

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. LARRY MEREDITH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Larry Meredith, who retired on March 31, 2015 following a long and successful career in health and human services that culminated as director of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department for the past 13 years.

After earning a degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario and his master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from Penn State University, Dr. Meredith worked for the San Francisco Department of Public Health for 30 years before coming to Marin.

Dr. Meredith led the department of Health and Human Services during challenging and exciting times. From his first day of work in Marin, Dr. Meredith has navigated the Department with distinction through restructuring and a severe economic downturn while maintaining a focus on promoting wellness and preventative health care to achieve improved, comprehensive community health.

With a bold vision for the future and an unwavering dedication to strengthening partnerships, Dr. Meredith proved time and again his merits as a devoted leader. He successfully directed Marin County's Team HHS—a staff of more than 700 employees across 10 sites—and managed a \$160M budget with multiple grants and funding streams. Those feats would be remarkable by themselves, but it's his dedication to building community relationships and inspiring collaboration among stakeholders that truly sets his service apart.

In his work and life, he has supported and strengthened commitments to many pressing community issues, including access to services for those facing mental health issues, homelessness, disabilities, and socio-economic disadvantages. His work will have a long-lasting and positive impact on Marin County for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor and thank Dr. Larry Meredith for his years of dedicated service to the people of Marin County and extended Bay Area community, and for guiding Marin to its ranking as the Healthiest County in California for six consecutive years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin. On behalf of the many individuals and organizations he served, I am honored to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Meredith for his exemplary public service, and convey our best wishes as he pursues new endeavors.

NATIONAL LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of the wonderful work that linemen do across this great nation. It is a privilege that my office was able to introduce a resolution supporting the designation of April 18, 2015 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. These brave men and women toil every day on behalf of public safety, and for that every American is rightfully thankful for all that they do.

Linemen have a long and storied history in this nation. It is a profession that is often passed down from one generation to the next. The danger of working atop power lines channeling thousands of volts of electricity requires courageous and dedicated individuals up to the challenge. When storms and other catastrophic events occur in our communities, linemen are often there as first responders, working hand in hand with other public safety heroes to secure the scene.

Mr. Speaker, since these men and women often go unrecognized, and because of the unique danger they often find themselves in by tirelessly working to maintain our nation's energy infrastructure, it is entirely fitting and proper to set aside a day of national recognition, April 18, 2015, as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY
DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am so tired of coming down here to the floor each and every year and marking the day that women's pay finally catches up to that of a man's! Equal Pay Day is not a bittersweet occasion—it is simply a bitter reminder of the worth that this country places on the work of women. It is quite simply unfathomable! Today is a glaring reminder of the hard work that still needs to be done in order to achieve gender parity in pay.

Women are half the population! How has this inequity been allowed to stand for so long? When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, women on average made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. It has been 51 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, and yet women still earn on average only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$11,607 between full-time working men and women. We've made some progress—but it's not even close to being enough.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue. Families increasingly rely

on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay women have less money for the everyday needs of their families.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, in California, women in are paid 84 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to an annual wage gap of \$8,183 between men and women who work full time in the state. In addition, Californian women who are employed full time lose a combined total of approximately \$37,658,902,470 every year due to the wage gap. Let me say that again: That's almost \$38 BILLION each year!

The sad reality is that the pay gap is not simply an education issue either. Nationally, women with master's degrees that work full time are paid just 70 cents for every dollar paid to men with master's degrees. Further, women with doctoral degrees are paid less than men with master's degrees, and women with master's degrees are paid less than men with bachelor's degrees.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Paycheck Fairness Act is so critical. I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill. It will close loopholes and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which hasn't been updated in 52 years. The bill has 189 cosponsors so far. And once again this year NOT ONE is a Republican! What possible reasons are there to be against equal pay for equal work? This issue does not only affect Democrats. It affects all hard-working American women and families—regardless of their political party. Does the Majority simply not care about this problem, or is it yet another continuation of the War on Women that they continue to deny year after year?

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE
RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Service Recognition Day, which was held on April, 7th. Service to our community and our country is an enduring feature of the American spirit, and today we recognize those who have made a commitment to volunteerism.

America's cities and communities are at their best when citizens are engaged and take an active role in developing solutions. The Corporation for National and Community Service operates programs that activate and empower communities to tackle some of their most pressing issues such as education, health care, national disaster recovery, and the environment.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps operate in more than 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering both private and non-profit organizations that do vital work in their communities. These programs mobilize millions of volunteers, building skills and educating leaders nationwide. In New Mexico alone,

● 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.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps involve over 5,000 individuals at more than 640 locations.

In honor of National Service Recognition Day I encourage citizens to join me in recognizing the positive impact of national service, to thank those that serve, and to find ways to become involved in their cities and communities.

CONGRATULATING JIM THOME ON
INDUCTION INTO GREATER PEORIA
SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of baseball player and Peoria native, Jim Thome, who will be inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame on April 11, 2015.

Mr. Thome's roots in America's pastime run deep in the Illinois community, having played at Limestone High School in Bartonville and at Illinois Central College in East Peoria. He will be joining his father, grandfather, uncle, and aunt in the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame, all of whom are recognized for their contributions to baseball and softball.

His professional achievements on the baseball diamond are highlighted by his 2,328 career hits, 5 time selection to the Major League Baseball All-Star game, and 612 homeruns, placing him as seventh on the all-time home-run list.

As someone who my late brother, Dan Calahan, considered a personal friend, Mr. Thome is as exemplary off the field as his feats are on the field. Jim and his wife, Andrea, are actively involved in a number of causes, which include helping underserved children find adoptive and foster families, improving the quality of care at Illinois Children's Hospital, and aiding tornado victims in Washington, Illinois.

Jim has been recognized twice for his dedication to community service by being awarded Major League Baseball's Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award, which is given to the athlete who best exemplifies success in their community, as well as on the field.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
THE HONORABLE KEITH C.
SORENSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and extraordinary work of Keith C. Sorenson. Born on September 4, 1921, in Elsinore, Utah, he died in Redwood City, California, on March 20, 2015, at the age of 93.

Keith Sorenson was born and raised on a farm in Utah, the youngest of four children. He said "There's nothing better than living on a farm. If you ever really work on a farm, anything else you ever do seems easy." He

earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Utah, where he met his wife, Maxine Swinson. The family moved to Redwood City, California, and Keith joined a local law firm.

Keith Sorenson joined the San Mateo County District Attorney's office in 1949, and became District Attorney in 1953. He held the post and that of County Counsel for three decades until his retirement in 1982. During his tenure he hired Sandra Day O'Connor, a Stanford Law School graduate who was unable to obtain employment as an attorney because she was a woman. He helped found the One Hundred Club, an organization that supports the families of slain police officers.

Keith Sorenson was widely known and respected for his integrity and strong work ethic. Current District Attorney Stave Wagstaffe praised him, saying "He instilled in all of us the standard that justice and doing the right thing was the only choice for a prosecutor and that other considerations such as politics were irrelevant."

I am deeply saddened by Keith Sorenson's passing. He was a highly regarded public official, a man of enormous integrity, a trusted friend and mentor, and a source of great inspiration to me and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and contributions of Keith Sorenson, a great and good man, and in extending our most sincere condolences to his son, Thomas. Keith Sorenson made San Mateo County, the state of California and our country stronger and better, and he will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

MATTEO ALOIA'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Matteo Aloia attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

UAV Drones can be defined as any unmanned aerial vehicle controlled from the ground. While drones are often associated with American military use, commercial drones have recently become quite popular. As UAV drones have risen to the forefront of the consumer market, they have begun to pose real threats to both security and privacy.

The Washington Post claims that "The Federal Aviation Administration recently

released a report detailing more than 190 safety incidents involving drones and commercial aircraft." The Washington Post also claims that "The US. military is rightfully worried that drones will be weaponized as killing machines and become autonomous flying IEDs (improvised explosive devices)". An example that could have turned to tragedy when, last year, a UAV drone landed on the White House Lawn, unbeknownst to the President's security detail. There was no malicious intent from the drone or its operator. However, if this drone had been intending to do damage, it obviously had the means to do so.

