

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this week, Americans making more than one million dollars a year will get a tax break. Not because Congress approved one, but because they've already reached the maximum amount of income that is subject to the Social Security tax. That's right—those making more than one million dollars have already reached the income cap of \$118,500, and we're not even six weeks into the year.

This gaping loophole allows billionaire hedge fund managers and corporate CEOs to pay a lower percentage of their income into Social Security than teachers, police officers and healthcare workers. Ninety-four percent of American workers pay Social Security tax on all of their income. But the wealthiest six percent are exempt from doing the same. By closing this loophole, we can make sure that every American pays exactly the same percentage of their income into Social Security.

Ending this tax racket for the wealthy also ensures that Social Security will continue paying full benefits to every single American who pays in. We have a choice: we can tell our children and grandchildren that their Social Security benefits will be cut in order to maintain a regressive tax that benefits only the richest six percent, or we can close this loophole and guarantee that if you pay into the program, you will receive the full Social Security benefits you were promised.

Unfortunately, this is not the conversation that has dominated Washington, DC in recent years. Instead, some of my colleagues in Congress would prefer to manufacture a crisis in order to privatize the entire system, leaving seniors' benefits at the mercy of Wall Street power brokers. They want you to think the system cannot be fixed and that Social Security as we know it is doomed. We can prove them wrong. If every American pays their fair share into the system, we can make sure the government fulfills its obligation to America's seniors.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT RONALD CARL HOUGHTALEN

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Senior Master Sergeant Ronald Carl Houghtalen. A native ofinghamton, New York and currently a resident of Clay, New York, who subsequently has more than 34 years of military service with the United States Air Force and New York Air Na-

tional Guard. Sergeant Houghtalen has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions and will retire from military service on 1 December 2014. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Sergeant Houghtalen began his military career in the United States Air Force, in September of 1981. On completion of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1981, Sergeant Houghtalen began technical school training as an Electronic Warfare Systems Specialist at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi. In September 1982, he was assigned to the 416th Bombardment Wing, Strategic Air Command as an Electronic Warfare Systems Specialist, at Griffiss Air Force Base, New York. He began on-the-job training for his five-skill level on the B-52G "Buff" aircraft and remained in that position until November 1984.

In November 1984, Sergeant Houghtalen was reassigned to the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, Tactical Air Command, Flight-line Branch, Royal Air Force Bentwaters-Woodbridge, England, in support of United States Air Forces in Europe operations. While assigned with the 81st Component Repair Squadron, he performed duties as Electronic Warfare Systems Technician and Phase Dock Supervisor on the A-10A "Warhog" aircraft, which provided Offensive-Defensive Electronic Counter-measures and Close Air Support of ground forces and battlefield air interdiction in support of NATO ground forces.

After completion of his tour in November 1986, Sergeant Houghtalen was reassigned to the 379th Bombardment Wing, Strategic Air Command, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Michigan. He was assigned as an Electronic Warfare Systems Technician Supervisor performing integrated jamming systems maintenance and supervision of B-52H advanced Electronic Warfare systems troubleshooting and repair. He was also selected to assist with the research and development of a new automated Electronic Warfare system and automatic and Semi-Automatic Support Equipment that would enhance Electronic Warfare maintenance and aircraft protection systems for the B-52H aircraft. Upon completion of his second active duty tour in March of 1990, Sergeant Houghtalen transferred to the 174th Tactical Fighter Wing, Aircraft Maintenance Branch, Avionics Maintenance Squadron, New York Air National Guard, Hancock Field in Syracuse, New York, and was assigned as an Electronic Warfare Technician and Integrated Avionics Maintenance Technician on the F-16A/B "Falcon" aircraft.

On 17 August 2006, as the Logistics Readiness Flight Superintendent, Sergeant Houghtalen volunteered for an Air Expeditionary Force deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and was tasked to assemble, organize and deploy the first Redeployment Action Team to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. Assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, he coordinated

the arrival and off-load of cargo from three Air National Guard Wings transported by Sealift Command to Ali Al Salem AB and the on-load of cargo to C-130 aircraft for intra-theater airlift, in support of combat operations throughout Iraq and Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 19 February 2007, Sergeant Houghtalen returned to active duty to redeploy with his Team to Ali Al Salem AB for his ninth overseas tour where he successfully redeployed all cargo used down range, in support of combat operations, and returned it to the respective Air National Guard Wings throughout the United States.

Sergeant Houghtalen was employed as a 174th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Technician from May 1990 to January 2010. He held positions in the 174th Maintenance Squadron as an Integrated Avionics Maintenance Technician, 174th Maintenance Group as the Maintenance Operations Center Superintendent, 174th Fighter Wing as the Wing Plans Superintendent and the 174th Logistics Readiness Squadron as the Logistics Readiness Flight Superintendent for F-16 and MQ-9 aircraft. On 2 January 2010 he transferred from his full-time technician position to the Department of Defense, Defense Contract Management Agency and remained a member of the 174th Fighter Wing as a Traditional Guardsman. In March 2011, Sergeant Houghtalen transferred assignment to Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Latham, New York.

His last military assignment was with Joint Forces Headquarters-New York as the Domestic Operations Services Superintendent, Joint Task Force-5/FEMA Region II. While assigned, he performed duties with the Joint Exercise Control Group to plan, conduct, educate and train Joint Task Force-5 and supporting state, county and local emergency agency managers. He functioned as part of the Services Command and Control Headquarters Staff that responds to Homeland Defense and Civil Support within and outside the Continental United States contingency operations. Between 13 and 20 May 2012, Sergeant Houghtalen led New York Air National Guard Services members to provide lodging and feeding support for over 400 support personnel during a Homeland Response Force Exercise conducted in Oriskany, New York. He was ordered to State Active Duty between 29 October and 14 November by the Governor, in response to Hurricane Sandy at Joint Forces Headquarters, New York, and assigned to Joint Operations Center J1 Staff responsible for Manpower status and reporting in support of relief operations.

In January 2013, Sergeant Houghtalen deployed to Washington DC where he provided mission support for the 57th Presidential Inauguration as a key member of the Joint Task Force-J4, playing a pivotal role in the logistics operation, providing critical transportation and sustainment contingency planning for the movement of over 6000 personnel and several tons of cargo. From 22 April to 3 May 2014, Sergeant Houghtalen provided direct support

• 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.

during the Headquarters Reserve Forces Exercise conducted in Oriskany, NY. Where he planned, organized, and executed operations, providing leadership and logistical coordination for twelve Services Support personnel from five New York Air National Guard Wings, successfully demonstrating contingency support capabilities in a Domestic Operations environment utilizing the Disaster Response Mobile Kitchen Trailer and their ability to respond to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear event for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II HRF, Joint Task-5, Joint Forces Headquarters, New York. He completed his military career and retired on 1 December 2014 after more than 34 years combined service, with nearly 10 years of Federal Active Duty and the remainder with the New York Air National Guard.

Sergeant Houghtalen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management, Cum Laude, Columbia College, Associate of Arts Degree in Management, Columbia College, Associate Degree in Business Administration and Logistics Management, Community College of the Air Force, Associates Degree in Applied Science, Avionics Systems Technology, Community College of the Air Force. He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Senior Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and the Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School where he received the Commandant's Award.

Sergeant Houghtalen's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal; and the Army Achievement Medal. His military unit and achievement awards include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" device and six oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; and the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, with seven oak leaf clusters. His military campaign and service awards include the National Defense Service Medal, with one bronze service star; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal, with three bronze campaign stars; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Air Force Overseas Long Service-Long Tour Ribbon, the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, with seven oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device, mobilization "M" device, and numeral "9"; the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters; the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one service star device; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Sergeant Houghtalen's Foreign Service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Palm device and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Government of Kuwait.

