some types of insurance.

For example, the report said, “the average patient cost-sharing charge per day increased 19.5 percent in 2013, while the average cost-sharing for an outpatient surgery episode increased by 10 percent.”

Over all, the report said, medical prices increased just 1.3 percent in 2013, slightly less than prices in the general economy. Prices for doctors' services increased less than one-tenth of 1 percent, the smallest change since 2002, and prices for home health care services declined. While Medicare spending for doctors' services increased 2.5 percent last year, Medicaid payments to doctors increased 14.9 percent, mainly because of a temporary increase in payment rates for primary care doctors treating Medicaid beneficiaries.

Medicare, for older Americans and people with disabilities, and Medicaid, for low-income people, accounted for more than one-third of all health spending.

TRIBUTE TO COLUMBIA CHAPTER  
OF MOLES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Columbia Chapter of Moles as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The Moles is a national organization of professional women that strives to promote the civic and social welfare of its members. The Columbia Moles was sponsored for membership in the national body by the Charlotte, North Carolina Chapter and was chartered on January 16, 1965 as the 19th of what are currently 30 chapters.

Incorporated in 1950, The Moles seeks to distinguish itself from similar social and civic organizations by supporting its national and local projects without public solicitation or fundraising. The Moles' 30 chapters are located in 16 states and the District of Columbia. Each chapter meets monthly, and a National Conclave is held annually.

As energetic, talented, and productive women who meet regularly to engage in organized social activities and sisterly exchanges of ideas, they have demonstrated great vision and leadership for five decades. However, the true foundation of The Moles' success is its enduring sisterhood which has been indelibly forged in mutual love and respect.

Their motto, “enjoy yourself, it's later than you think,” reflects the primary purposes of The Moles: to individually and collectively enhance the social graces while pursuing educational opportunities and to enhance the civic welfare of its members.

Since 1965, The Columbia Chapter has fulfilled these purposes through its elegant social events for members and guests, including fellowship-filled monthly meetings and its renowned Labor Day Weekend retreats. The chapter also honors historic community leaders through the presentation of national Moles Resolutions and local recognition. The Columbia Chapter also makes annual contributions to numerous charitable and service organizations as part of the National Conclave.

The Moles currently sponsors two four-year scholarships to deserving students who are

competitively selected. The first scholarship was established in 1968 following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is appropriately named the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship. In 2007, a second four-year scholarship was established and named The Moles Scholarship. It is a great honor that the Columbia Chapter's 2013 nominee, Mr. Lindsey Hallingquest, received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship. Lindsey, a Columbia, South Carolina native, is currently a sophomore at Duke University.

I am particular enamored with their creed, which was authored by Mole Madeline T. Peters: "There is a destiny that makes us sisters, None goes her way alone; all that we send into the lives of others, comes back into our own. Care not what our temples or our creeds; one thing holds firm and fast, that in our fateful heap of days and deeds, the soul of man is cast."

Mr. Speaker, The Moles have enriched the lives of many and continue to make outstanding contributions to our society in a wide range of fields. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating them on this major milestone.

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HONORING ROYCE HICKMAN

**HON. BILL FLORES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Royce Hickman, an outstanding individual who has been serving as President/CEO of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce since 1998.

Royce has held a number of high profile positions throughout his business career. He is a past member of the Executive Committee of the Texas Association of Business. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Just recently, Royce was presented with the 2014 Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives. He was awarded this recognition for his leadership as chairman of the state organization. During his time as Chairman he led the organization towards its current thriving position.

Royce is a past Chairman of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, a past president of the friends of the Sterling C. Evans library and in 2007 was presented with the International Excellence Award in the Community by Texas A&M University. He currently serves on the George Bush School of Government and Public Services Development Council, the Texas A&M Career Center Advisory Council and the Bush School Public Service Organization Advisory Board. He also serves on the local March of Dimes Board and on several committees at his Church.

Royce is a great asset to the Brazos Valley. His service to our community has helped it grow and prosper. He has shown tremendous dedication and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. Most importantly, he has been a committed husband to his wife, Mary, and a nurturing leader for his children and grandchildren.

Today we are thrilled to recognize and honor Royce Hickman's devotion, dedication

and loyalty to our nation, our state, our community, and his family.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I ask everyone to continue to pray for our country and for our military men and women that protect it.

God bless the United States of America.

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HONORING MELISSA JOANNE ROE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a special member of my staff. After more than ten years of service, Melissa Joanne Roe will be leaving her post in my Kansas City District Office.

As a driven person and political leader in Jefferson City, Melissa began working in my District Office in 2004 and was immediately an important asset for my office. While with the office, she held many leadership roles and is ending her prominent career as my District Director. Melissa oversaw crucial issues such as transportation, river logistics and appropriations.

Melissa could be depended on to keep my offices running efficiently and represent me at meetings when I was away in Washington. Melissa has also been instrumental in helping the various towns in my district to grow and prosper through the dedication to the district. Through earmarks, she was able to successfully establish growing businesses, make roads safer and strengthen communities. Melissa was also tireless in making sure my offices worked together in serving the people of the Sixth Congressional District. Her outstanding work and immense knowledge is incomparable.