Many UAV drones are also equipped with audio and video capabilities. This begs the question of privacy on American soil. If anyone can fly a drone outside your house and see what you're doing, how can anything be truly private? According to Brookings, an online news source, "unlike some state houses, the U.S. Congress hasn't seriously considered or passed a bill to set general privacy standards or to regulate drones and privacy specifically". While certain state governments have ruled on the nature of privacy in relation to drones, the federal government has yet to reach a decision, and perhaps has not even seriously considered the issue. This could pose a major risk to American's individual freedoms through the invasion of privacy.

In summary, UAV Drones pose several major risks to the American lifestyle. The first risk is one of security, in that drones are difficult to detect and can be easily equipped with IED's. The second risk is one of morality, in that drones can be used to pry into the personal lives of American citizens. Without action from the government, the problem of drones will go unsolved.

HONORING DAVID PLANK

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements and successful career of David Plank from Salem, Missouri. For over fifty years, David Plank has created beautiful watercolor paintings of birds that have been recognized and admired all over the country.

David Plank's talented skills derive from a dedication and passion for the arts, rather than from formal training. All of his drawings are completed in the open air and near the natural habitats of his subjects. David Plank never uses photographs, he captures the posture and attitude of his subjects in his drawings, and then he goes inside and paints. This unique process is what has worked for David for so many years; he estimates he has painted more than 1,400 birds throughout his career.

Among his accomplishments, he has painted eleven covers for Bird Watcher's Digest and been featured in exhibits at the Springfield Art Museum and Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. David hopes his paintings will continue to reflect the good feelings and thoughts he has for birds to future generations of on-lookers.

For his many contributions to the arts and his many successes, it is my pleasure to recognize David Plank before the United States House of Representatives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 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 \$18,152,054,202,954.52. We've added \$7,525,177,154,041.44 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. (Concerned Citizens for a Better Tunica County) is an African-American, grassroots, community based, and community lead, leadership development organization that is rooted in empowering the African-American low-income communities in Tunica County, MS and the Mississippi Delta since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. was formed in July 1999 when the young members of Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County decided that they wanted more individualized training to help them do better community organizing work with their adult allies. Tunica Teens In Action started out with 17 young people ranging between the ages of 11–20 who were led by Ashley N. McKay. These bright young people realized that they needed to develop their skills to help the community and themselves to succeed in a school system that had been on academic probation for over ten years.

Tunica Teens In Action was formally incorporated in 2011 and fully transitioned from Concerned Citizens FABTC, Inc. as a youth and female led youth of color organization. Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community leadership development organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County was formed in 1993 when African-American grassroots low-income moms, dads, students, and other community activists came together to fight for education reform and fairness in Tunica County, MS. At that time, Tunica County was one of the poorest counties in the United States and when Rev. Jessie Jackson visited Tunica in 1985 he labeled it "America's Ethiopia" because of the devastating housing, economy, and community needs. Since 1993, Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County had been a leadership development and empowering organization for Education Reform, Youth Leadership Development, Housing and Job Reform, Democracy Organizing, and Environmental Justice. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. formally incorporated in 1997 and was a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc. (Concerned Citizens) is a rural broad based grassroots community leadership development, education, and training organization working to empower the community by developing new grassroots leaders and organizers in Tunica County, Mississippi. Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc.'s mission is to empower the disadvantaged and low income community (families) of color by building leadership and organization, involving students and parents using the intergenerational model, (young people and old people working together), in the community of Tunica County, MS.

"Empower" is defined as the effective participation of the community to impact the formation of public policy and effective participation in the decision making process in the educational, economic, political, environmental, and social change systems with a special emphasis on education policy in the Tunica School District that will help to create a first-rate quality public educational opportunity for all families in Tunica County and the country. With roots in the struggle for education justice, Concerned Citizens has evolved into a multi-issue community based organization that is led by low-income people of color.

The TRANSITION TO TUNICA TEENS IN ACTION: Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. mission is to develop young leaders, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, who will be able to effectively participate in their community by developing the educational skills, technical skills, and understanding thru community organizing using the intergeneration model since 1993.

Tunica Teens In Action's program of work is rooted in leadership development and local community organizing that uses an inter-generation model to empower the low income communities of color. Most of Tunica Teens In Action work occurs at community trainings/workshops, at public actions to demonstrate community power, through collaborations and coalitions, social media, and in small one-on-one meetings to help educate ourselves and community.

Major Accomplishments: Prevented the white farmers from re-segregating the Robinsonville and Casino Community (1995).

Prevented the Tunica County Board of Supervisors from Abolishing the County Voter Rolls (1996).

Helped to get the Robinsonville Elementary School built for/near the Black Community (1998).

Helped to get the Tunica County School District to a "Successful" academic rating (2011).

Provided youth leadership and education training to over 25,000 persons (1993–2015).

Non-partisan Democracy Organizing—Accountable Governance trainings that helped to create over 30 new African-American accountable elected officials (2005–2015).

Provided private education college scholarships to over 200 high school graduates (1999–2014).

Provided redistricting training to community to help re-shape policy and power in Tunica County, Tate County, Panola County, Sunflower County, Tallahatchie County, Marshall County, Desoto County, Coahoma County, Lee County, Pontotoc County, and Green County (2002 and 2012).

Established P-16 Community Engagement Councils to help parents and students to have

a voice in the creation of education policies for their children (2011–2015).

The staff includes Ashley N. McKay—Executive Director, Mildred P. Conley—Assistant Director, Marilyn L. Young—Education Director, Melvin Young—Resource Director, 4—Youth Interns, and a host of community and volunteers. TTIA has a 9 member Board of Directors that govern the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tunica Teens In Action, Inc. for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

CONGRATULATING IOWA'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the collegiate basketball teams from the great state of Iowa on their seasons and their 2015 NCAA Tournament success.

The University of Iowa Hawkeyes Women's team finished the regular season 26–8, earning a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's Oklahoma City region. The Hawkeyes reached the "Sweet Sixteen" after wins over American University 75–67 and the University of Miami (FL) 88–70.

The Hawkeyes Men's team finished the regular season 22–12, earning a #7 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region. The Hawkeyes defeated the Davidson Wildcats 83–52 in the second round.

The Iowa State University Cyclones Men's team finished the regular season 25–9. The Cyclones won the Big 12 tournament with a 70–66 victory over the Kansas Jayhawks in the championship game and earned a #3 seed in the NCAA Tournament's South region.

Finally, I am proud to congratulate the University of Northern Iowa Panthers Men's team, from my district, finished the regular season an astonishing 31–4. The Panthers won 16 straight games down the stretch and eventually won the Missouri Valley Tournament Championship, defeating Illinois State University by a score of 69–60 in the championship game. UNI earned a #5 seed in the East region and defeated the University of Wyoming Cowboys 71–54 in the second round.

In week 11 of the regular season, all three Iowan Men's programs were nationally ranked in the AP Top 25 poll with the Hawkeyes at #25, the Panthers at #20, and the Cyclones at #9. As a proud Iowan and devout college basketball fan, I extend my congratulations to coaches, Lisa Bluder and Fran McCaffery from Iowa, Fred Hoiberg from Iowa State, and Ben Jacobson from UNI, and their student athletes on successful seasons and I look forward to cheering them on again next year.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLIAM A. NACK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader and a valued

friend of many years, William A. Nack. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, raised in San Francisco and has been a resident of San Mateo County, California for more than half a century. For the past 16 years he has been the able and highly regarded Business Manager and Executive Officer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO, and retired on March 1, 2015.

Bill Nack demonstrated his leadership qualities at a young age when he attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1962. He earned an Associate Degree in Aeronautics, served in the U.S. Naval Reserves, and served as a Journeyman Mechanic with United Airlines where he began his close association with the union movement. He served as a union shop steward for 15 years, challenging management and championing workers. He served on union boards and committees and was a founding member of a coalition between the unions of machinists, pilots and flight attendants. Bill Nack was also a delegate to the San Mateo County Central Labor Council and chaired its Legislative Committee.

From 1987 to 1989, Bill Nack was the Assistant Business Manager for the Central Labor Council of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties, and from 1989 to 1999 served as the Deputy Executive Officer of the Santa Clara and San Benito Building and Trades Council. In 1999, Bill became the Business Manager and Executive Officer of the San Mateo Building and Trades Council, leading 14,000 union construction crafts men and women. During his time as Executive Officer he negotiated 45 Project Labor Agreements and Letters of Commitment, representing more than \$16 billion in projects that employed union members. He ensured that all of the projects were environmentally responsible and respectful of union members, their wages and working conditions. Bill has served with great distinction on many state and local boards and commissions, and is the devoted husband of Rayna Lehman and the proud father of their twin sons, Patrick and Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring the extraordinary work of Bill Nack, a great and good man, and a person of enormous integrity, and wish him every blessing in the years to come. He has strengthened and bettered our community and our country with the work of his life and I will always be grateful to have worked with him and to call him my friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 57TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. MELVIN AND MRS. FRIEDA DOW

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Frieda Dow on their 57th Wedding Anniversary, which occurred on March 23, 2015.