Sergeant Houghtalen also holds the following New York State awards and decorations: the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award, with one gold shield device; the New York State Desert Storm Service Medal; New York State Operation Iraqi Freedom Ribbon; New York State Operation Enduring Freedom Ribbon; the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; New York State

Conspicuous Service Cross; the Medal for Humane Service to New York State. He also holds service awards from other states that include the Mississippi Emergency Service Medal for Operation Vigilant Guard Relief, Hurricane Katrina; the District of Columbia National Guard Community Service Ribbon in support of the 57th Presidential Inauguration.

His effective dates of promotion are: Airman—17 October 1981; Airman First Class—30 August 1982; Senior Airman—1 September 1984; Sergeant—1 September 1985; Staff Sergeant—1 January 1987; Technical Sergeant—1 June 1995; Master Sergeant—1 January 2000; Senior Master Sergeant—27 February 2002.

He is also the recipient of the following recognition awards: the Onondaga Community College Veteran of the Month 1994; the Red Flag Superior Performer in 1999; the Presidential Support Secret Service Augmentee award in 1999; the American Red Cross Veterans Award in 2000; the Air Combat Command Inspector General Superior Performance Award in 2000 and 2003; the Phase II Operational Readiness Inspection Superior Performer in 2000; 174th Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard Team Superior Performer Award in 2003, Air Combat Command Inspector General Deployment Support Organization Superior Performance Award in 2003; and the 174th Fighter Wing Phase 1 Operational Readiness Exercise Superior Performer award in 2004.

Sergeant Houghtalen is a past member of the Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association, the Association of the Old Crows, and the Air Force Association; he is still an active member of the 174th Attack Wing Base Honor Guard.

Senior Master Sergeant Ronald Houghtalen resides in the Town of Clay with his wife Sharon Houghtalen. He has one daughter and one son, Staff Sergeant Briana Houghtalen, 174 Attack Wing and Senior Airman Ryan Houghtalen, 152 Air Operations Group. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Thelma Houghtalen of Binghamton, New York (Deceased).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, from January 28, 2015 through February 5, 2015, I missed recorded votes #49–#68. I was unable to vote, as I contracted the flu and was considered contagious at the time. My doctor advised me to remain home until my fever subsided. Despite receiving the flu shot, I was one of the many Americans to come down with the flu this year.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I was in attendance:

On Roll Call #49 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #50 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 351, LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act).

On Roll Call #51 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 361, Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act).

On Roll Call #52 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 615, Department of Home-

land Security Interoperable Communications Act).

On Roll Call #53 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 623, Social Media Working Group Act).

On Roll Call #54 I would have voted yes (Previous Question).

On Roll Call #55 I would have voted yes (Agreeing to Resolution, H. Res. 70).

On Roll Call #56 I would have voted yes (Approving the Journal).

On Roll Call #57 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #58 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 596, To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010).

On Roll Call #59 I would have voted yes (Previous Question).

On Roll Call #60 I would have voted yes (Agreeing to Resolution, H. Res. 78).

On Roll Call #61 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 50 by Cummings Part C Amendment #2).

On Roll Call #62 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 50 by Connolly Part C Amendment #3).

On Roll Call #63 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #64 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 50, Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015).

On Roll Call #65 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527 by Schrader Part A Amendment No. 4).

On Roll Call #66 I would have voted no (On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 527 by Lee Part A Amendment No. 6).

On Roll Call #67 I would have voted no (Motion to Recommit).

On Roll Call #68 I would have voted yes (Passage of H.R. 527, Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015).

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL YAREMA AND SERGEANT PETER HEISE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Michael Yarema and Sergeant Peter Heise of the Syracuse New York Police Department. On January 4, 2015, Sergeant Yarema and Sergeant Heise responded to the scene of a shooting, performed textbook emergency medical treatment on the victim, all while working on an unsecure and volatile crime scene. Doctors at Upstate University Hospital Emergency Room confirm that the immediate, life-saving measures performed by both sergeants saved the life of the victim.

Sergeant Yarema served the Syracuse Police Department as an officer in the Patrol Division, Syracuse Anti-firearm Enforcement Unit, and Syracuse Police Traffic Division before being promoted to Sergeant in May of 2009. He has served as a firearms instructor and member of the SWAT team in Syracuse. Sergeant Yarema has received the Syracuse Police Life Saving Award and Syracuse Police Department's Officer of the Month Award.

Sergeant Yarema was raised in Auburn, New York and holds a Bachelor of Arts and

Sciences degree in Criminal Justice. He is supported by his girlfriend, Melissa Bottorff and daughter, Lauryn Bacon.

Sergeant Heise served the Syracuse Police Department as a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division and as a defensive tactics instructor in the Training Division before being promoted to Sergeant in May of 2006. He then acted as Patrol Sergeant and a Sergeant in the Criminal Investigations Division. Sergeant Heise holds the following awards: Chief's Achievement Award, Police Benevolent Association Award, and the Mayor's Achievement Award.

Sergeant Heise was raised in Dexter, New York and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree from the State University of New York at Oswego. He is supported by his wife, Melanie Heise and two daughters, Mackenzie and Morgan.

Sergeant Yarema and Sergeant Heise have each bravely served the Syracuse New York Police Department for 20 years. I am proud to share in the recognition of Sergeant Michael Yarema and Sergeant Peter Heise as first-rate officers, performing tremendous service to the people of Syracuse, New York.

THE BIRTH OF COLLINS MADDEN
AND EMMA RHOADES LENIHAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friends, Keagan Lenihan and her husband Brian, on the birth of their twin daughters Collins Madden and Emma Rhoades Lenihan. Collins was born at 11:21 p.m. and Emma at 11:22 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2015, in Washington, DC. Collins and Emma are five pounds of pride and joy to their loving grandparents, Barclay and Lorita Resler of McLean, Virginia and Michael and Marilyn Lenihan of Fredericksburg, Virginia. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Lenihan family and wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF ANDREW "PETE" SANCHEZ, JR.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Andrew "Pete" Sanchez, Jr., a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I especially wish to congratulate him on becoming the 100th King of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club. It is my distinct privilege to recognize him here today for this accomplishment.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Andrew Sanchez, Sr., Mr. Sanchez joined the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club in 1994. Since then, he has occupied numerous leadership positions within Zulu. He has served on the Zulu Board of Directors for the past nine years, and is Zulu's representative to Mayor Mitch Landrieu's Mardi Gras Advisory Council.

In addition to his work with Zulu, Mr. Sanchez is a dedicated family man and has been

active in his community. He has received awards for his work with Toys for Tots, serves as a Commissioner on New Orleans Board of Zoning, and in November, was appointed by Mayor Landrieu to the New Orleans Cultural and Historical Committee. He is a proud graduate of McDonough #35 Senior High School and Southern University A&M College. He is married to Dr. Janice Sanchez, and the proud father of Ashley Nichelle Sanchez. This year, he will get a chance to share the honor and joy of being Zulu royalty with his wife, as Dr. Sanchez will reign alongside him as the 79th Queen of Zulu. This will be a special time for the family, and we are very proud of him. The commitment that Mr. Sanchez shows to his family and his community is an example to all of us. The hard work and dedication of Mr. and Dr. Sanchez to improving the community and raising a strong family gives us hope and promise for the future of our city.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mr. Andrew Peter Sanchez, Jr. on his coronation as the 100th King of Zulu and wish him a successful reign as King Zulu, 2015.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL THEODORE
HAROLD LIMPERT

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Colonel Theodore Harold Limpert. A native of Central New York and currently a resident of Syracuse, New York, Colonel Limpert subsequently has more than 30 years of military service with the United States Air Force and New York Air National Guard. Colonel Limpert has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions and retired from military service on 29 June 2012. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Colonel Limpert began his military career in the New York Air National Guard on 24 November 1981, attending the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science, receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant on 24 June 1982. From September 1982 to September 1983, he attended undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. From November 1983 to January 1984, Colonel Limpert attended Lead Fighter Training at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and subsequently completed the A-10 Replacement Training Unit at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana in May 1984.