I have received many kind words from constituents praising the outstanding service Melissa has provided. Her professionalism and dedication to this office and my constituents was a great example of how government should work. She would often work nights and weekends, while time and again going beyond her job description, all without complaint. While I am losing a valuable member of my team, I am excited for Melissa to begin the next chapter of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking Melissa Joanne Roe for her many years of service to the people of the Sixth Congressional District. I know Melissa's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking her for her commitment to others and wishing her best of luck in all her endeavors and many years of success to come.

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HONORING THE WORK OF BERT ISACKSON

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bert Isackson, who was recently nominated for the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating Americans who volunteer 4000 or more hours of their time. Mr. Isackson was honored for his extraordinary work at the

Blaine Food Bank in Blaine, Washington. Additionally, he received plaques from the City of Blaine and the Volunteer Center of Whatcom County, honoring his decades of work.

Mr. Isackson worked as a commercial fisherman until his retirement, but has continued volunteering at the food bank that he and his wife founded more than 40 years ago. Even though Mr. Isackson recently celebrated his 100th birthday on December 8, 2014, he still dedicates four days each week to preparing coffee for volunteers and organizing materials for pick-up and distribution.

The Blaine Food Bank serves between 375 and 400 families weekly, distributing 75,000 pounds of food each month. Mr. Isackson's commitment is an inspiration to the food bank's 25 volunteers and the community alike. At the time of the food bank's founding, Mr. Isackson was one of few community members who recognized the need for a food bank in the Blaine community. This award recognizes Mr. Isackson's invaluable contributions to the Blaine area, and I am grateful that he plans to continue his valuable work.

I want to congratulate Bert Isackson on his well-deserved recognition, and I thank him for his tremendous commitment to the entire community of Whatcom County.

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UNITED STATES-CUBAN RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to begin by saluting Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for hosting this Special Order, as well as her three decades of advocating for the normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba; and to Congressman SAM FARR for devoting years of service to this issue, and working with so many individuals and organizations to bring down the walls of division between the two countries.

On December 17, 2014, President Obama announced a major prisoner exchange with the Cuban government. Alan Gross, a USAID contractor who had been held captive for five years was finally reunited with his family, as were three Cuban intelligence agents who had been imprisoned in the U.S. since 1998. Rolando Sarraff Trujillo, a cryptographer in Cuba's Directorate of Intelligence who reportedly provided information to the FBI, was also freed in the prisoner exchange.

This announcement was highly significant and it is historic as well.

In a televised address that followed the exchange, the President announced a major shift in U.S. policy toward Cuba: the reestablishment of diplomatic relations that were severed in 1961, thus drawing a curtain on many of the provisions of the longest standing embargo in U.S. history. The President stated that while the embargo was rooted in the "best intentions," it ultimately failed in its goal to incite change in the communist government and has only served to isolate and hurt the Cuban people.

I continue to harbor deep concerns about the reported human rights abuses in Cuba and limitations of speech and political expression,

but it is clear that our current policy has failed to end these practices.

So just how will these policy changes positively affect the Cuban people and the United States?

Remittances from the U.S. are a vital resource to millions of Cubans and to humanitarian projects in Cuba. Between \$1.4 and \$2 billion in remittances are transferred from the U.S. to Cuba each year, often from Cubans who immigrated to the U.S. to seek new opportunity. Cubans rely on this money to pay for food, monthly electricity bills, or for the daily expenses of life. And humanitarian projects receiving this aid provide food, clean water, essential infrastructure and education to Cubans. When the average monthly salary in Cuba is a mere \$20, the significance of this transfer of money comes into full view. Limits on remittances have stifled real progress, and raising these limits from \$500 to \$2,000 per quarter will usher in a new wave of much needed aid to counter the Cuban government's infliction of serious harm to the well-being of its people.

Despite harsh government regulations, Cuba does have a nascent burgeoning private sector economy. I saw this firsthand last year when I visited Cuba as part of a Congressional delegation. During the trip, I participated in a roundtable with a number of Cuban female entrepreneurs to hear their concerns and discuss what can be done to support their efforts to create new business. I believe this shift in U.S.-Cuba relations will act as a healthy seed for entrepreneurial growth in Cuba. From authorizing expanded commercial sales and exports, to facilitating an expansion of travel to Cuba from the U.S., we will do more to empower the Cuban people than we have in the over 50-year embargo.

Today, Cuba imports approximately 80 percent of its food, a stunning statistic. American agriculture has long supported an opening of relations and now Cuba's economy will be bolstered and this in turn will bring enormous value to American farmers.

Even more empowering is an emboldening tool of democratization, the Internet. As we've seen in countless other countries around the world, the Internet is an individual's megaphone. It is the place for discourse. For collaboration. For free speech. For democracy! By extending telecommunications and technology services to Cuba, the Cuban people will have access to a tremendous exchange of knowledge and ideas with unparalleled power to inspire change.

These efforts by the U.S. are not exhaustive. Only our vigilance and continued assessment of our relations with Cuba will provoke lasting change for Cubans. But it is also imperative for Latin American countries to reinvigorate their ties with Cuba's civil and political leaders. Democratic Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Brazil, can send a strong signal of support to the Cuban Democratic movement by reinvigorating their relations with Cuba, just as the U.S. is doing.