Marriage is one of the most sacred and intimate covenants that two people may enter into, and the Dows' attainment of 57 years of matrimony is worthy of commendation. May their union continue to be richly blessed as they work collectively to nurture each other, their lovely family, and their community. I am

certain that the love and care that they have for one another will continue to grow and flourish in years to come.

As we celebrate the matrimony of the Dows, we also honor their large family which currently includes five sons and twelve grandchildren. I salute the Dows on their wedding anniversary, and I know that their love will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

TAYLOR NGUYEN'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Taylor Nguyen attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

During the past 15 years, America has experienced dramatic occurrences such as Hurricane Katrina and the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. Technology such as the iPhone, has immensely improved our means of communication. However, the greatest impact on the United States was the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001. On this day the deaths of over 3,400 people, including police officers and firefighters, transformed the United States forever. Since 9/11, airports have been reconstructed to operate with thorough security measures, amidst the oversight of the government instituted Department of Homeland Security. Advanced searches on people and luggage have successfully prevented another hijacking on American soil. Unfortunately, the terrorists claimed devotion to Islam have ramshackled some American's views of the Muslim community.

This tragic affair became a catalyst for protection from future catastrophes. On November 25th, 2002, Homeland security was established. Not only do they inhibit terrorist strikes, but they also monitor cyberspace and oversee our borders. The department's border security techniques have been scrutinized. Yet terrorists have been detained, and eradicated (i.e. Osama Bin Laden) as a result of the department's hard work and commitment to the American people.

The sector of Homeland Security that Americans encounter most often in the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA. This department was designed to take further precautionary measures prior to boarding an aircraft. The American people have complained that TSA is time consuming, and violates an individual's civil liberties. There have even been claims of racial profiling. TSA has received negative commentary; however the overall actions are necessary for the safety of the American people.

The Muslim Community has been dramatically affected. A poll taken one month after

the 9/11 attacks by ABC news, announced that 47 percent of Americans appreciated the lives of Muslim Americans. On the most recent anniversary of the disaster, the poll was recalculated and the response was a devastating 27 percent.

Due to the terrorists claiming to be devout Islamists and Al Qaeda participants, a negative stigmatism has spread rampantly throughout the United States in the reflection of the Islamic community. Hopefully through education and understanding, Americans can welcome our Islamic community with open arms.

September 11th was a great loss for the victims' families, whose lives were forever broken, and a travesty for all of America. In the years following the attacks, America has taken a no tolerance stance against terrorism within our country and all over the world. With pride and justice, the lives lost will not have been taken in vain. They have paved a road of stronger security, and saved lives in the process. Although we have a long road ahead, we will remember, and we will build from the rubble a stronger, more valourous United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ISMAIL KADARE, ALBANIAN POLITICAL EXILE FROM FRANCE AND WINNER OF THE JERUSALEM PRIZE FOR 2015

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ismail Kadare, the Albanian political exile from France, distinguished Albanian author and winner of the Jerusalem Prize for 2015. Kadare is a novelist and poet who has written about Albanian history people and while delving deeply into the universal themes of freedom and human rights. He is one of Albania's most highly-regarded authors, having written about its previous totalitarian regime and Albanian culture and society. According to the panel that selected him as the Jerusalem Prize winner, Mr. Kadare "is a teller of fascinating stories who uses implied, indirect writing. He writes about collective guilt, and especially about the truth's failure to penetrate. He seeks to expose, while hiding his tracks in layers of myth and metaphor, questions for which there are no answers and crimes for which there is no atonement. Even though his subject matter and his protagonists are generally local, their significance and importance are beyond doubt universal."

Mr. Kadare's literary career is marked by several laudable achievements, such as the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of France lifetime membership, Prix mondial Cino Del Duca award in 1992, the United Kingdom's Man Booker International award in 2005, and both the Prince Asturias Award for Literature and the Honorary Degree of Science in Social and Institutional Communication by the University of Palermo in Sicily in 2009. As a testament to the universal acceptance of his literature, Mr. Kadare's novels have also been translated into many different languages which now reach broad audiences across the globe. Such accolades and recognition only scratch the surface of Mr. Kadare's admirable commitment to exercising the sacred values of democracy regardless of the circumstances he faces.

Throughout his literary novels, Mr. Kadare carefully selects figurative protagonists and narratives as a vehicle for communicating and inspiring others similarly bounded by the pressures of oppressive regimes. In doing so, Mr. Kadare's commitment to transcending governmental pressure and inspiring harmonious expression of individual freedoms is admirable. Again, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ismail Kadare for I am pleased to pay tribute to such an individual today.

CONGRATULATING CISTERCIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS TWO OF THE TOP 50 BEST PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cistercian Preparatory School and The Hockaday School's recent honor as two of the best 50 private high schools for academics in the United States by Niche, as recently reported by Business Insider. I have the distinct privilege of representing these two schools, which are located within my Congressional District. Having these two schools within a small geographic area speaks volumes about the dedication to academics exhibited by the 24th District of Texas as well as the surrounding area.

Cistercian Preparatory School, an all-boys school in Irving, was founded in 1962, graduating its first class in 1970. Today, the student body consists of 355 students ranging from 5th–12th grade. Cistercian has a 100% matriculation rate, and 50% of Cistercian graduates in the last 5 years were either National Merit Semi-finalists or Commendees. I've also personally taken note of Cistercian students and their strong civic engagement, which should be emulated by all schools across the country. Cistercian Preparatory School's commitment to academics is a tribute to its students, teachers, and parents, with this nationwide recognition an acknowledgement of their hard work.

The Hockaday School was founded in 1913, which began with 10 female students. Located in Northwest Dallas, Hockaday now teaches over 1,000 pre-K–12 students from 10 countries. 53% of Hockaday's class of 2014 were either National Merit Finalists, Semi-finalists, or Commendees, and all 120 graduates attended college. Having recently celebrated its centennial, Hockaday continues to serve as an important part of Dallas' educational landscape. Hockaday's impressive history seems destined to be eclipsed by its incredibly bright future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this great achievement by Cistercian Preparatory School and The Hockaday School. I am confident of the continual success of both schools and the young leaders they produce.

HONORING JEWELL C. LOCKHART

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Jewell C. Lockhart.

Mr. Lockhart was born Feb. 7, 1934, in Taylor, Mississippi. He was one of nine children born to Odeal and Ruby Smith Lockhart. He grew up on a farm seven miles south of Oxford in the Taylor community. He always loved the outdoors and the open country sides. He attended Taylor Vocational High School and graduated top of his class. His love for agriculture and rural America encouraged him to pursue and obtain a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from Alcorn A&M College (now Alcorn State University), where he graduated with honors in 1956. He later received a master's degree in public financial management from American University in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lockhart served two years in the U.S. Army, which included a 16-month tour in Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1962. He went on to teach science, biology, chemistry and physics for one and a half years, and served as assistant principal in Raleigh. He worked for the United States Government and the United States Department of Agriculture for 43 years as: assistant county supervisor; county supervisor (becoming the first black county supervisor in Mississippi); assistant district director; rural estate loan specialist in Washington, D.C.; and District Director in Mississippi.

While at Alcorn, Mr. Lockhart met who would become the love of his life, Ruth Earlene Singleton. They were married in 1957, and to this union were born two sons, Anthony Virdell Lockhart and Jewell C. Lockhart Jr. Mr. Lockhart was involved with many different organizations. He served as: a member of the board of directors and president of the United Way; the board of directors and president of the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County; and was a former board member of The Salvation Army. He also served on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity; the Greater Greenville Housing Committee; the board of directors of Mission Mississippi Delta; the board of directors of Ability to Work; and vice president of TRIAD. He was also a member of National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Mr. Lockhart was also the recipient of numerous awards and citations. Among them are: the Alcornite of the Year in 1982; the Silver Beaver Award from the Delta Area Council Boy Scouts of America; Community Service Award; 100 Black Men of Mississippi Delta, Inc. Distinguished Service Award; Delta Point of Pride Award from Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce; and Outstanding Service Award from National Council of SHADS. He was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, where he received the Membership Award.