As a traditional guardsman and currently a Syracuse City Court Judge, Colonel Limpert became an operational member of the 174th Fighter Wing in May 1984 and was assigned the 138th Fighter Squadron. During his tenure with the 174th Fighter Wing, as a pilot in the T-38, T-37, A-10, and the F-16, Colonel Limpert has accumulated more than 3,100 flight hours, with 750 flight hours in the A-10 aircraft, 2200 flying hours in the F-16 aircraft, and has 392 combat flight hours, and holds the rating of Command Pilot.

In 1991, Colonel Limpert deployed to Southwest Asia seven times supporting combat operations in Southwest Asia, beginning with Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1991 at Al Kharj Air Base Saudi Arabia, with

subsequent deployments in support of Operation Provide Comfort in 1995 at Incirlik Air Base Turkey; Operation Southern Watch in 2000 at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003 at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 and 2008 at Balad Air Base, Iraq. During the 2006 deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2006, Colonel Limpert held dual assignments as the 174th Fighter Wing Detachment Commander and 332nd Expeditionary Squadron Commander. In addition to his deployments supporting combat operations in Southwest Asia, Colonel Limpert also flew Combat Air Patrol sorties over New York City in support of Operation Noble Eagle after the September 11th terrorist attack on the United States.

Colonel Limpert has held numerous duty assignments throughout his military career with the New York Air National Guard. They include: Assistant Flight Commander and Flight Commander, 138th Fighter Squadron, from May 1989 to July 1996; Combat Air Planner, 152nd Air Operations Group, from July 1996 to September 1998; Command Post Officer, 174th Fighter Wing from September 1998 to September 1999; F-16 Pilot, Operations Officer and later Operations Support Flight Commander, 174th Operations Support Flight; Commander, 138th Fighter Squadron from May 2003 to September 2007; and Deputy Operations Group Commander, 174th Fighter Wing from September 2007 to October 2008.

In his final assignment, Colonel Limpert was assigned to the New York Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters as Director of Plans and Programs and, Director of the Joint Exercise Control Group. As Director of Plans and Programs, he oversaw the five New York State Air Wings respective plans offices. The Joint Exercise Control Group ensures readiness of state military forces for state contingency operations and defense support to civil authorities. Colonel Limpert's joint staff team of Air and Army National Guard personnel, planned, coordinated and observed table top and large scale civilian and military exercises conducted by each of the state's six joint task forces. He also volunteered and took on duties as Senior Air Reserve Component Advisor to the Commander, United States Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. During these times and throughout his career, Colonel Limpert has displayed honorable character and service to the United States Air Force, the New York Air National Guard, and our country. His military decorations and unit awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor "V" device; the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters; the Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Commendation Medal; the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Joint Meritorious Service Award; the Meritorious Unit Award; and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor "V" device and seven oak leaf clusters.

During these times and throughout his career, Colonel Limpert has displayed honorable character and service to the United States Air Force, the New York Air National Guard, and our country. His military decorations and unit awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor "V" device; the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters; the Aerial Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Air Force Commendation Medal; the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Joint Meritorious Service Award; the Meritorious Unit Award; and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor "V" device and seven oak leaf clusters.

Colonel Limpert's military campaign, service awards include the Combat Readiness Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service medal with three campaign stars; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star; the Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star;

the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold boarder and two oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with gold hourglass device, mobilization "M" device, and numeral "6"; and the Air Force Training Ribbon. His foreign service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal with gold palm device from Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from Kuwait.

Colonel Limpert also holds the following New York State awards and decorations: the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award with one gold shield device and one silver shield device; the New York State Desert Storm Service Medal; the New York State Operation Enduring Freedom Ribbon; the New York State Operation Iraqi Freedom Ribbon; the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross with one cross device; the Medal for Human Service to New York State; the New York State Exercise Support Ribbon; and the New York State Physical Fitness Ribbon.

Colonel Limpert's effective dates of promotion are: Second Lieutenant—24 June 1982; First Lieutenant—25 February 1985; Captain—5 March 1985; Major—1 October 1993; Lieutenant Colonel—February 2000; and his current rank of Colonel—4 October 2008.

Colonel Limpert received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania in 1981 and Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, New York. He also completed the Squadron Officer School, (Correspondence) course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 1993; the Air Command and Staff College, (Correspondence), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 2000; the Air War College, (Correspondence), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 2007; and the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education course, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia in 2009.

In his civilian capacity, Colonel Limpert is a Syracuse City Court Judge. He was appointed to the Bench in November, 2009 and elected to a ten year term in November, 2010. As a City Court Judge, Colonel Limpert handles both criminal and civil cases. Prior to becoming a Judge, he was in private practice for over 20 years.

Without question Mr. Speaker, Colonel Limpert is a very special person. He willingly served his nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For his unrelenting service, Colonel Limpert can retire knowing he has earned such a status. I would like to wish him well in his retirement years, as he will now be able to spend more free time with his wife Susan, his daughter Elizabeth, and his sons Harold, Nikolas and Tyler. Colonel Limpert, thank you for all your years of hard work, dedication and service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DAN SMOOT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most

dedicated and respected law enforcement officials in narcotics diversion and substance abuse education in Kentucky, Dan Smoot, in honor of his 33 years of law enforcement service—12 of which were spent as a leader at an organization near and dear to my heart, Operation UNITE.

After serving more than two decades as a narcotics diversion specialist for the Kentucky State Police in Eastern Kentucky, Smoot was one of the first leaders brought on board to help launch Operation UNITE, a non-profit organization designed to tackle the tidal wave of drug abuse that hit Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District with the release of powerful prescription painkillers in our rural region. Because of the unique challenges associated with prescription drug addiction and abuse, UNITE's name reflects its three-pronged, holistic approach—Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education.

As the inaugural Law Enforcement Director, he undertook the daunting task of developing and implementing law enforcement policies and procedures for UNITE's accredited task force. Critically important to the organization's success has been buy-in and cooperation among local law enforcement, and Smoot's early work at UNITE was critical to forging these partnerships. He engaged with more than 30 different fiscal courts to enact interlocal cooperation agreements to provide jurisdiction for UNITE to work with local law enforcement agencies in each county. Thus far, UNITE's task force has arrested more than 4,000 drug traffickers, taken over \$12.3 million in drugs off the streets, while maintaining a 97% conviction rate in southern and eastern Kentucky. Closely collaborating with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Smoot developed an innovative debit card program to fund street-level drug purchases for local police departments and sheriff's offices in eleven counties. Additionally, he has developed a reputation for his tireless advocacy for better drug abuse-related policy and legislation in Kentucky and surrounding states. As a result of his efforts, Smoot was named President and CEO of UNITE in 2013.

Though the majority of his career has been focused on law enforcement, Smoot quickly became an advocate for UNITE's effective education and treatment programs. It takes a special kind of law enforcement officer to commit to treatment and education programs—but Smoot immediately bought in, and it's due in large part to his leadership, to his steadfast guidance and advocacy, and to his unwavering commitment to this critically important cause that UNITE shines as a national leader in helping individuals take back their communities from the scourge of drug abuse. He has supported Drug Court programs and spent countless hours educating community members and students about drug abuse prevention across the region. Whether he is talking to national leaders or spending time with at-risk middle school children at Camp UNITE, his passion to end the cycle of drug abuse in Kentucky is remarkable. The story of his career is now written, not only by the drug traffickers who have spent time in state and federal prisons for illicit drug activities, but also by their children and grandchildren who now realize there is hope for a better future, thanks to the valiant education and treatment programs he helped lead at Operation UNITE.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Dan Smoot's incredible leadership in our

life-saving and life-changing anti-drug efforts in Kentucky and throughout our Appalachian region. I have no doubt that he will carry these incredible and laudable professional and personal traits with him into any future endeavors, and I certainly wish him the very best in his new post with the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA).

RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 250th anniversary of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, located in West Milford, New Jersey. St. Joseph's parish dates back to 1765, making it one of the oldest and longest lasting parishes in New Jersey.