I have supported a change in U.S.-Cuba policy since I was elected to Congress in 1992, and I welcome and celebrate the decision of the President to make this a reality. It's very exciting to look forward to heralding a new era of opportunity and democratic values for Cuba, a pragmatic partnership with the U.S., support from other Latin American countries, and the abandonment of oppression of

the Cuban people by the U.S. embargo, as well as the Cuban government itself.

IN RECOGNITION OF H&H  
RESTAURANT IN MACON, GEORGIA

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize H&H Soul Food at 807 Forsyth Street in Macon, Georgia. The popular Southern restaurant has been named the "most iconic restaurant in Georgia" by Thrillist.com, a website that specializes in food, beverage, and entertainment.

In order to earn this honorable designation, a restaurant must have been in existence for at least 30 years, and yet still maintain its popularity among its clients. In other words, title winners not only survive the test of time, but they do so while remaining an "icon" in the community. H&H effectively does both.

The restaurant traces its roots all the way back to the civil rights era, when owners Inez Hill and Louise Hudson, known affectionately as Mama Hill and Mama Louise, first opened the doors in 1959. They have been serving Southern classics ever since, with crowd pleasers such as fried chicken, peach cobbler, and of course, sweet tea.

Historically, the eatery was frequented by prominent musical figures such as The Allman Brothers Band, Wet Willie, and the Molly Hatchet Band. Legend has it that The Allman Brothers Band in their early years did not have enough money to pay for the food but Mama Louise took care of them anyway. She continued to serve other Southern musicians over the years and the restaurant also became a common meeting place for influential civil rights activists, including members and officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Adding to its list of modern celebrities and change-makers, H&H even welcomed a visit from Oprah Winfrey in 2007.

Co-Founder Inez Hill passed away that very same year, and the restaurant suffered a brief closing at the end of 2013. Nevertheless, H&H overcame adversity and recovered successfully from financial difficulty with the assistance of Macon's Moonhanger Group. The restaurant is thriving again today and continues to welcome its regular patrons as well as new guests from all over. H&H's enduring imprint on Macon's landscape bears tribute to its lasting influence and historic renown in the hearts of the people of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the iconic H&H restaurant in Macon, Georgia for its rich history, its perseverance, and its dedication to serving the community the most delicious soul food around.

ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO H.R.

30

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters.

JANUARY 7, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association, and the students they serve, we urge you to vote NO on the Save American Workers Act of 2015 (H.R. 30), scheduled for a floor vote this week. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 114th Congress.

We oppose the bill because we believe it would create a disincentive for employers to provide health care coverage, negatively impacting employer-sponsored health insurance and harming families, children and educators who need coverage.

We believe that the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) shared responsibility for employers, sometimes referred to as the employer penalty, supports the overall goal of expanding quality, affordable coverage to all Americans.

We are concerned that this bill's changes to the ACA's definition of what constitutes full-time employment from "on average at least 30 hours of service per week" monthly to an average of 40 hours per week monthly would adversely affect overall employer-sponsored health coverage. That change would make a shift towards part-time employment much more likely. Employers could respond by cutting employees' hours to under an average of 40 per week to avoid possible shared responsibility penalties and could eliminate coverage for these employees without fear of penalties.

The result of a cut in employee hours would be substantially less employer-sponsored health coverage—and as a result, a potentially large increase in federal spending for the premium tax credits that many low- and moderate-income people will receive under health reform to help them buy coverage through a health insurance marketplace (exchange). Employers and employees would also face a complex new administrative burden as they tried to determine which employees paid on a salaried basis fell above or below the 40-hour mark; salaried school employees' exact hours of service are generally not counted the same way as hourly employees' hours, but tallying their in-school and out-of-school hours would suddenly become issues of concern to employers interested in avoiding penalties.

Additionally if employment-based coverage is reduced, an even greater number of low-income individuals and their families in the 23 states that have failed to expand Medicaid would be unable to afford to buy health coverage. In those states, childless adults whose incomes fall below 100 percent of the federal poverty line would not only be denied access to Medicaid coverage, but they would be ineligible for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions through a health insurance marketplace. Moving the full-time definition from 30 hours to 40 hours, as this bill does, would only expand the number of people hurt by this coverage gap.

We believe H.R. 30 misses the mark by substituting "40 hours" for "30 hours" because it would do nothing to stop employers' misuse of the ACA's employer penalty provisions as a justification for cutting employees' hours of service and health coverage. Experience with this portion of the ACA shows that one of the biggest implementation challenges in the education sector consists of making sure that employers and other health plan sponsors fully understand the law's provisions related to shared responsibility for employers. For years, we have engaged with the Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service to ensure that regulations on shared responsibility for employers work consistently well in the education sector, and believe regulators have taken important steps in this direction.

The changes contemplated in this bill, however, would simply shift the hours-related context in which these common errors take place:

Mistakenly believing that the only way to avoid employer penalties is to cut employees' hours to under 30 a week or to under six hours a day. In fact, school calendars include so many unpaid days during the school year—for spring break, winter break, federal holidays, and other such times—that hourly employees can normally work more than 6 hours a day without ever being considered a full-time employee.