Led to Christ at an early age, Mr. Lockhart joined New Hope First MB Church and was a constant presence and faithful servant in a number of capacities there. He served on the deacon board and as church treasurer. He was Deputy Superintendent of young adults. He was Scout Master of Troop No. 4412 at

New Hope for many years and also a youth advisor. He also served as a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jewell C. Lockhart for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF THOMAS D. SEGE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of an extraordinary American, Thomas D. Sege. Thomas Sege was born on May 17, 1926, in Novi Sad, in the former Yugoslavia. He died on March 3, 2015, at his home in Woodside, California.

At the age of 12, Thomas Sege fled Yugoslavia with his parents and brother. He spent his youth in New York City and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Columbia University. He first worked at Sperry Gyroscope in New York, and then in 1963 became General Manager of EIMAC in Silicon Valley. EIMAC merged with Varian Associates and Thomas Sege became its CEO, serving in that position from 1981 to 1990. He was a pioneer in radio transmitting tube technology and in klystron tube technology.

Thomas Sege was devoted to his family and friends, and was an avid reader, a passionate gardener and traveler. He loved to play chess, bridge and Scrabble, and spoke multiple languages. He was also a poet and a philosopher. He suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the last 12 years of his life but never lost his spirit and humor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Thomas Sege's son Ronald, his daughter-in-law Gina Sege, his daughter Kathleen McNamara, and his grandchildren Scott McNamara, and Christopher, Jonathan, Georgia, and Alexi Sege. I ask my colleagues to honor the life of this exceptional man who made enormous contributions to our country, making us a better people and a stronger nation.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROLLA AREA SHELTERED WORKSHOP

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th anniversary of the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop in Rolla, Missouri. It is a place that empowers individuals to use their skills working in a sheltered environment with caring staff. Since its establishment in 1970, the workshop has provided quality employment for individuals with disabilities of all kinds.

Beginning in January 1969, the mother of a disabled son saw a need for a sheltered work environment for those who were too old for a State Training School. Together, the mother and two women who were involved with the

Jaycettes, developed the idea for a sheltered workshop in Rolla. With the help and support of the entire community, the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop opened its doors a little over a year later. Today, the workshop has 75 disabled employees who have found an environment where they can work productively and independently. Alongside a supportive staff of eight, the employees work on printed material, collating, sorting the different kinds, packing and labeling bags, among other projects.

For the many years of service and commitment to helping others, it is my pleasure to recognize the Rolla Area Sheltered Workshop before the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. ESTHER TINT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a real life Rosie the Riveter, Mrs. Esther Tint, on her 100th birthday.

Five years before women gained the right to vote, Mrs. Tint was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on April 23, 1915 to immigrants Rosa Miferia Gaetano and Frank Gaetano. The Gaetanos were a hardworking family, raising their children in modest circumstances amidst the coal mines in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Mrs. Tint recalls her father carrying home large sacks of flour, from which her mother would craft the bread that largely sustained the family.

Following a brief early marriage that produced daughter Phyllis Aisenstein, Mrs. Tint began working at International Resistance in Philadelphia; soldering and riveting parts for electric boxes that were used by the Navy as part of the war effort. Mrs. Tint eventually became an inspector at the plant. While there, she met the man who would become her second husband, Irving Nydick.

Married in 1942, Mrs. Tint and Mr. Nydick had three children, Andrea Lutz, Lynne Cohen and Jeffrey Nydick. Through her four children, Mrs. Tint is the beloved grandmother of Susan Waldman, Josh Aisenstein and Jill Karkella, as well as the adored great-grandmother of Emma Waldman, Daniel Waldman, AvaGrace Tuft, Arden Rose Tuft and Adrienne Elizabeth Tuft.

After raising her children, Mrs. Tint began working at the Federation of Jewish Agencies Thrift Shop in Center City. She was a treasured and tireless worker there for 17 years. During her tenure at the thrift shop, following the death of Mr. Nydick, she met her final husband, widower Bernard Tint. The Tints married in 1977. Their marriage lasted until Bernie's death in 2004 at age 94. Through their marriage, Mrs. Tint is the cherished stepmother of Franke Greenberg and step-grandmother of Sherry and Gayle Greenberg.

Still sharp as a tack and always elegantly turned out, Mrs. Tint eagerly follows politics and current events. She hopes to live long enough to see a female President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and patriotic daughter of immigrants, Mrs.

Esther Tint, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR PAY
ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of additional days a woman must work to earn what a man earned by the end of last year. The 1963 Equal Pay Act (EPA), the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s, has grown creaky with age and needs updating to reflect the new workforce, in which women work almost as much as men. Every Congress, Representative ROSA DELAURO and I, along with scores of other members of Congress, introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act, to amend the EPA to make its basic procedures equal to those of other anti-discrimination statutes. As an original cosponsor, I attended the signing of the 2009 Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restored the original interpretation following a Supreme Court decision that limited lawsuits on pay disparity by tightening the time frame to file such cases.

The best case for a stronger and updated EPA, with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act, occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when female custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that female workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same or similar work as men. Had these women not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task in using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action suit.

Based on my own experience as the first woman to chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I again introduce the Fair Pay Act (FPA) on behalf of the average female worker, who is often first steered to, and then locked into, jobs with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of those who have traditionally held such jobs. Much of the wage inequality women experience today is because of employer-steering and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes, which result in wages being paid according to gender and not according to the skills and efforts necessary to do the job. I introduce the FPA because pay disparity most women face today stems mainly from the segregation of women and men in different jobs and paying women in female-dominated jobs systematically less. Two-thirds of white women and three quarters of African-American women work in just three areas: sales/clerical, service and factories. We need more aggressive strategies to break through the societal barriers present throughout history the world over, as well as employer-steering based on gender, which is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA requires that if men and women are doing comparable work, they are to be paid comparable wages. If a woman, for example, is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, she should not be paid less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally fe-

male occupation, she should not earn less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the legal burden. Under the FPA, as under the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. The plaintiff must show that the reason for the disparate treatment is gender discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

Remedies to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State governments, in red and blue states alike, have demonstrated with their own employees that they can eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty states have adjusted wages for female-dominated professions, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated-jobs that paid less than comparable male-dominated jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when it found that traditionally female jobs paid 20 percent less than comparable traditionally male jobs. There may well be some portion of a gender wage gap that is traceable to market factors, but twenty states have shown that you can tackle the gender discrimination-based wage gap without interfering in the market system. States generally have closed the wage gap over a period of four to five years at a one-time cost of no more than three to four percent of payroll.

In addition, many female workers routinely achieve pay equity through collective bargaining, and countless employers provide it on their own as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations as a result of the shortage of skilled workers, as well as because of the unfairness to women. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep-seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the traditionally female occupations, where pay is linked with gender and always has been.

ZACH JANDA'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Zach Janda attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

In the past fifteen years many events have occurred that have shaped, molded, and changed the United States of America.

Among the several elections that have transpired, the wars we have taken a part in, and the initiatives that have been taken one stands out: The infamous 9/11.

Now being only five years old when this event occurred, I was oblivious to what happened and what would happen next. In the days and weeks following the travesty, America and its citizens as a whole rose up and defeated the immediate challenge to just give up. We came together as a whole when the rest of the world thought we could fall into confusion and anarchy. The rise in patriotism that came after 9/11 created a increase in the military enrollments and many people dropped their jobs and went to fight for their country. This can be seen through Pat Tillman: the man who left the glory and multi-million dollar NFL football career to achieve a new glory while fighting overseas.

This rise in military numbers helped to bolster the US Army, which in turn helped intimidate and suppress their enemies. With all of this great leadership and national pride that came from this travesty there were also minor mishaps that came into play and still affect our nation today. Due to the necessity to act fast to appease the American population, President Bush rushed the USA PATRIOT Act which is becoming more and more controversial today because of the increases in technology and the ease at which the government has the ability to watch over the citizens.

Now, at the time it may have seemed alright in the public's eyes for the government to be able to watch over every move, but there were not enough provisions (because of the rush) that would provide safety nets for the citizens. I'm not going to delve into my view on the topic but the reason the citizens of America dislike the Act is because they feel as though they are being spied on. The government on the other hand only employs this act to attempt to catch, halt, and deter terrorism in the act, so saying that the government spends their money only to spy on the citizens is false.