As we look back on the past 250 years, we recognize that the world has changed drastically. Throughout these changes St. Joseph's church has remained a beacon of faith for their community. The parishioners of St. Joseph's Church come together every week to worship, promote faith, care for the less fortunate, and serve their local community. Their commitment to one another, and to the wider community, is exceptional.

I congratulate St. Joseph's on this impressive anniversary. It is an honor to represent the people of West Milford and to commend St. Joseph's parish for all they do as they seek to make our community a better place.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JOSEPH EDWARD LAMENDOLA

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Colonel Joseph Edward Lamendola. Originally from Massena, New York and currently a resident of Camillus, New York, Colonel Lamendola received his direct commission on 19 February 1984 and subsequently has 30 years of military service with United States Air Force and the New York Air National Guard. Colonel Lamendola has been decorated with numerous medals, awards, and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and airman.

Colonel Lamendola began his military career in the Air Force on 19 February 1984 under the Air Force's direct commissioning program and served four years on Federal Active Duty as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate and Area Defense Counsel at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. In October 1988, Colonel Lamendola transferred to the New York Air National Guard and was assigned to the 174th Fighter Wing, Hancock Field, Syracuse, New York. During his tenure as Staff Judge Advocate with the 174th Fighter Wing, Colonel Lamendola served as the 9th Air Force Air National Guard Judge Advocate Liaison. From October 1995 through December 2000, Colonel Lamendola provided guidance and support to 9th Air Force Air National

Guard-gained units, including conducting Staff Assistance Visits to all 18 units.

In March 1995, he deployed with the 174th Fighter Wing in support of a Joint NATO Exercise conducted at Andoya Air Base, Norway. In 1991, Colonel Lamendola was called to Federal Active Duty in support of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He served for 180 days at home station performing duties in a dual role as Staff Judge Advocate and Public Affairs Officer.

Colonel Lamendola has served as Legal Advisor, Recorder, and Respondent's Counsel on numerous occasions by Air National Guard units from the states of Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Montana, New York and Vermont. Colonel Lamendola has assisted in the research and revision of the 1996 Commander's Legal Desk Book, and participated as a member of a Process Action Team, which drafted the Air National Guard Instruction dealing with Legal Assistance. He has also served as an instructor for the November 2003 Contemporary Base Issues course hosted by the New York Air National Guard.

Colonel Lamendola currently serves as the senior uniformed Air National Guard Judge Advocate in the New York Air National Guard and is responsible for providing legal advice, opinions, and assistance on a variety of subjects to the Commander of the New York Air National Guard, the Air Staff, other Judge Advocates assigned to New York Air National Guard's five flying wings the Eastern Air Defense Sector, and commanders throughout the New York Air National Guard.

During these times and throughout his career, Colonel Lamendola has displayed honorable character and service to the United States Air Force, the New York Air National Guard, and our country. His military decorations and unit awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster; and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters. His military campaign and service awards include the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass device and mobilization "M" device; and Air Force Training Ribbon.

Colonel Lamendola also holds the following New York State awards and decorations: the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award with one gold shield device; the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal; the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross; and the New York State Exercise Support Ribbon.

Colonel Lamendola's effective dates of promotion are: First Lieutenant—23 September 1982; Captain—28 September 1984; Major—2 December 1989; Lieutenant Colonel—27 January 1994; and his current rank of Colonel—1 June 2009.

In his civilian capacity, Colonel Lamendola maintains a law practice in Syracuse, New York and serves a client base in Northern and Central New York. His practice concentrates in the areas of business litigation, personal injury, education and school law, family law, military law and estate planning. Colonel Lamendola serves as a committee member on the Fourth Department Attorney Grievance Committee, and he is also a delegate for the Fifth Judicial District nominating committee.

Colonel Lamendola holds degrees from Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1983 (LL.M., Admiralty Law) University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom, 1982 (LL.B., Cum Laude) State University of New York, Plattsburg, NY, 1977 (B.A., Political Science) Air War College, May 2005.

Colonel Lamendola also holds Bar Admissions in the U.S. Supreme Court, 1987; the U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit, 1996; the U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 1983; the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, 1983; the U.S. District Court Northern District of New York, 1991; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 1984; the State of New York, 1990; and the State of Louisiana, 1983.

Without question Mr. Speaker, Colonel Lamendola is a very special person. He willingly served his nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For his unrelenting service, Colonel Lamendola can retire knowing he has earned such a status. I would like to wish him well in his retirement years, as he will now be able to spend more free time with his wife Heather and his daughter Amelia Jude. Colonel Lamendola, thank you for all of your years of hard work, dedication, and service to our country.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH
ZIMMERMAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joseph Zimmerman of Bucks County for his service and dedication to Scouting, the Boy Scouts of America, Washington Crossing Council, and Cub Scout Pack 30. An Eagle Scout, Mr. Zimmerman has been involved in Scouting for 75 years and recently was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and the title of Cub Master Emeritus for his work on behalf of the youngest Scouts. Since 2006, he served as Chartering Organization Executive to Cub Scout, Pack 30, providing the benefit of his experience and leadership. I join his friends and associates in thanking him for his many community contributions and his service to our country during the Korean War. With his spirit of volunteerism and the countless hours as a role model for Scouts and Scout Masters, Joseph Zimmerman has set an example for others to follow.

HONORING VANESSA IAQUINTA

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the conclusion of National School Counseling Week to honor a deserving school counselor in my district. Vanessa Iaquinta joined Norwalk High School in 1998, and is the heart and soul of the school's counseling team. She has made a tremendous impact on the lives of Norwalk students because she believes that every one of them should be given the tools necessary to succeed in both college and life.

Ms. Iaquinta works with parents to make sure they feel included and informed about their child's education. Vanessa and her team have developed a personalized and comprehensive approach that meets the academic, social-emotional, and post-secondary needs of each and every Norwalk High School student. She goes above and beyond, even using social media to stay connected with graduates, reminding them of application deadlines for student aid and scholarships.

Vanessa is also the counselor for AVID, a program that helps students who have shown the potential to succeed but need a little extra help. She meets with students, and coordinates with teachers to make sure their individual needs are being met.

This year, Vanessa agreed to be the counselor for the newly established Project Lead the Way which exposes students to the field of biomedicine. In the few short months since Vanessa has undertaken this role, the program has expanded, interest has increased, and students are thriving.

Norwalk High School is a special place because of dedicated professionals like Vanessa. In honor of National School Counselors Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all the school counselors who are making a positive impact in the lives of our students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 50 I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE
RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in the 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem's famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on Television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—"Harry and Lena." She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and under-represented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with Former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside-out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with pot holes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VICTORIA
WHITEHEAD MCCRAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Victoria Whitehead McCray, a dedicated educator and public servant. Mrs. McCray is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. McCray has dedicated her life to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. McCray was born on October 22, 1927, in Wilson, North Carolina, to John Henry Whitehead and the former-Victoria Ennis. Mrs. McCray attended Darden High School in Wilson, and attended North Carolina Central University in Durham. Following her education at NCCU, Mrs. McCray taught business and typing courses and produced a booklet on Black History entitled "A Proud Heritage" that was widely distributed to students and others.

Mrs. McCray is a Golden Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has held every office in the chapter including as Tamiouchos, Nominating Committee Chair, and Treasurer, where she has demonstrated her financial expertise. For her many contributions to her Sorority and community, Mrs. McCray was awarded the Phenomenal Woman Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Alumni Chapter at Bennett College.

Mrs. McCray is married to Wilford McCray and they are proud parents of Ms. Paulette McCray. Mrs. McCray is a member of the historic Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church in Wilson, where she serves as finance committee chair.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. McCray's contributions to our great nation are many. She is dedicated to the service of others and her passion for education and community is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Victoria Whitehead McCray on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 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 \$18,124,962,972,729.90. We've added \$7,498,085,923,816.62 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SUTTON NORRIS APPOINTMENT TO
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Norris is an incredibly accomplished young man from Athens, Georgia. Sutton is the son of Tab and Elizabeth Norris, and is a graduate of the prestigious Prince Avenue Christian School. During his time there, Sutton exhibited his dedication to leadership while attending the Summer Leadership Experience at USMA and was awarded the Outstanding Leader Award.