Misunderstanding how and when to use proposed regulations related to an optional hours-counting method called the look-back measurement method. It's unfortunate that some school employers wrongly blame the look-back measurement method for limiting their hours-counting options when regulations recognize four different ways that employers can calculate whether an employee is a full-timer or not.

Overestimating the potential cost of complying with the law's provisions on shared responsibility for employers. Regulations include many ways that employers can minimize or even avoid penalties, but some employers fail to factor these options into their analyses, so they exaggerate and often incorrectly state the potential for penalties.

Failing to incorporate into their decision-making the statutory and regulatory provisions that ensure that this part of the ACA establishes the possibility of a penalty on large employers rather than an "employer mandate." Just like before the ACA became law, there is no federal law that requires employers to offer coverage to employees. Many large employers will not face penalties at all, or will face smaller penalties than they initially thought.

These and other ACA-implementation errors can lead to exaggerated responses that hurt students, workers, and families alike. Unfortunately, H.R. 30 would just shift the hours-related focal point for such errors.

Employers who take the time to understand the law and regulations as they currently stand can develop common sense, constructive, and consensual approaches to properly implementing the law. Again, we urge you to vote NO on Save American Workers Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

MARY KUSLER,

Director of Government Relations.

SAVE HEALTH CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES—  
OPPOSE H.R. 30

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) opposes H.R. 30, the Save American Workers Act and urge you to vote against it. We believe the Act will make middle-class workers worse off by decreasing access to employer-sponsored health insurance.

Recent analysis by the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation confirms our expectations. CBO and JCT estimate that the number of people who currently receive employment-based health care coverage will be reduced by 1 million as a result of this bill. An estimated 500,000 to 1 million workers and their dependents will be pushed by employers onto Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or subsidized coverage through the health insurance exchanges. Up to 500,000 will be left without coverage at all.

By pushing workers and their dependents from employer-sponsored plans to federal health programs, this Act will increase the federal budget deficit. The CBO estimates an increase to the budget deficit of \$53.2 billion over ten years as a result in the change in definition of full-time hours as proposed in

the Act. That includes \$21.4 billion in new spending for exchange subsidies and outlays for Medicaid and CHIP.

The CBO and JCT assume that employers will increase wages in exchange for eliminating health coverage, but our experience at the bargaining table contradicts this theory. In this continually weak labor market, employers have sought every opportunity to cut benefits and block wage increases. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities found that changing the full-time hour definition to 40-hours would make 44% of US workers vulnerable to a reduction in hours. We believe these workers would not receive a commensurate increase in wages.

We believe Congress should help American workers and their families improve their standard of living. H.R. 30 will undermine that goal by reducing paid work hours and cutting health coverage.

The Communications Workers of America urges you to vote no on H.R. 30.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, 2015 I missed recorded votes #1–7 as I was attending the funeral of Governor Mario Cuomo in New York.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here and sworn into office:

On Roll Call #2 I would have voted for NANCY PELOSI for Speaker.

On Roll Call #3 I would have voted no (Motion to Table).

On Roll Call #4 I would have voted no (Previous Question).

On Roll Call #5 I would have voted yes (Motion to Commit).

On Roll Call #6 I would have voted no (Passage of House Rules Package).

On Roll Call #7 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 22—Hire More Heroes Act of 2015).

THE TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015 (H.R. 26) AND SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT OF 2015 (H.R. 30)

### HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House voted on the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015, H.R. 26, and today, the House will consider the Save American Worker's Act of 2015, H.R. 30.

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 amends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program through December 31, 2020, and revises certain requirements of the program. It also establishes the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers (NARAB), which will have the authority to license insurance agents and brokers to operate in multiple states. The House passed this bill on December 10, 2014, by a vote of

417–7. However, because the Senate did not act on the House passed bill before the end of the 113th Congress, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program expired on December 31, 2014.

The Save American Workers Act of 2015 changes the definition of "full time employee" as applied to the Affordable Care Act's (Obamacare) employer mandate. This will prevent small businesses from reducing employee hours solely because they cannot afford to comply with the Obamacare mandate. The House passed this bill on September 16, 2014, by a vote of 320–102.

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 increases direct spending in the budget year as well as over the ten-year budget window, bringing the Committee on Financial Services over its 302(a) allocation in the first year and over ten years, violating section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA). Additionally, the bill violates the House's "Cut As You Go" rule (Rule XXI, clause 10) by increasing direct spending over the relevant enforcement time periods, without being offset by direct spending cuts of equal or greater value.

The spending increases in this bill are fully offset through a surcharge on commercial property and casualty policyholders and NARAB fees, and the bill as a whole provides deficit reduction over the relevant enforcement time periods. As a result, I did not oppose a waiver of section 302(f) of the CBA and the "Cut As You Go" rule for consideration of this bill on this occasion.

The Save American Workers Act of 2015 also increases direct spending in the budget year and over the ten-year budget window, violating section 302(f) of the CBA and the House's "Cut As You Go" rule (Rule XXI, clause 10). The bill also reduces revenues over the ten-year budget window, violating section 311 of the CBA. Because the revenue loss results from a repeal of Obamacare tax increases, and the bill increases cash wages and opportunities for workers, I support granting a waiver of sections 302(f) and 311 of the CBA and the "Cut as You Go" rule for consideration of this bill on this occasion.