The United States has been resilient and has continued to change for the past fifteen years due to many events. However, the travesty of September 11, 2001 stands out among the rest because of the outcomes, both good and bad, that transpired after the event.

EQUALITY MEANS BUSINESS' REPORT ON THE LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS & WORKPLACE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the executive summary of a report conducted by Equality Means Business, a project of Equality Florida and the Equality Florida Institute, organizations dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The report demonstrates what we already know to be true—that LGBT discrimination in the workplace is corrosive to both the domestic and global marketplace. We must continue to work diligently to ensure that all citizens are guaranteed equal rights and equal protection under the law.

The full report is available online at http://www.eqfl.org/emb/economic_impact_study.

Florida State laws are negatively impacting business operations and profits to a

much higher level than previously suspected. A groundbreaking study, released by Thinkspot Inc. in March 2015, demonstrates the costly negative impact on Florida's employers from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) discrimination.

Equality Means Business, formed to spotlight major employers in Florida that have adopted comprehensive nondiscrimination policies, commissioned Thinkspot to conduct research addressing the economic case for ending discrimination against LGBT people in the Sunshine State.

The study details extensive analysis of published research and findings from in-depth interviews with C-level business leaders. It reveals negative costs realized by individual employees, employers, and Florida's business community. Study findings also illuminate areas of erosion for Florida's competitive position in the global marketplace. This summary provides highlights of the study's findings.

THE COSTS

The costs resulting from lost productivity and employee turnover alone are estimated conservatively to exceed \$362 million annually. Other costs recognized by the state's business community include forgone new business opportunities, product quality degradation, customer loyalty erosion, safety incidents, corporate reputation damage, and lost opportunities to attract talent—particularly among the Millennial generation.

The cost of LGBT discrimination is not isolated to the individual. Discrimination in the workplace negatively impacts the host company, its customers, its industry (e.g., supply chain), and the geo-political areas (i.e., city, county, state) those employers call home. Research demonstrates that the link from employee engagement to profits and competitiveness is direct.

DIMINISHED COMPETITIVENESS

For many companies, a culture of non-discrimination fostered and maintained through policies is a prerequisite for daily operations. Global corporate peers demand their vendors demonstrate "cultural intelligence." Global business opportunities (i.e., revenues) are lost in the absence of workplace discrimination protection.

Responses from business executives reveal that representative companies have interests far beyond the ability to attract and retain the best talent, as well as responding to global customers' demands for inclusion policies as a prerequisite for doing business.

The currently unrealized effort to pass federal legislation providing non-discrimination intensifies the competition between states in realizing the benefits of protection in the workplace. Florida ranks in the middle of the national pack at 25. Florida businesses are at a competitive disadvantage created by the collective perception as being hostile to the LGBT community.

The lack of protections available to LGBT people in a state like Florida stands in stark contrast to the protections available in high-equality states, where state law eliminates these differential costs.

INCONSISTENT POLICIES WITHIN THE STATE

In researching for the report, the authors discovered employers that made significant effort to implement internal policies that protect members of the LGBT community within the office, but felt those efforts were "undercut" by inaction or regressive action of government at the local and state levels. The interviews also revealed a perception that some governments appear to be actively working against companies' ability to create a "safe" and "inclusive" environment and fail to demonstrate critical "cultural intelligence" to industry peers and global partners.

An employer pointed out that the workplace is only one part of the factor—an employee would also need to go home and may have a partner working at a different location without protections and could face any number of other discriminations. One CEO noted where a highly-sought after C-level candidate turned down a very attractive job offer because, although the company was a great fit and provided partner benefits and other protections, the candidate did not feel he would be welcomed in the state and in the community. Potential employees considering work in Florida carefully examine the environment created by the host communities and state.

INTERVIEWS WITH FLORIDA BUSINESS LEADERS

In-depth interviews were conducted with participants representing organizations of varying sizes and sectors, from manufacturing and medical services to Florida's emerging tech sector. They spanned in size of workforce from 18 to 400,000. The interview findings document an overall theme that broad and consistent discrimination protection is a matter of state competitiveness. This is especially evident for critical industries such as technology, tourism, and medical services, and for companies operating or headquartered out of the state while competing within a global market.

For many companies, a culture of non-discrimination fostered and maintained through formal policies is a prerequisite consideration for daily operations and for promoting their own relevancy among global corporate peers who demand their supply chain partners and vendors demonstrate "cultural intelligence".

DAMAGED STATE REPUTATION

Leaders provided continual reference to concerns over Florida's negative reputation, especially related to diversity, inclusion, and discrimination at the state-level. Executives link this reputation issue to the loss of highly sought-after candidates, the direct loss of high-potential incumbent talent, and hesitancy of large global partners considering acquisitions or including Florida companies as supply chain partners, often in a global arena.

Executives noted that when identifying their companies as operating within or headquartered in Florida, responses of industry peers, potential partners, or clients will often be negative and even express doubt about the value and validity of the company itself. Executives linked these responses directly to negative perceptions of Florida's brand as "backwards" and not promoting diversity of ideas and cultures.

Participants repeatedly noted that they had to exert deliberate effort to "overcome" negative reputational issues related with being headquartered or having major operations within Florida. On one account, a company headquartered in a major metropolitan area in Florida noted that their largest competitor (based out of California) had raised questions about how "good your talent could actually be" because they are living and working in Florida "where basic human protections are either not provided or fought against."

AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVE

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the participants noted plans to expand in the coming 36 months. Several reported that relocation or expansion decisions were made in favor of a location with a public policy climate that promoted diversity and non-discrimination for the LGBT community.

MILLENNIAL EXPECTATIONS

The executives suggest that Millennials are flocking to workplaces where they believe their values are reflected, and suggest

they want a company culture that “treats all people fairly.” Meanwhile, leaders report hearing frequent expressions of frustration and confusion by highly-sought younger workers at why “some older people” make a “big deal” out of non-discrimination (in and outside of the workplace) or speak actively about LGBT issues in negative, cautionary, or bigoted tones. Competing for talent, particularly for members of the Millennial generation now entering the workforce, makes inclusion and diversity a requisite.

SUPPORTING DISCRIMINATION PROTECTION IS
STATUS QUO

Executives suggest that the “battle is over” in corporate America and the boardroom. Supporting discrimination protection is status quo for large companies and for most medium-sized firms, and a requirement for competition in many cases. Business leaders felt their competitive positioning efforts were “undercut” by negative or absent external public policies in local markets and inaction at the state level to support business needs. Some suggested the need for state action to address these issues and eradicate both the negative perceptions of the state and cultural landscape.

COMPLIANCE THROUGHOUT SUPPLY CHAINS

Failing to represent the presence and authentic implementation of a non-discrimination policy can result in real, hard loss of revenue from global clients and partners as well as significant damage to brand reputation.

A PREREQUISITE FOR BUSINESS

For companies to compete for business, they must both have and evidence non-discrimination policies and culture. Another element relates to softer aspects of brand reputation and acceptance among industry peer groups. Leaders express “reputation” as extremely delicate and important, especially in the early stages of competitive opportunities.

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND LEGISLATIVE
EFFECTIVENESS

Public opinion in Florida supports the passage of legal protections from workplace discrimination for LGBT people. Survey results found that 73% of respondents supported passage of this legislation that would have added protections from sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination to existing state law. Three sources of public opinion data indicate that 80% of Florida residents think that LGBT people experience a moderate amount to a lot of discrimination in the state.

The study also shows evidence of the effectiveness of state legislation. Evidence from states with sexual orientation non-discrimination laws indicates that the likelihood of a gay or lesbian employee in those areas even filing a legal complaint is estimated at only 0.01 to 0.08 percent annually.

TRIBUTE TO SIMON PETER
WORDEN, BRIG.GEN., USAF, RET.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Simon Peter “Pete” Worden as he retires from NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California as Director.

Pete Worden was born in 1949 in Michigan. He earned his BS degree from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Arizona. He was commis-

sioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 1, 1971, and rose through the ranks to become Brigadier General in September, 2000. He retired from active duty in May, 2004. While on active duty he served in many critical positions, including serving as an advisor in the Executive Office of the President. At the time of his retirement he was Director of Development and Transformation, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California.