Among his many accolades, Sutton also showcased academic prowess while serving as the President of the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Sutton Norris is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Sutton organized Prince Avenue Christian School's initial participation in Relay for Life, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about cancer and funds to combat the disease.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Norris is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving in different branches of the armed services, I am confident that Sutton will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEMINOLE
STATE COLLEGE THEATRE DE-
PARTMENT'S HISTORIC COMPLE-
TION OF AUGUST WILSON'S
"PITTSBURGH CYCLE"

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, with its production of "Radio Golf" in February 2015, Seminole State College's Theatre Department completes its 10-year commitment to produce all ten plays in playwright August Wilson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning series referred to as "The Pittsburgh Cycle", an historic feat that only a few American theaters have accomplished, and

Whereas, Seminole State College has contributed to the region's celebration, and recognition, of Black History Month over the past decade by presenting the "Pittsburgh Cycle", which depicts the African-American experience during each decade of the 20th century, and

Whereas, Seminole State College Theatre Department's production of the "Pittsburgh Cycle" demonstrates the exceptional power of college theater to promote active learning, and

encourage individual development and growth, and

Whereas, Seminole State College's decade long productions of the plays that make up the "Pittsburgh Cycle" provided unique opportunities for student, community, and professional theater members to work with nationally renowned veterans of African-American theater.

Therefore, in recognition of Seminole State College's remarkable completion of August Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle", I, CORRINE BROWN, Representative of the 5th District of Florida, congratulate Seminole State College and its Theatre Department, and encourage the Seminole County and Seminole State College community to join in the celebration of this most noteworthy achievement.

HONORING MAJOR MELISSA
DUNLOW

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Melissa Dunlow for her 25 years of service in the United States Air Force Reserves, seventeen of which were served on active duty. Mrs. Dunlow grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. She had an interest in traveling and although she had the desire to attend college, it was not financially feasible. In her senior year of high school, Mrs. Dunlow entered the delayed enlistment program, and subsequently active duty with the United States Air Force. Mrs. Dunlow was first assigned to Tinker AFB in Oklahoma as an Air Transportation Specialist; which primarily meant manual labor of loading cargo and passengers onto military aircraft. Mrs. Dunlow applied for and was approved to cross-train into the paralegal career field where she could perform administrative work. During the four and a half years Mrs. Dunlow served as a paralegal, she took college classes at night and on Saturdays to complete her bachelor's degree. She then applied for a commission and attended Officer Training School about three weeks after her college graduation. Mrs. Dunlow's first assignment as a Second Lieutenant was to Offutt AFB in Bellevue, Nebraska, in 2003. While stationed there, she met her future husband, Neil who was also stationed at Offutt. Mrs. Dunlow applied for a ROTC teaching position at University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. The couple married in June 2006 and Mrs. Dunlow was assigned to Chapel Hill the next month. However, her husband Neil remained at Offutt to fulfill his duty requirement. During their separation, Mr. Dunlow came to realize that the Bellevue/Papillion area was where he wanted to start an orthodontic practice as well as a family. Together, they decided to separate from active duty and make a life in Nebraska. Mrs. Dunlow returned to the area in a civil service position in Human Resources at STRATCOM while Mr. Dunlow opened a small orthodontic practice in Bellevue. Mrs. Dunlow joined the Air Force Reserves as a Liaison Officer to the Civil Air Patrol. After "buying in" her active duty time and completing the minimum required time in civil service, Mrs. Dunlow left her position with STRATCOM in September 2012 in order to spend time at home with their

two children who are now 6 and 4. Currently, Mrs. Dunlow spends days at home with their youngest daughter and works part-time at the orthodontic office as an office manager. Only time will tell what Mrs. Dunlow will do once their youngest daughter is in school full-time, maybe she will utilize her Master's degree, or perhaps she will strike out a new career after using the remaining two years of her GI bill to complete another degree. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mrs. Melissa Dunlow for her 25 years of military service. What a truly inspiring career she has had and will continue to have. Her hard work and tenacity are commendable. Mrs. Dunlow represents a real American hero through her commitment and solidarity to her brothers and sisters in arms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 49 I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

HONORING FOUR MEN FOR THEIR
LIFE SAVING EFFORTS

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize four individuals from the Finger Lake Region on the eve of the one year anniversary of their heroic actions.

On February 11, 2014, an employee at American Rock Salt, located in New York's 27th district, collapsed after suffering severe chest pain. Through the swift actions of four men; Colin Keller, Gary Morrison, Michael Smith, and John Ayer, that individual is still alive and well. The group utilized an artificial external defibrillator and CPR skills learned through the Red Cross's Safety training to successfully resuscitate their colleague.

For their life-saving actions, Colin, Gary and Michael will be presented with Certificates of Merit signed by President Obama and John will receive a Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action.

The Certificate of Merit is the highest award given by the American Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course.

The Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action is awarded to individuals who save or sustain a life by action that exemplifies the mission of Preparedness and Health and Safety Services.

I want to thank Colin, Gary, Michael, and John for their life saving efforts and congratulate them on earning these prestigious honors.

RECOGNIZING CONGENITAL HEART
DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize congenital heart defect Awareness Week, which is February 7th through 14th, 2015.

Each year approximately 40,000 babies are born right here in the United States with congenital heart defects. That is an astounding one in every 125 babies, making this the most common birth defect.

Most newborn infants are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects, causing many children to suffer or even perish early in life. However, if the defects are detected and treated early in life, they can be treated successfully. In the past quarter century, treatments have been developed enabling 500,000 children in the U.S. to survive to adulthood.

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week serves to raise awareness about this condition.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BESSIE MARIE
POOLE

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Bessie Marie Poole who will be honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Poole has dedicated her life to serving her community and she is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Poole was born August 23, 1946, in Wilson, North Carolina to parents Jessie and Edrena Ruffin. Mrs. Poole attended Elizabeth City State University and earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees there. Following her education, Mrs. Poole dedicated her life to educating future generations through a career as an English teacher. Her dedication to education was honored when Mrs. Poole was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 1986 by Beddingfield High School in Wilson.

Mrs. Poole was initiated as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in 1965 while attending Elizabeth City State University and joined the Gamma Beta Omega chapter in 1970. As a member, she has led several committees including the International Program Awards, Baccalaureate, Finance, and Scholarship committees. She also serves as a board member and assistant treasurer for the Odelle Barnes Center. Mrs. Poole is married to Willie Poole, and they are proud parents of two adult children, Keith and Brian Poole.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Poole's contributions to our great nation are many. She has committed her life to serving others through education. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Poole on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND E. COOK OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous service of Raymond E. Cook of Brimfield, Massachusetts who received the Congressional Gold Medal along with his comrades of the First Special Service Force on February 3, 2015.

The First Special Service Force was an elite military unit during World War II comprised of volunteers from the United States and Canada. This unit was specifically trained to fight behind enemy lines in the most inhospitable conditions. They distinguished themselves on multiple occasions, most notably for their critical role in Allied victories in Italy, North Africa, southern France, and Anzio Beach. The unit became known as the "Black Devils" because they would blacken their faces for nighttime missions.

Raymond served as an United States Army Ranger before joining the First Special Service Force in early 1944 and remained with them until the unit was disbanded at the end of that year. Raymond continued to serve in the Army until he was honorably discharged in October 1945. During his tour of service, Raymond was awarded two Purple Hearts for the injuries he sustained during combat.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond Cook fought courageously for the ideals of freedom and peace that our nation holds dear. I want to thank him for his service and congratulate him on receiving the highest award that Congress can bestow.