However, my lack of opposition to these waivers should not be interpreted as a willingness to support similar waivers in the future. Budget enforcement is among my top priorities for the 114th Congress. As we move into the 114th Congress and begin drafting new legislation, it is my intention to ensure compliance with the CBA and House Rules as they apply to budget enforcement and the budget resolution in effect at the time of enforcement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 6th, 2015, I was unavoidably detained due to ongoing issues surrounding the health of my youngest daughter in Minnesota.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #2, I would have expressed my support for Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI of California to be Speaker of the House.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #3, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #4, I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #5, I would have voted Yay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #6 (On Agreeing to the Resolution), I would have voted Nay. I have strong objections to the Rules adopted by the House for the 114th Congress.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #7, I would have voted Yay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #8, I would have voted Yay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #9, I would have voted Yay.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call #10, I would have voted Yay.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF  
KENNETH WESLEY JONES AND  
SUSAN DIANE YOUNG JONES

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion—the 40th wedding anniversary of Kenneth Wesley Jones and Susan Diane Young Jones.

Ken was born on September 6th and Susan was born on November 15th both in 1955. The two met while attending Oxford High School. Mr. Jones was 18 years old and Mrs. Jones was 17 years old when they started dating. After eight months together, they got engaged on April 4th, 1974 and were married eight months later at Coldwater United Methodist Church at three o'clock in the afternoon on December 7th, 1974.

Ken was an athlete in high school and played basketball, baseball, football and was a member of the wrestling team. He even earned a scholarship to play baseball. Susan was involved in fashion and design and was Miss Oxford. She also earned a scholarship for fashion design. Susan owned a clothing boutique and made clothes. Instead of going to college, the couple decided to stay in Oxford, Alabama, so they could begin their love story.

The Jones are blessed with two children and four grandchildren: John Wesley (Wes) Jones who was born on April 4th, 1980 and Kasi Louise Jones who was born on March 16th, 1982. Wes is married to Amanda Mullinax Jones and they have twin daughters Kayleigh and Kensley. Kasi is married to Samuel Duke Brown and they also have twins, Talon and Sophia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this lovely couple on 40 years together.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS  
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF  
STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW R.  
AMMERMAN

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of a true American hero,

Staff Sergeant Matthew R. Ammerman. Tragically, on December 3, 2014, Sergeant Ammerman was killed when his unit came under fire in the Zabul province of Afghanistan. I, along with people from across the United States, stand in eternal gratitude for the dedication, service and sacrifice of this young man.

A native of Noblesville, Indiana, Ammerman joined the Army in July 2004. He was deployed in 2006 to Iraq, where he served for 14 months. In 2009, he served as an assistant gunner, fire team leader and squad leader in Afghanistan. In 2012, he volunteered for the Special Forces and graduated in 2013 as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant. Sergeant Ammerman again answered the call of duty in late 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His many awards are a testament to the exceptional character of this incredibly talented and immensely brave young man. His accomplishments include the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal. He also received the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Ammerman will forever be remembered as a man willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice to defend the freedoms that we so cherish. Staff Sergeant Ammerman is survived by his wife, Emily Ammerman, his aunt and uncle, Dave and Dorothy Francis, and brothers, Kevin and Anthony Ammerman. I join all Americans in praying for their comfort in this time of grief and the safe return of all those continuing to protect the United States abroad.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON 35—  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH 34

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they were down 31–6 as the fourth quarter began. A lead that they surely couldn't overcome.

But, they never wavered.

Down 34–13 with six minutes left.

But still, they never wavered.

The University of Houston football team, my alma-mater, displayed a calm confidence during their gutsy, 25-point comeback on the afternoon of January 2nd in the Armed Forces Bowl.

To pull off the unthinkable, the Cougars had to recover back-to-back outside kicks—a feat that is almost never accomplished—and score multiple touchdowns in the closing minutes.

They capped off the comeback with a miraculous two-point conversion that gave them a one point victory.

Head Coach David Gibbs instilled in his team that day a will to fight to the end, no matter the odds, score, or deficit.

The Cougars pulled off the largest comeback of the college football season that day, and held true to the words of the late great Vince Lombardi, who said “Winners never quit and quitters never win.”

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING LUCIAN HENRY FRYE

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lucian Henry Frye. Lucian was not only a well-respected resident of Indiana's 6th Congressional District, but the father of my good friend, State Representative Randy Frye.

Lucian was a devoted husband to his wife of 49 years, Marjorie. Together, they were the proud parents of six children, grandparents of 17 grandchildren, and great-grandparents of 17 great-grandchildren. Lucian was a devoted family man as well as a respected member of his community. As a retired over-the-road truck driver, he was a hard-worker who spent his free time at both New Point Christian Church and Metamora Lodge #156 F&AM.

It was once said that, “What was silent in the father speaks in the son, and often I found in the son the unveiled secret of the father.” I can personally attest to the admiration and respect that Randy had for his father, and it is abundantly clear in Randy that Lucian taught him the value of hard work and the importance of being a man of integrity, who is committed to faith and family. Randy serves as a pillar of leadership in our community and has made a profound impact on my life personally.