After retirement from the Air Force, Pete Worden was a Research Professor of Astronomy, Optical Sciences and Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona and was a consultant to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

In May, 2006, Pete Worden became Director of NASA Ames, where he served with great distinction. During his tenure at NASA Ames many small, low-cost satellites were launched and new thrusts in quantum computing were made. Pete can be rightly proud of the revitalization of space biology and the development of synthetic biology, and of Ames’ work on the International Space Station.

I had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Pete Worden and I know him to be a gracious man of brilliance and integrity. He worked with me and GSA on a competitive bid process that resulted in the selection of Planetary Ventures, LLC as the lessee to restore historic Hangar One and the management of Moffett Federal Airfield. Because of this work, Moffett Federal Airfield will remain a federal facility, managed under a public-private partnership. This Silicon Valley hub for disaster preparedness will be maintained and available as needed for federal purposes and significant taxpayer dollars will be saved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in honoring Pete Worden for his extraordinary service to our country which has made us a stronger, better nation.

REMEMBERING WAYNE PROUSE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man and a friend, Wayne Prouse. Wayne passed away on Friday, April 3, 2015 at the age of 69.

Wayne was an amazing man who shared his love of history and our country with thousands of students over a period of thirty-five years as a teacher in Orange County, Texas. Wayne’s passion for history left a lasting impression on all of those he taught and he is remembered by many for his integrity and honor, qualities he strived to instill into his own students as well. He is fondly remembered by many former students whom he sponsored on trips to our nation’s capital where he introduced them to the memorials celebrating the lives and achievements of our founding fathers. Wayne always taught with two goals in mind—to promote the ideals of American democracy and civic responsibility among all of his students.

Wayne’s service to his community didn’t end in the classroom. He proudly shared his love

of history by serving on the Orange County Historical Association and as an active member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, traveling around the country reenacting famous battles. Wayne also served passionately on the board of directors for the Salvation Army, Orange County Retired Teachers Association, Texas Horseshoe Pitchers Association, and as parliamentarian for the Orange County Republican Party.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Wayne as an important member of my staff who served the constituents of our district faithfully. Most notably, Wayne was responsible for our Veteran’s Video program where he interviewed combat veterans and later filed DVDs of those interviews with the Library of Congress, where they will remain as important reminders of the service and sacrifices of these brave men and women for generations to come.

My prayers and deepest condolences go out to Wayne’s wife, Andrea, his son, Brandon and his grandson, Landon. Wayne will be sorely missed by my staff, our community, and his former students, but his passion for history and the valuable lessons he taught will certainly live on.

HONORING THE PASSING OF MR.
KENDALL FRANKLIN ROWE SR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the passing of Mr. Kendall Franklin Rowe Sr., of Montross and Richmond. Mr. Rowe passed away peacefully on March 3, 2015. He is survived by his wife; Phyllis G. Rowe, and his children; Kendall F. Rowe Jr., Brenda Rowe Murray, Rebecca R. Graf and his grandchildren, as well as his sister Eleanor R. West. Mr. Rowe was a loving father, grandfather, and family man. Mr. Rowe was also a loyal patriot who served in the U.S. Army as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. Rowe will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING SARA
MCDONALD

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sara McDonald, who was named Elementary School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association on March 5, 2015.

Elementary school represents a vital moment in a child’s education, and hardworking, dedicated educators, like Sara McDonald, are crucial to molding curious students into lifelong learners. As principal of Northview Elementary School, in Peru, Illinois, Mrs. McDonald has continually demonstrated her passion for education and her commitment to serving students. She serves not only as a leader of

her team of teachers, administrators, and support staff, but also an example of the importance of continual education and self-improvement. Mrs. McDonald has continued her education with additional training on the Kindergarten Development Survey (KIDS), Comprehensive Literacy Model (CLM), and the Danielson Model on Teacher Evaluations, in addition to serving as the Bi-lingual Coordinator and primary grant writer for her school.

As the son of a public school teacher, I know the importance of having passionate and creative teachers in the classroom who are able to educate the next generation of Americans. For that reason, I am honored to join with the nearly 5,000 principals and education leaders of the Illinois Principals Association and the students and staff of Northview Elementary to honor Mrs. McDonald's many accomplishments, and to congratulate her on being named Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all of the hard work Mrs. McDonald has done for our students and the Peru community. I congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DARREN E. RUSSELL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of the death of Mr. Darren E. Russell, the son of my constituent, Ms. Maxine Russell.

In 2005, at the time of Mr. Russell's untimely death, many young U.S. citizens were employed as language instructors in China, due to increased demand for English language skills in connection with the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympics. Like many Americans, Darren sought out this opportunity to work in a different culture, and to improve ties between the United States and the people of China.

Darren was loved by his students, who gave him a Chinese nickname that translates to "White Rabbit." While he enjoyed teaching his students, his relationship with his employer was not good. He was reportedly required to work seven days a week, and was subjected to substandard working conditions by his employing school, the Decai English Language Institute. His employers seized and held his travel documents, including his passport.

Further, his employing school had failed to obtain the proper work documentation for Mr. Russell, making him essentially an illegal alien in the eyes of Chinese authorities. When Mr. Russell expressed concern about his working conditions, he was removed from his employer-provided apartment and placed in virtual detention by his employers at the Cathay Hotel in Guangzhou. While there, Mr. Russell was robbed, and he therefore lacked the financial means to arrange for his departure.

In a recorded message on his father's cell phone a few hours before his death, which was deemed a hit-and-run accident by local authorities, Mr. Russell expressed grave concern for his personal safety. He sought urgent

assistance from his family and the U.S. Consulate in order to return to the United States.

These circumstances raised suspicion that foul play was involved in his death. A subsequent autopsy was conducted by a board-certified pathologist in Los Angeles, California, in March of 2007. The pathologist concluded that Mr. Russell was murdered by blunt force trauma to the head; his injuries were found inconsistent with a motor vehicle accident by the pathologist.

Darren's mother has spent the ten years since April 14, 2005 seeking justice for Darren and the truth about what happened that day. She continues to seek information about the circumstances leading up to his death, and the inability of U.S. officials to render effective assistance to Darren after his pleas for help.

Darren is remembered by those who knew him as a caring and effective teacher, someone who tried to build bridges between the American and the Chinese people. I hope that both the U.S. and Chinese governments will assist his mother's efforts to determine what happened to her son ten years ago this week.

EQUAL PAY DAY 2015

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 14th as Equal Pay Day 2015.

April 14th is not a random date of the calendar; today marks how far into the year 2015 a woman must work until her earnings for 2014 and these additional months match what a man earned in 2014 alone.

In my home state of California, for every dollar a man makes, women still make just 84 cents. The gender wage gap is even greater for women of color. It is unconscionable that 52 years after President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, which established the principle of equal pay for equal work for women in the workforce, we still have such great gender-based pay disparities. This is harmful to our families and America's global competitiveness.

That is why I strongly support the Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation which would strengthen the 1963 Equal Pay Act and provide effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. It is time for Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. I am also proud to support the Equal Pay Resolution, which recognizes the significance of Equal Pay Day to illustrate the disparity between wages paid to men and women, and its impact on women, families, and the nation.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is an economic issue. When women are paid fairly, families and businesses prosper. When families and businesses prosper, America prospers.

HONORING MAYOR CLINT COBBINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mayor Clint Cobbins.

The Honorable Mayor Clint Cobbins is the first African-American mayor of Lexington, Mississippi, the county seat for Holmes County.

A Holmes County native, Mayor Cobbins is the seventh of eight children born to Mr. Lee Henry Cobbins and Mrs. Willie Lee Cobbins. Mayor Cobbins grew up in the Ebenezer Community. He is a 1974 graduate of the former Lexington Attendance Center (LAC). He also attended Holmes Community College in Goodman, Mississippi, where he received training as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

In 1983, he became a certified firefighter from the Mississippi State Fire Academy. In 1987, he completed his Law Enforcement Training through the Law Enforcement Academy in Pearl, Mississippi. He served in Law Enforcement for twenty-four and a half years. He retired as Police Chief of Tchula, Mississippi. Mr. Cobbins also held a dual career as an Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Canton, Mississippi where he served for twenty-eight and a half years. In 2004, he became an ordained Elder with the Guiding Light Church of God in Christ, Lexington, Mississippi.

Since becoming Lexington's first African-American Mayor in 2012, he has been instrumental in the renovation facelift of the downtown Lexington area—completing the sidewalk project. He worked with the North Central Planning Board to restart the feeding program for senior citizens, which serves over 50 hot meals per day at the Multi-purpose Building. He also continued the Mayor's Health Council program for senior citizens.