HONORING MR. HERB HOMEYER FOR BEING NAMED THE 2015 NATIONAL TOOLING AND MACHINING ASSOCIATION (NTMA) CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Herb Homeyer, President of Homeyer Precision Manufacturing in Marthasville, MO. Mr. Homeyer will be named the 2015 National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) Chairman of the Board on Thursday, March 5, 2015. As the national representative of the precision custom manufacturing industry, Mr. Homeyer will tell the story of the NTMA. Backed by nearly 2000 members and representing more than \$40 billion in sales, the clout collectively wielded by this association is considerable. NTMA serves as a valuable national resource for their members, helping them grow profitably.

Homeyer Precision Manufacturing serves key clients in the industries of Aerospace/Defense, Commercial/Industrial, Military, Medical/Pharmaceutical, Oil & Gas/Energy, Semiconductors/Lasers, Electrical/Electronics, and Transportation/Agriculture. The company and

its 63 employees are also major supporters of Manufacturing Day. They opened their doors to over 150 students for a facility tour to help reach out to the next generation and to show what opportunities are available in manufacturing not only in their community, but in the United States.

Herb Homeyer's 43 years in precision manufacturing began as a tool/die maker, then a tool designer, and finally an owner of a company specializing in aerospace tooling, medical, laser components, and high voltage transmission.

Homeyer Precision Manufacturing is one of over 1400 companies that are members of the NTMA that supports U.S. manufacturing and creates employment opportunities in their communities. Tools, dies, molds, precision machining, and special machines shape virtually every single product that is mass manufactured in the United States. This industry is at the very heart of manufacturing in this country and therefore it touches the lives of every American.

It is an honor to have the new chairman of the NTMA from not only my home state of Missouri, but also the 3rd District of Missouri.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #65 on the Schrader amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On Roll Call #66 on the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On Roll Call #67 on the Motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On Roll Call #68 on the Passage of H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Thursday, February 5, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 65, "yea" on roll call vote 66, and "yea" on roll call vote 67.

Finally, I would like to indicate that I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 68 in opposition to H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 48 I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

LOGAN HUGHES APPOINTMENT TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Hughes is an incredibly accomplished young man from Evans, Georgia. Logan is the son of Michael and Laura Hughes, and is a graduate of the Greenbriar High School. During his time there, Logan exhibited his dedication to leadership while serving as the High School NJRTOC Battalion Executive Officer.

Among his many accolades, Logan also showcased academic prowess by his involvement with the National Honor Society, and the Spanish Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, Logan Hughes is also a young man who is also dedicated to improving his community through service. Logan led service efforts at Wesley United Methodist Church as a service acolyte.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Hughes is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With Mr. Hughes' Grandfather as outstanding example of an Army Officer, I am confident that Logan will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Logan Hughes.

TO REAUTHORIZE THE PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.

First authorized in 2000, the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program has a proven history of saving taxpayer money by investing in cost effective projects that are designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property in the event of a disaster. As the old adage goes: an ounce of prevention is worth its weight in gold.

This is true for the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program. In 2005, the Multi Hazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of

Building Sciences found that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$4 was saved in potential disaster costs. Other corollary benefits and indirect savings at the local level and within the business sector were also identified. Moreover, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed the cost savings of the program. Using a different analysis, the CBO found in 2007 that for every \$1 spent on mitigation, \$3 was saved in potential disaster costs.

But it is not just empirical studies that have confirmed the benefits of this program. There are numerous examples of flood control projects, voluntary acquisitions of real property located in flood zones, and the construction of safe rooms that have saved lives and prevented future damage. Areas that have experienced flood damage in the past, and have flooded again, experienced reduced or no damage thanks to effective mitigation. For instance, in Iowa, pre-disaster mitigation funds were used to purchase riverfront homes from homeowners that had suffered flood damage and then converted to green space. When the area subsequently flooded again, there was no new damage, thanks to the pre-disaster mitigation efforts.

With today's ongoing fiscal challenges, increasingly severe storms, and escalating effects of climate change, it makes sense for our country to prepare for these disasters now in order to prevent or reduce damage. Smart planning to mitigate the adverse impact of disasters not only saves lives, but saves money—especially over the long run.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy when there were initial damage estimates in the billions of dollars, many Members from both sides of the aisle streamed to the floor to express sympathy to the victims, as well as decry the extent of the damage and large costs. This program represents an opportunity to curb similar costs in the future while also saving lives and protecting property.

It is time to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program at a sufficient level to make an impact. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 2015, on Roll Call #51 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 361—Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 2, 2015, on Roll Call #52 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 615—Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 2, 2015, on Roll Call #53 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 623—Social Media Working Group Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #54 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res.

70, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #55 on H. Res. 70, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #57 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 596, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 3, 2015, on Roll Call #58 on Passage of H.R. 596—To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #59 on Ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 78, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #60 on H. Res. 78, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 50) Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #61 on Agreeing to the Cummings of Maryland Amendment to H.R. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #62 on Agreeing to the Connolly of Virginia Amendment to H.R. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #63 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 50, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 4, 2015, on Roll Call #64 on Passage of H.R. 50—Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #65 on Agreeing to the Schrader of Oregon Amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #66 on Agreeing to the Jackson-Lee of Texas Amendment to H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #67 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 527, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On February 5, 2015, on Roll Call #68 on Passage of H.R. 527—Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, I

am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PEGGY WILLIAMS RUFFIN

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Peggy Williams Ruffin who dedicated her career to public service. Mrs. Ruffin is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Ruffin has dedicated herself to the pursuit of social justice and the well-being of those less fortunate and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Ruffin, who is married to Jessie Ray Ruffin, was born on September 18, 1942, in Wilson, North Carolina to James Williams and the former Ida Pearl. Mrs. Ruffin graduated from Shaw University with a Bachelor's degree and received her Master's degree from Howard University in Washington, DC. Following her education, Mrs. Ruffin worked as a medical social worker and hospital supervisor. Upon retiring from the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, she was presented the state's highest honor—the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. In keeping with her selfless contributions to others, Mrs. Ruffin currently serves as a mentor and tutor as well as a Board Member of the Odelle W. Whitehead Center.

Mrs. Ruffin is a Golden Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and was initiated in 1963 while attending Shaw University as a member of the Beta Rho chapter. She joined the Gamma Beta Omega chapter in 1969 and has served in many leadership positions since then.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ruffin's contributions to our great nation are many. She is dedicated to the service of others and her passion to improve the quality of life and the well-being of her community is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Peggy Ruffin on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

MS. BRITTANY SEYMORE— EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Ms. Brittany Seymore on her well-deserved recognition as the 2014 Outstanding Teaching Award winner.

Ms. Seymore has proven herself a leader and a role model for her 3rd grade class in the Rockwall ISD.

As a son of two public school teachers and a graduate of public school myself, I know the critical role that educators play in preparing our children to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Rockwall ISD and the surrounding areas are fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated teacher to call its own. Her own principal has said that Ms. Seymore has built a reputation throughout the district as a leader and a top level teacher.

Ms. Seymore's ability to differentiate utilizing stations and homework according to student need is a feat that all teachers strive to reach, and one that Ms. Seymore has mastered.

Her involvement on her campus also goes above and beyond the duties of a teacher. Her part in the district's "Launch Pad Cadre" leadership team fosters innovated and meaningful classroom projects.

Not only is Ms. Seymore valued in her school but also in the Rockwall community. Just this past year, her ability to collect supplies for a young student that was being treated for leukemia shows a great level of compassion and intertwines life lessons into what she teaches her students.