I am more than thankful for the friendship that I share with Lucian's son Randy as well as his wife Debbie. It is a privilege to honor the life of Lucian Henry Frye today.

TAR SANDS TAX LOOPHOLE  
ELIMINATION ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with twelve of my colleagues, I am reintroducing the Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act. This bill will ensure that oil companies can no longer sidestep paying their fair share into the dedicated trust fund created so that, in the event of an oil spill, there are resources immediately available for cleanup. If enacted, the legislation would generate approximately \$665 million over ten years.

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, authorized in 1990, ensures we have funding available to pay for the immediate costs of cleaning up oil spills. It is funded by an eight cent per barrel excise tax on crude oil and petroleum products. In 2011, however, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a misguided decision stating that oil derived from tar sands, the same type that will flow through the Keystone XL Pipeline if approved, is not considered crude oil and is therefore currently exempt from the tax that pays into the Fund.

In 2013, we imported approximately 925 million barrels of crude oil from Canada, with over 400 million of these barrels coming from tar sands and not subject to the tax that goes into the cleanup fund. This is a significant liability, without any investment being made for it and when there is a tar sands spill.

Oil that comes from tar sands is a thick, sticky form of crude oil that can be more difficult and costly to clean up than other types of crude. In 2010, for example, a pipeline owned and operated by a Canadian company, Enbridge, spilled more than 850,000 gallons of tar sands oil into a waterway that flows into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. That has been one of the largest and costliest pipeline spills in American history, with the price tag now at \$1.2 billion dollars.

I do not support the development of tar sands—doing so is environmentally destructive and carbon-intensive. Moreover, we should not keep in place a loophole that lets big oil companies off the hook for cleaning up their tar sands spills.

The Tar Sands Tax Loophole Elimination Act would add oil derived from tar sands and oil shale to the definition of crude oil, closing the current loophole and ensuring that oil companies pay into the fund.

Oil companies already get billions of dollars in taxpayer-based subsidies, and this bill will ensure they will not be given an additional free ride on tar sands and any future oil shale development.

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RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FLORIDA'S LGBT COMMUNITY

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Florida's LGBT community in their fight against discrimination. In particular, I would like to commend their commitment to bringing marriage equality to the great State of Florida.

Following decades of advocacy and exhaustive legal battles, marriage equality finally became legal this week in Florida. At 12:01 a.m. on January 6, 2015, the Osceola County Courthouse opened its doors. I stood with Armando Ramirez, the county's Clerk of Courts, as he conducted the first same-sex marriage ceremony in Central Florida, which united County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb and her partner of 22 years, Patti Daugherty. At long last, the promise of marriage equality was fulfilled.

More than twenty couples participated in marriage ceremonies, before the courthouse doors closed at 2 a.m. These couples had at last achieved one of the greatest promises of this nation, the promise of equal protection under the law.

What this demonstrated is that the American Dream is not really about a house, a job, or a 401(k) plan. The American Dream is also about love, opportunity, and equality—the promise that each and every one of us has the right to love whomever we please, and the opportunity to have our love recognized equally by the law.

Thanks to the unrelenting efforts of Floridians fighting for marriage equality, same-sex

couples in Florida finally had that opportunity. The marriages that began on January 6th at 12:01 a.m. could not have happened without the perseverance of these individuals.

To those Floridians who fought for this day, I say "congratulations" and "thank you." Thank you for helping our State and our communities come one step closer to true equality. I am proud to have worked with you to achieve this goal. There is more work to be done, and I look forward to serving as your ally in the years ahead.

The Osceola County Commission and the Osceola County Clerk of Courts Armando Ramirez also deserve thanks for their efforts. When county clerks in Florida were advised that they would face arrest if they issued same-sex licenses, Commissioner Grieb and I called on State Attorney Jeff Ashton to promise that he would not prosecute clerks for doing so. Thankfully, he agreed. Following my letter urging the County Commission to ensure that same-sex marriages could take place in Osceola County immediately, the Commission and the Clerk worked together to issue licenses and conduct ceremonies as soon as legally possible.

I also want to acknowledge the Floridians who fought for marriage equality but never lived to see this dream become reality. For those who called for marriage equality when others said it was impossible; those who had the audacity to believe in equality when many could not; and those who paved the way for this historical achievement but never experienced it for themselves. This is their legacy. May their memory serve as an inspiration for the next generation of Floridians striving to achieve a more equal and just world.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to celebrate this enormous accomplishment and honor the Floridians who made this happen.

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COMMENDATION OF DR. TIMOTHY SNYDER

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise as co-chair of the Congressional Polish Caucus to announce that this week in Washington, at an historic ceremony to be held today at the Polish Embassy, Thursday, January 8, pre-eminent American scholar and historian Dr. Timothy Snyder will be awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by Minister of Foreign Affairs Grzegorz Schetyna on behalf of the nation of Poland.

We in Ohio are celebrating this occasion because we know the global significance of Dr. Snyder's work. His scholarship allows liberty's flag to fly higher. An Ohioan by birth, Dr. Snyder—now Bird White Housum Professor of History at Yale University—has been documenting the complicated, epic history of what he terms "The Bloodlands," the 20th century history of Europe between Hitler and Stalin. With the opening of the Soviet archives after the fall of the Soviet Union, Dr. Snyder has led a team of incredible scholars from many nations in piecing together the complex, and often under reported history, of what happened to people in Europe before, during, and after World Wars I and II.