During the summer of 2014, Mayor Cobbins held, in collaboration with Madison County Sheriff's Explorers Program, a Fire and Police Academy Safety camp for Holmes County youth ages 6 to 14, in which 102 graduated from the camp. He plans to do another camp during the summer of 2015. "We have to keep our young people busy doing something constructive during the summer months. It will help them to stay out of trouble," the Mayor said.

Also during 2014, he and the Aldermen of the City of Lexington, along with the Board of Supervisors of Leflore County collaborated with the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) in securing a recent \$495,000.00 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Dallas and BankPlus of Mississippi to do housing repairs in the City of Lexington and in Greenwood.

Mayor Cobbins and the City Board of Aldermen have also voted to work toward making Lexington a Smoke-Free City. That work is currently in progress.

Mayor Cobbins and his wife are also local business owners of Kay's Sugar Shack—a short order food business.

Mayor Cobbins is married to Karen J. Cobbins, a native of Picken, Mississippi, and they are the parents of three adult children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Clint Cobbins for his outstanding services in his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INNOVATIVE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (ISIA) OF 2015

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, a growing threat to water quality throughout the United States (U.S.) is polluted stormwater runoff, flooding, and sewer overflow from highly urbanized areas flowing into surface waters without being treated. This is especially true for Maryland with the Chesapeake Bay and several of its tributaries, including the Anacostia, Patuxent, Potomac, and Severn Rivers that flow through the Fourth Congressional District.

Innovative stormwater solutions, such as permeable pavement, natural drainage swales, and green roofs offer an effective alternative to conventional stormwater infrastructure that has both the flexibility and economic viability to address the challenges of polluted runoff, flooding, and sewer overflows. Unlike traditional stormwater infrastructure, this approach protects, restores, and replicates the natural hydrology of the landscape. Many of these innovative infrastructure practices are more economical, increase property values, and promote jobs to design and implement them.

This week Senator TOM UDALL (D-NM) and I are proud to reintroduce the Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act (ISIA) of 2015 to help stem this growing crisis in clean water management issues. The bill would:

Promote the use of innovative stormwater solutions within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water and related programs and provide technical assistance to states, local governments, and the private sector;

Invest in planning, development, and implementation grants for community-based stormwater control projects;

Establish up to five Centers of Excellence in various regions of the U.S. that would conduct research, develop recommendations, and provide training and technical assistance for implementing management practices for stormwater control and management; and

Promote public-private partnerships to create jobs in the design and construction of innovative stormwater control infrastructure.

Our legislation provides an innovative, environmental, and economically cost-effective approach to water management strategies that improve water quality throughout the nation while creating good-paying jobs for the future. The goals are to:

Improve our nation's ability to manage clean water resources, including drinking water;

Increase research and development of innovative green infrastructure techniques;

Create jobs across diverse sectors, such as plumbing, landscaping and engineering;

Save taxpayer money by reducing the amount of water entering treatment plants, keeping energy costs low and prolonging the life of existing conventional water infrastructure; and

Provide environmental and economic benefits to communities, including reduced flooding and energy use, as well as increased community greenspace and property values.

The Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act has received broad support from water

and environmental organizations, including the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, American Rivers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Water Environment Federation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB KASTENMEIER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our friend and former colleague, Congressman Bob Kastenmeier, who passed away last week at the age of 91. Congressman Kastenmeier came to Congress in 1959 and was a loyal public servant, honorably representing Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District for 32 years.

His contribution to the House of Representatives, specifically the House Judiciary Committee, left a huge mark on the State of Wisconsin and the nation.

Congressman Kastenmeier was a lifelong public servant. Prior to being elected to Congress, he served the state of Wisconsin as a Justice of the Peace for Jefferson and Dodge Counties. He was also a member of the United States Army during World War II where he rose to the rank of first lieutenant. However, even though he was willing to fight for the freedom and security of our country, Congressman Kastenmeier understood the horrors of war and courageously took a firm stance against the Vietnam War and the invasion of U.S. military troops in Iraq.

During one of the country's darkest periods, Congressman Kastenmeier was a vocal supporter of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He fought tirelessly to ensure the equality of all Americans and he led by example through his ability to successfully work with elected officials of all races, genders and political persuasions.

For twenty years, he was the lead Democrat of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Administration of Justice. He authored many important copyright law reforms during that time and was a key sponsor of the Copyright Act of 1976, which remains the foundation of the nation's copyright law. He also led the United States into the community of nations through adherence to the Berne Convention. While a Member of the Judiciary Committee he was also involved in the impeachment hearings for Harry E. Claiborne, a judge for the United States District Court for Nevada, and President Nixon.

Congressman Kastenmeier was a principled and progressive legislator who did not seek attention and was known to vote his conscience. However, his contributions have been recognized nationwide. The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin honored our great colleague by naming the courthouse the "Robert W. Kastenmeier United States Courthouse."

Congressman Kastenmeier will be greatly missed, but he has left a legacy that will live

forever. I am proud to have served with him and we are eternally grateful for his dedication, knowledge, and integrity. I am also proud that he was my friend.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends around the world.

HONORING PASTOR KENNY FOREMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, and my friend, Pastor Kenny Foreman, upon his 85th birthday, as well as in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his church, Cathedral of Faith. I have had the privilege of knowing Pastor Foreman for many years, and I can personally attest to his lasting legacy of achievement through selfless ministry. His is the epitome of a life dedicated to serving others.

Pastor Kenny Foreman and his beloved wife, Shirley, are leaders and founders of the Cathedral of Faith, one of the most prominent Churches in Santa Clara County. Pastor Foreman's life story is truly one of faith and commitment to his beliefs and his community. Pastor Foreman has been in ministry for over 60 years and has served as pastor of the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose, California for over 35 years.

Born the youngest of three children to Hansel and Mabel Foreman in Crowley, Louisiana, he began traveling the United States full time as an evangelist minister by the age of seventeen. In 1953, Kenny met Shirley, the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Lowry of Trinity Church in Oakland, California. Pastor Foreman and Shirley Lowry wed in 1957, and ever since have committed their lives to ministry. As newlyweds, Kenny and Shirley Foreman traveled to Kansas City, Missouri in response to their calling and vision to establish a church. Kenny and Shirley spent their honeymoon converting an old theater into a place of worship. Pastor Kenny preached and played the guitar while Shirley played the organ, accordion, and piano. Later, they would be joined by their two sons, Ken and Kurt, who would also become active members of the Cathedral of Faith.

Their work with the Calvary Temple in Louisiana grew to serve a congregation of more than 2,000 persons, becoming one of the largest charismatic churches in the nation.

In 1965, Kenny, Shirley and their two sons, Ken and Kurt, were invited to San Jose, California to conduct a crusade and eventually lead the Friendly Bible Church. Immediately after becoming Pastor of Friendly Bible Church, Pastor Kenny began producing a weekly, half-hour television program entitled, "Kenny Foreman Presents Abundant Living." It was one of the first religious programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and was eventually nationally syndicated. Today, Kenny Foreman is the only local minister and programmer who has remained on the air for over 40 years. Throughout these years, Pastor Foreman has never received any income for his television ministry, and all financial support that his congregation had received was funneled back into the operations of the ministry.

It soon became evident from the growth of the congregation that a church would have to be built. Thus, in 1976, fourteen acres of property were purchased in San Jose, California to house what is now the Cathedral of Faith. It would be a sanctuary that would seat nearly 3,000 people and was conceived in Pastor Foreman's spirit. Eventually, the grand opening of the Cathedral of Faith was celebrated on March 15, 1981. On January 1, 1982, the Cathedral of Faith became the home of The Religious Channel: 24 hours of Christian programming on Gill Cable, the largest cable company in the nation at that time.

The Church has never stopped growing. Even after all these years, Outreach Magazine has named Cathedral of Faith as one of the fastest growing and largest churches in America.

Pastor Foreman and Cathedral of Faith have had an amazing record of community involvement. The work of the church has exploded into over seventy active ministries, including, among many other community outreach programs, "Reaching Out," a food assistance program that operates from a 16,000 foot distribution complex serving 50,000 families annually and providing food for over 200,000 people. The California Department of Agriculture has recognized Reaching Out as one of the most efficient food programs in the state.