Recognizing the role that education plays in enabling opportunity for all, the United States was the first country in the world to develop a public education system free for anyone to attend. In my job as your Congressman, I'm engaged in many policy debates about education in this country. But let me tell you, nothing that legislators do in Washington or Austin can change this undeniable fact—good education starts with great teachers. And we need more dedicated and passionate teachers like Ms. Seymore. That's why I'm so happy to be here to present this award. Congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 47, I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

LIAM FAIRBRASS APPOINTMENT TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate Mr. Liam Fairbrass on his appointment to the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Fairbrass is an incredibly accomplished young man from Milledgeville, Georgia. Liam is the son of Mark and Emily Fairbrass, and is a graduate of the prestigious Georgia Military College Preparatory School. During his time there, Liam exhibited his dedication to leadership while serving as the High School JRTOC Battalion Rank Commander, the highest ranking possible at the institution.

Among his many accolades, Liam also showcased academic prowess by his involvement with the National Honor Society, the Mu Alpha Theta Society, and served as a student government representative.

Mr. Speaker, Liam Fairbrass is also a young man who also is dedicated to improving his

community through service. Liam led fundraising efforts for the worthy cause of Wreaths Across America, an organization which works with the Georgia War Veterans Memorial in order to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mr. Fairbrass is no stranger to the rigorous work ethic required to be considered as a candidate for the United States Military Academy. With several family members serving as mentors and graduates of the same institution, I am confident that Liam will accomplish his ultimate goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Liam Fairbrass.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ADDIE SCIPIO HAGANS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Addie Scipio Hagans, a dedicated educator and civil servant. Mrs. Hagans is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Hagans has dedicated her life to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Addie Hagans was born May 24, 1928, in Chadbourn, North Carolina, to Alfred Dancy Scipio and the former-Novella Wallace. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from North Carolina Central University, then North Carolina College, where she excelled in English, Speech, and Drama. After college, Mrs. Hagans began her career in education. Mrs. Hagans spent 35 years in education and during that time earned numerous awards and accolades. In addition to being recognized as Wilson County Teacher of the Year for 1978, Mrs. Hagans received the Distinguished Service Award and Most Spirited Teacher Award from the Wilson City Schools.

Mrs. Hagans is a Golden Member and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc. and has served as Basileus, Epistoleus, Anti-Basileus, Ivy Leaf Reporter, and Hodegos. In keeping with her selfless contributions to others, Mrs. Hagans currently serves as a member of the Gamma Beta Omega Chapter's Tutoring Committee. Mrs. Hagans is married to John Hubert Hagans and they are proud parents of two adult children, Reginald Orrin Hagans and Pamela Joi Hagans.

Mr. Speaker, Addie Hagans' contributions to my home state of North Carolina and our great nation are many. Her passion for education and dedication to the service of others is self-evident. I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Addie Scipio Hagans on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

IN HONOR OF KYLE DIXON III

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Dixon III of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for his personal growth and achievements as a successful author at the age of thirteen.

As a fourth grade student, Kyle could not write a full sentence. He was a special needs student who struggled with most of his classes, in particular, writing. Due to his struggle, Kyle was homeschooled until the sixth grade. It was at that time that his mother encouraged him to start a journal to improve his writing skills. The support and encouragement he received from his family propelled young Kyle to start writing his book titled "Jay Bumblebee".

"Jay Bumblebee" is about a young bee that does not have wings. Unable to provide for his family, Jay becomes an entrepreneur and goes on to take over his father's shoe business and provide for his family. Many of the themes in "Jay Bumblebee" go hand in hand with the challenges Kyle has overcome in his own life, and his book has provided inspiration for many young students to never give up on their dreams.

Kyle is a wonderful example of what New Jersey Students are capable of. To date, he has travelled throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania promoting his book. He plans on visiting fifty more schools by April. With over 8,000 copies already sold, Kyle's future success looks promising, and he hopes to continue motivating students by sharing his own story of hard work and success.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle Dixon is a great student who exemplifies the American spirit. I join the Cherry Hill community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements of this exceptional young man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 46, I was unable to make votes due to the weather (snow storm) in Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARIAN SEWELL FARMER

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Marian Sewell Farmer who is being honored by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at this year's Diamond Anniversary Banquet in Wilson, North Carolina. Mrs. Farmer is a dedicated educator and public servant who has committed her life's work to the service of others and is most deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Farmer was born March 7, 1935, in Wilson, North Carolina to James and Katie Sewell. Mrs. Farmer attended public schools in Wilson and graduated from Darden High School. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Livingston College, in Salisbury, North Carolina and was inducted into the esteemed National Science Honor Society while there. Following her education, Mrs. Farmer began her career in education.

Mrs. Farmer was an educator for 36 years and remains an active member of her community. For her contributions to others in support of her community, she was awarded the Phenomenal Woman Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Alumni Chapter at Bennett College. Mrs. Farmer serves as co-chair of the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition and is a board member of the Arts Council of Wilson.

Mrs. Farmer is a Golden Member and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and has served as Grammateus, Tamiouchos, and Basileus, and has also chaired a number of committees. She was first initiated into the Alpha Xi chapter while attending Livingston College and joined the Gamma Beta Omega chapter in 1957. Mrs. Farmer is married to James Edward Farmer, and they are the proud parents of two adult children, James Edward Farmer, III and Allegro Farmer.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Farmer has consistently served her community while remaining a dedicated educator. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Marian Sewell Farmer on her work and on the high honor of being recognized by the Gamma Beta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

TRIBUTE TO VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL NATIONAL SCIENCE
BOWL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charlie Napier, Sunita Kolareth, Gabriel Mintzer, Ryan Thompson, Arun Velamuri, and Coach Nathan Speichinger of Valley High School of West Des Moines, Iowa for winning their regional competition for the 2015 National Science Bowl (NSB).

This program is one of the largest science competitions in the nation and a prestigious academic competition that challenges America's students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in solving technical problems and answering questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, earth and space science, physics, and math.

Approximately 240,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl since it was established in 1991. More than 14,000 students compete in the NSB each year. The Valley High School team won their qualifying regional competition this past weekend, and will be advancing to the National Finals in April.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students demonstrates the rewards of hard work,

dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent these students and their families in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating them on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in their education and careers.

TO AMEND THE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF
1965 TO ADJUST FUNDING LEVELS
FOR CERTAIN OUTLYING
AREAS

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, as we ready to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in the 114th Congress, I am introducing legislation, which I want to see incorporated into a reauthorization and which will help fulfill one of the original goals of the Act, namely to ensure that American children have access to a high-quality education—no matter the economic circumstances of the geographic area where they live. Title 1 of the ESEA was designed to address the “impact that concentrations of low-income families have on the ability of local educational agencies to support adequate educational programs . . .” Pub. L. No. 89–10, §201. But this intent—to close the educational opportunity gaps that exist from community to community in America—has not yet been realized in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, where incomes are less than half the national median and our local educational agency still struggles to meet the needs of students.

Expenditures for public elementary and secondary education nationally were \$10,667 per pupil in fiscal 2012, the most recent year for which this data is available. In the Northern Marianas public elementary and secondary education spending per pupil was just \$6,246. National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. In part, this gap is a function of the local contribution; but the point of Title I was to use federal resources to balance educational funding nationwide by helping places where there is limited fiscal capacity. And my constituents are not unwilling to invest in education: In November they adopted an initiative amending our Commonwealth Constitution to require that 25 percent of each year's local revenues go to our schools, an increase of the existing 15 percent requirement. But, because personal incomes are low, these local government revenues are limited.

The local contribution in the Northern Marianas is also constrained because we have only one layer of government. Local educational agencies nationwide are generally funded both by a state and by a county or municipal government, a system that shares state resources across wealthy areas and poor. In the Northern Marianas there is only a single, state-level government that has authority to raise revenues and is solely responsible for supporting our school system.

If it operated as intended, the system of allocation established for Title I–A funding should alleviate such variations in local capac-

ity, instead it appears to disadvantage the Northern Marianas. The ESEA gives the Secretary of Education authority to allocate a fixed one percent of Title 1 funds among the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools and four “outlying areas,” of which the Northern Marianas is one. But, according to the Congressional Research Service, the result in fiscal 2014 was an allocation of \$1,987 per qualifying child in Bureau schools, while each qualifying child in Northern Marianas schools was allotted only \$1,073.