He places the historical and political complexities that led to World War II in a broad, contextual framework unparalleled by other efforts. He factually documents the suffering that innocent people from various nations endured in places that still today have seriously inadequate archival memory of what occurred. Dr. Snyder, in my opinion, is one of the most indefatigable and profound scholars of our time.

As author of the bill that created the World War II Memorial here in our nation's Capital—which has now been visited by over 42 million people—it is clear to me the American people through their own families understand the magnitude of what was at stake. But as Dr. Snyder rightly points out, "America's soldiers never reached far enough east. He states, "American and British forces liberated German concentration camps such as Belsen and Dachau. But the western Allies liberated none of the important death facilities . . . the Red Army liberated Auschwitz, and it liberated the sites of Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzen, Chelmno, Majdanek. American and British forces reached none of the bloodlands and saw none of the major killing sites." Even America was shielded from the bloody truth of tyranny's grip on the continent of Europe.

The people of Poland even more fully comprehend the betrayal and suffering that their Slavic ancestors endured in Poland and Sovietized Ukraine. The Jewish people of the world know too what happened there and why the struggle for Israel's existence continues to this day. The people of Belarus, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania and adjoining nations know too. With the systematic ethnic slaughter that occurred, Dr. Snyder's masterful work pays homage to all victims, in the most complete and objective presentation I have read. Yet, still more scholarly work needs to occur.

This past August, the people of Poland commemorated the memory of the Warsaw Uprising. Those brave Poles honored at that national remembrance lived and died by the motto "Freedom Means Never Surrender." Poland never surrendered. Her capital was leveled. And the martyrdom of Poles—fully twenty percent of the people of that nation—humbles us mortals who stand in awe of their valor against insurmountable odds. What distinguishes Snyder's work is its comprehensiveness and depth in paying tribute to the fallen across that entire war torn region.

We will fly a flag over the U.S. Capitol honoring the work of American scholar Dr. Timothy Snyder and his legion of dedicated scholars. I have come to respect Dr. Snyder's work because his scholarship helped me reach my own epiphany and conclusion about why it has taken the world so long to appreciate what the people of Poland suffered during that gruesome period. Nearly all of the educated and academic leaders of Poland were annihilated at Katyn in 1940, when over 23,000 were rounded up and summarily shot by Stalin's NKVD, the Soviet secret police. There simply was almost no Polish memory left able to record and relate. It has taken new generations of those able to probe the carnage to enlighten the pages of memory.

So, please let me express sincere gratitude to the government of Poland for bestowing this great honor on a native son of Ohio who has gone on to serve the cause of historical truth. As a history major myself from my own alma mater—the great University of Wisconsin—I

recall the words of that University's motto: "Whatever limitations may trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great State University of Wisconsin should encourage the continual sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found." Dr. Timothy Snyder and his associates surely live those words. Congratulations! Onward truth. Onward liberty.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, 2015, due to weather, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes #1–2. Had I been present, on rollcall #1 (Quorum Call), I would have voted present and on rollcall #2, I would have voted for NANCY PELOSI for Speaker of the House.

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REDESIGNATION OF THE 209TH  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS CIVIL EN-  
GINEER SQUADRON

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and as a fellow member of the Mississippi National Guard, it is my pleasure to welcome and congratulate the brave men and women of the 209th Civil Engineer Squadron. The airmen who stand before you today are unique professionals who have answered the nation's call to support and defend our great nation and state. Today's ceremony truly represents the next chapter in a storied legacy of "Americans at their best."

Since 1969, the 209th Civilian Engineer Squadron has served our State with honor and distinction and for more than a decade, worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Special Operations community. These airmen have provided world class support services and civil engineering teams during crisis response operations all around the globe. Today's redesignation ceremony officially recognizes your skills, talents and esprit de corps . . . the hallmark of the Special Operations community.

As the new colors are uncased, you will carry on a long lineage of Special Operations units, who for nearly a century have operated at the tip of the spear and in harm's way. Most recently, our special operators have played key roles in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as provided significant efforts toward humanitarian operations in Africa and counter-narcotics missions in South America. Within our own shores, National Guard Special Forces have responded to the devastating effects of natural disasters, providing unique resources and personal commitment to aid their fellow Americans.

I'd like to send a special thanks to our military families. The preparedness of our airmen is only possible through the loving support of our immediate and extended families, who keep our households running during the uncertainty of deployments.

Congratulations again to our unit leaders and airmen! As we look toward the future, the

world isn't getting any safer. Your skills, talents, will remain in high demand. Through perseverance, hard work and training, the 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron will remain ready, strategically mobile and postured to respond to crisis at home and abroad.

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HONORING MARQUITA DEAN  
SODREL

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marquita Dean Sodrel, a loving mother and the wife of my friend, former Congressman Mike Sodrel.

Marquita, who was known as Keta by her friends and family, was a devoted wife to her husband of 47 years, Mike. Together, they had two children and seven granddaughters. Keta enjoyed a family centered life. Although she worked hard as a Corporate Secretary at her family business, Keta considered her main job to be a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Keta was a woman of strong faith. Wherever she traveled and worked, Keta always said that she was, "working for the Lord."

Keta was also an important partner to her husband Mike's service in Congress. In every sense, they served the people of Indiana's 9th Congressional District together.

Keta was a remarkable woman who will be missed by all of those whose lives she has touched. Today, It is my privilege to honor the life of Marquita Dean Sodrel.

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IN HONOR OF JOSEPH "JOJO  
BENSON" HEWELL

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, legendary musician and dear friend, Mr. Joseph "JoJo Benson" Hewell. Sadly, JoJo passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2014. A home-going celebration was held in his honor on Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Occasions Event Center in Columbus, Georgia.

JoJo was born in Phenix City, Alabama where he attended Mother Mary Mission School. He and his brothers, Gene and Fletcher, were gifted with musical talents which they shared performing together across the Columbus area. But JoJo was destined for greatness and he rose to become an incredibly well-known and adored American blues and soul singer with a distinctive style.

JoJo was a passionate and dedicated artist who captured the hearts of hundreds of fans with his duets with Peggy Scott. Their best hits made it to the Billboard charts and eventually became gold records. The hit "Pickin' Wild Mountain Berries" was also nominated for a Grammy. For over 40 years, JoJo worked to accomplish his dream of making his

music heard all around the world. His music traveled across nations delighting the ears of many fans of different backgrounds, and he became known as a great International Recording Artist.

In 2004, JoJo was inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame for his wondrous musical talent. He was also elected to become Ambassador of Music in Columbus, Georgia. Throughout his life, he continued to receive honors and accolades as he became a successful entrepreneur while still recording music and performing shows.

JoJo was also an avid golfer. He loved the game and his life in many ways reflected it. On the front nine, he always managed to land in the fairway, with long beautiful drives, great approach shots, excellent chips, solid putts and thunderous cheers from the gallery. On the back nine, he struggled not to land out of bounds, to get back to the fairway, to avoid the hazards and to reach the greens—with loud groans from some in the gallery. But he did not pick up his ball and quit! He kept his pride, never gave up and continued planning his next shot and his next big show!

As a man, JoJo was charming and his silver tongue and flamboyant persona melted the hearts of countless ladies who found themselves overcome and taken by his infectious charisma. But watch out! If you crossed him, that same tongue using the most acid invective and most colorful expletives could inflict a sharp and cutting tongue lashing—an old fashioned "cussing out!"

JoJo is survived by his children, Joseph Hewell, Jr., Gregory Henley, Dionne Henley, Collette McCoy, and Josette McCoy; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; siblings, Walter Gene Hewell, Vera Harris, Windon Harris, Litton Harris, Rita Harris, Lois Hewell Hall, Sherwood Hewell, Jessie Hewell, Michael Hewell, Danny Hewell, and Carl Stevens; lifelong companion Angela McCoy; lifelong friend Shirley Sturgis; and many, many friends.

JoJo loved life and lived it to the fullest. He was my friend and he touched all of our lives in ways we will never forget. JoJo's legacy will live on in the spirit of his children and many stories and anecdotes will be enjoyed by his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. JoJo's eleven siblings and many friends will always recount the joy of knowing, loving, and sharing the life of such a unique and accomplished man.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District and adoring fans across the world, continue to enjoy and cherish JoJo Benson's remarkable musical achievements. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to JoJo's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

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HONORING MRS. LAURA ROSS  
BROWN

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman ROBERT C. "BOBBY"

SCOTT and Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Laura Ross Brown. Mrs. Laura Ross Brown was a beloved mother, daughter, wife and friend. With her passing on December 17, we look to Mrs. Brown's personal legacy of leadership, service, and the outstanding quality of her life's work.

Mrs. Laura Ross Brown was born on April 28, 1932 and raised in Sacramento, CA. She was a mother of four, a former Air Force wife, a mentor and our friend. Mrs. Brown dedicated her life to community service and social activism and was known as a consummate fundraiser. She formerly served as the national fundraiser for Links, Inc., and dedicated much of her time to supporting political campaigns, serving as a member of the financial commit-

tees of the campaigns for former Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's 1984 presidential race and Marion Barry's mayoral race.

In addition to her community service and political involvement, Mrs. Brown also led a successful and long career as a real estate agent in Alexandria, VA, where she assisted military officers and political officials relocating to the Washington Metro area. She later expanded her business ventures by starting a financial advisory and investment company, as well as offering political consulting and fundraising services. Her success was highlighted on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

We have many fond memories of Laura. As a former member of Congressman Ron Dellums' staff, I had the opportunity to work with

Laura on many events. Her focus, diligence and commitment to completing any project demonstrated her ability to overcome any challenge in life. She always supported the men and women she believed in throughout her life, including myself. Even during her health challenges, she was upbeat and loved to be around family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to honor the life of Mrs. Laura Ross Brown. Her dedication and community service has had a great impact on my life and the lives of many others. For Laura's friendship and love, we are deeply grateful. Our thoughts and prayers are with Laura's wonderful family. We will deeply miss her, as she was a beautiful African American woman who lived an incredible life to the fullest.