In addition to this allocation discrepancy, associated with Secretarial discretion, there is an inherent flaw in the Title 1 set-aside of a fixed percentage of annual funding to assist a population that changes with time. We expect families to seek economic opportunity for themselves or better schooling for their children by moving from one area of our nation to another. I have seen this kind of out-migration from my district. And the annual adjustments in Title I–A allocations among the states respond to this dynamic, but the fixed one percent to BIE and the outlying areas does not. Likewise, the population counts and income data, which the Secretary uses in allocating funds among the outlying areas, are based on the decennial census, not on the more up-to-date information used for Title I–A allocations nationally. As a result, Title I–A allocations among the outlying areas continue fixed—on auto-pilot—for a decade, even if the economy in one of these areas flags, incomes fall, or the number of qualifying children increases. I have also witnessed this effect in my district.

Ironically, I understand, the one percent set-aside may originally have been intended to protect the small, outlying areas from year-to-year swings in funding and to assure our areas of federal assistance sufficient to run meaningful programs and to compensate for the inherent fiscal deficiencies islands we face, as a result of geographic and economic isolation. But the present effect of this set-aside is that Title I–A support for public elementary and secondary education in my district, the Northern Marianas, is, as noted, \$1,073 per student, even less than the national average of \$1,215.

So, today I am introducing legislation that modifies the present Title I–A funding system for the outlying areas. My bill ends the special set-aside system, removes Secretarial discretion, and employs the same funding formula that applies to every other part of our nation, although at a much reduced rate in recognition of our relatively smaller populations. And I ask my colleagues for their support.

TRIBUTE TO CARL COCHRAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Cochran of Minden, Iowa for being inducted into the Tri-Center High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Basketball Hall of Fame at Tri-Center was established in 1991 to honor players and coaches who have contributed to the success of Tri-Center's outstanding basketball tradition. Over fifty players and coaches have been inducted into the hall of fame.

Over his 39 year career with Tri-Center, Coach Cochran won 551 games, made five state tournaments, won five Western Iowa Conference Championships, five Conference Tournament Championships, eight District Championships, and five Substate Championships. Coach Cochran was also awarded the State of Iowa Coach of the Year in 1986 and 2008 and was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame in 2009.

In addition to these many honors Coach Cochran has a well-deserved reputation for helping produce great students and guiding them to become even better young adults. Mr. Speaker, the example set by Coach Cochran and the countless hours of devotion to his students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

I am honored to represent Carl and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating him on this latest honor and wish him the best of luck in the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF EDNA
FLORES-LAGUNTE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and celebrate the birthday of Edna Flores-Lagunte. Edna was a valued member of my Capitol Hill staff during the late 1990's, and she lived in San Francisco during the past decade. She would have turned 42 years old today. I say "would have" because, sadly, Edna passed away unexpectedly on June 8, 2014.

One of Edna's great passions was participating in the annual AIDS/LifeCycle, a 7 day, 545 mile bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise funds and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Edna was a veteran rider and participated in her 13th AIDS/LifeCycle last year. Her involvement originally stemmed from a strong desire to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the Filipino American community. She oftentimes rode in the memory of friends whom she had met over the years.

Edna took part in last year's event with her husband, Richard Lagunte, also a longtime rider. Sadly, she suffered cardiac arrest in the middle of the ride and passed away shortly thereafter.

Not only was she well-known among event organizers and fellow cyclists, she was a beloved individual. Edna was genuine, enthusiastic, compassionate, and full of life. Her strong dedication to serving the needs of individuals with HIV/AIDS and raising awareness was truly outstanding and serves as an example for all of us.

During her tenure in my office, Edna was a respected member of my staff who gave so much of herself. I will always remember her for her cheerful spirit, generosity, positive attitude, and her stunning smile.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues and this House to rise with me to celebrate the birth and life of Edna Flores-Lagunte. I am saddened that after less than 42 years of living, we must say farewell to a remarkable

human being who personified the very best in public service. I extend my deepest condolences to Edna's husband Richard, parents Nena and Esposito Flores, and brother Edward. She touched so many and is deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO TUCKER BLUML

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tucker Bluml for being awarded the Ron Scott Wrestler of Character Award at the Scott Duels in Mt. Ayr, Iowa.

Tucker was selected for this honor by a committee of wrestlers, coaches, officials, and teachers who worked with Coach Scott. This is a prestigious award that is presented annually to a wrestler nominated by one of the competing schools who has displayed exemplary character.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Tucker and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and persistence. I am honored to represent Tucker and his parents, Shawn and Barbie Bluml, in the United States Congress.

I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating him on being recognized with the Ron Scott Wrestler of Character Award, and I wish him continued success in his future education and the sport of wrestling.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WILLIAM A. MEEHAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Dr. William A. Meehan, who has gone above and beyond in his service to my alma mater, Jacksonville State University. Dr. Meehan is retiring from his post as the president of JSU on June 30th, 2015, where his leadership and support will be sorely missed.

Dr. Meehan first enrolled at JSU as a freshman in 1968, completed his Bachelor of Science in biology in 1972 and in the same year began a career in education. In 1976, he earned his Master's of Science degree in biology at Jacksonville State University and the following year returned as an instructor in the Department of Biology. He received a Doctorate of Education in the field of higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

Among the positions Dr. Meehan held at JSU prior to becoming president were: Coordinator of Medical Technology Program, Director of Academic Advisement, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Acting Vice President for Institutional Ad-

vancement. He assumed the position of president on July 1st, 1999.

Dr. Meehan's expansive vision for JSU included looking to the future while drawing on the strengths of the past. One of his primary goals has been to extend classrooms and remove barriers to a college degree. Through the use of Internet, the University is able to make classes and learning more accessible to those who work, or for other reasons may not be able to reside on or near the main campus. Under Meehan's leadership, JSU is working to move forward to allow education to be an opportunity to those who were previously excluded.

President Meehan has strived to ensure JSU's bright future; through partnerships with K-12 and community colleges, he has turned JSU into a campus in which education can be seen as a seamless process flowing from kindergarten through graduate school.

While overseeing the development of the University's first strategic plan, Dr. Meehan said that JSU more accurately accomplished the institution's mission through integrating traditional academic programs with career-oriented programs for students. His initiative for the future was founded upon the principle that education spurs economic development.

Dr. Meehan is also highly involved in the community. He has served as an executive committee member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of East Central Alabama, and is active in the area Chambers of Commerce of both Calhoun and Etowah Counties. Meehan is married to the former Elizabeth Stevens, and father to twin boys Drew and Will, and daughter Carol Grace. President Meehan is a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Alabama.

On April 3rd, 2015, there will be a community-wide event to honor Dr. Meehan and his family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. William Meehan for his tireless dedication to Jacksonville State University and the surrounding community. His exemplary service in education is an inspiration. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO LT. COLONEL TRAVIS ACHESON IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Travis Acheson upon being promoted to the rank of Colonel. He has dedicated his life to his country and I am proud to recognize his service and accomplishments today.

After graduating from Valley High School in Des Moines, Colonel Acheson attended the University of Iowa with a degree in Economics. He was commissioned shortly after through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science. He's served as Commander of the 124th Fighter Squadron at the Iowa Air National Guard in Des Moines. He has over 2,300 flying hours and flown missions in Iraq and Afghanistan for the operations Provide Comfort, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his life Colonel Acheson has displayed enormous courage, resolve, and selflessness in his service. He's dedicated his life to our country and we cannot thank him enough for the sacrifices he's made.

Colonel Acheson is an Iowan who we can all be proud of. We must never forget those

who have answered the call to serve this nation and the cause of freedom. Iowans like him are the reason we can all sleep soundly at night and enjoy the freedoms we cherish so much.

It's with great honour I recognize Colonel Acheson and his family today. I know that my

colleagues in the House join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best moving forward.