The church has also created a program called "California Youth Outreach" in order to meet the needs of young men and women that had fallen prey to gangs and drugs; it also serves on the Mayor's gang task force. I recall fondly working with Kenny in the early 1980s as their successful efforts were underway to grow these important services. The Cathedral of Faith also provides child care, early childhood education services, a family life center, a sponsorship program for children in Mozambique, an addiction recovery program, and even a university preparatory academy to prepare a diverse population of 7th–12th grade students in the central San Jose areas and surrounding neighborhoods to enter and excel in the best colleges and universities in the nation.

Kenny has never forgotten his own humble roots, and his life has been filled with joyful, generous, forgiving, and loving service. It is an honor to call Pastor Kenny Foreman a friend, and it is my privilege to honor him and his wife, Shirley, as significant persons in the 19th Congressional District. I would like to take the occasion of Pastor Foreman's 85th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Cathedral of Faith to thank him and his family for their many gifts and contributions to the community of San Jose, and I wish him many more healthy, happy and blessed years.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE U.S. HOUSE STAFFER, ALYSON ROSE SINGFIELD

JANUARY 24, 1958–APRIL 7, 2015

BELOVED MOTHER, STEPMOTHER, DAUGHTER, GRANDMOTHER, SISTER, AUNT, COUSIN, FRIEND, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, a dedicated public servant who touched the lives of thousands of my constituents, and my life-long friend, the late Alyson Rose Singfield, who died on April 7, 2015 after a courageous battle with breast cancer at the much too young age of 57-years old.

Alyson was the beloved mother of Hope Lynn Stevenson, Tommy Stevenson and Earl Johnson.

She was a caring stepmother.

She was the loving daughter of Rose and the late Waldorf Singfield.

She was a proud grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend to many.

Her death was a huge loss for me, my staff, and for the St. Louis community that Alyson loved and served so well for many years.

As my Community Outreach Director, Alyson brought her immense talent, creativity and dedication to work every day.

She helped create and coordinate outstanding programs like my Congressional Youth Cabinet, the Congressional Art Competition, my Congressional Internship Program and many others.

She was also my personal representative on the Regional Health Commission.

Alyson also served on the Board of Directors of the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers, one of our nation's most outstanding Federally Qualified Health Centers.

My thoughts and prayers are with Alyson's wonderful family and her many friends at this painful hour.

Alyson's legacy of love, service, and her courageous spirit will always remain in our hearts.

She will never be forgotten.

May God bless her with perfect peace and eternal rest, and may he bless all who mourn her with strength, faith and renewed determination to continue the good works that she established.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress to join me in honoring the memory of Alyson Rose Singfield for her legacy of duty, honor, integrity, compassion, faith and dedicated service to the citizens of Missouri's 1st Congressional District, the U.S. House of Representatives and the United States of America.

BRIAN RERICH'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in

the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Brian Rerich attends Alvin High School in Alvin, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government holds a power constitutionally given to those who represent the people, for the people, in order to make decisions on the people's behalf to protect rights of life, liberty, and property as stated by the Founding Fathers. The foundation of all governments are based around the concept of united groups banning together to protect each other or their own property from other groups of the uncivilized, leading to formations of countries with ideologies reflecting the ideas or aggressions on which they were founded regardless of governmental nature.

Philosophically a government's role in everyday life should be to fulfill its duty of creating, and enforcing laws which protect the people and their rights while having their best interests at heart. Government's should also terminate those that violate those rights and laws or cause aggression to the people, given that the punishment is just and fair from prison to military action, even if it is members of the regime that must be terminated. However the government should remain checked and balanced to ensure that it is constantly protecting and representing the people. It is not the government's job to regulate or judge every aspect of a person's life, but to safeguard it, even if it means defending a person from themselves in some cases. As stated in The Declaration of Independence, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness", the only thing the government is required to do is help the people it governs. The Government has a responsibility just as the people who give it power do. They must protect and serve with integrity and distinction for the betterment of society and humanity. This ensures progression, protection, unity, and equality for all, preserving that which is the fabric of America, as well as what was sewed into it during its founding.

HONORING CHARLES TILLMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Charles Tillman a native of Brookhaven, Mississippi. Mr. Charles Tillman earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Education from Alcorn State University and his Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Southern California.

He has more than thirty years of experience in education through his service as the former counselor at Lanier High School, as a former Assistant Principal at Hardy Junior High School and as a former Principal at Rowan Junior High and Brinkley Junior High School.

His contributions to the local community include: the Town Creek Project, Midtown Federal Housing Rehabilitation Program, Midtown Community Service Centers, and a Community Economic Development Grant. He has also served as: President of the Rolling Hills Neighborhood Association, a Habitat for Humanity board member and a 2004 Mississippi Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

He has served on various committees in the City Council and among the community such as the Mayor's Advisory Committee, Superintendent's Advisory Committee, Keep Jackson Beautiful, and Jackson School Board President. He was formerly the Chairman of the Council's Budget Committee.

Councilman Tillman has been awarded: a pedestrian crosswalk on North Mill Street in his honor, the Boy Scouts of America Seminole District's Principal-of-the-Year Award, Governor's Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Voluntary Community Service and National Council of Negro Women's Appreciation Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service.

He was married to the late Issie Patterson and has two children, Vanessa and Randy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Councilman Charles Tillman for his dedication in serving.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to announce the beginning of our effort to reauthorize and extend the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which is providing health care and financial assistance to over 70,000 first-responders and survivors all across the country. These are the 9/11 heroes—the firefighters, the police officers, the EMTs, the volunteers—who came to Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, to sift through the rubble and help their fellow men and women. The clock is ticking for the heroes and survivors of 9/11. In just over 500 days, the programs that help them cope with 9/11 related illnesses will expire.

After 9/11 we made a promise not only to pursue justice against those who attacked us and to rebuild but also to take care of those who were injured in those attacks and the heroes who risked life and limb in the recovery efforts.

Our commitment to "never forget" knew no bounds and no party lines when joined in unison on the steps of the Capitol back in 2001. This Congress we must make sure we keep that promise by permanently extending this vital legislation.

The health of those who were there in the aftermath of 9/11 was forever changed. More

than 70,000 people in all 50 states and in 429 of the 435 congressional districts have benefited from the World Trade Center and National Health Programs. The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund is helping more than 10,000 people who were made ill by 9/11 and has determined they are eligible for more than \$1 billion in economic assistance because of the hardships and the losses they suffered.

So far medical research has identified more than 60 types of cancer caused by 9/11 toxins. Thousands suffer from diseases that don't go away in a year and sometimes don't present themselves for decades. Diseases and injuries that can make it impossible to find and keep work.

Making these programs permanent is the least that we as a grateful nation can do for our heroes and heroines of 9/11. I thank my colleagues Reps. JERROLD NADLER, PETER KING, and the entire New York delegation, as well as other Members from across the country who have committed to working together in this fight for reauthorization.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL RICHARD VANA FOR ACTIONS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Corporal Richard Vana of the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Vana served during World War II and fought valiantly during the Battle of Okinawa. As a member of the Marine Raiders, Corporal Vana was just one of a small group who survived all 99 days of this bloody campaign.

On June 1, 1945 Corporal Vana was rejoining his company after filling in a defensive position when he came under mortar fire from the Japanese. During this mortar attack, Vana took shelter in a foxhole with another marine. Within moments, a neighboring foxhole was struck by mortar fire, and one of Corporal Vana's comrades was severely wounded. Under constant enemy fire, Corporal Vana and another marine, PFC Stuart Upchurch, helped to rescue the wounded marine and take him to shelter from the enemy. Corporal Vana and PFC Upchurch performed emergency lifesaving medical procedures until a Navy corpsman could provide assistance.

Without the heroic actions of Corporal Vana and PFC Upchurch the wounded marine surely would have died from his wounds. Their lifesaving action upheld the motto of the Marine Corps. The unwavering courage and gallantry Corporal Vana deserves the utmost respect and gratitude. These actions reflect great credit upon Corporal Vana, his unit, the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY HOPE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Hope, Inc., located in Parsippany, New Jersey as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

Community Hope, a non-profit organization created in 1985, was created by families and mental health professionals who sought to provide a safe haven for young adults who were recovering from debilitating mental illnesses. Today, Community Hope offers housing and essential services to young adults and individuals recovering from mental illness. This non-profit strives to be a model for organizations seeking to assist people suffering from mental illness by implementing a comprehensive housing and support program for these individuals. Community Hope's mission is to support people and their families, including veterans, in combating mental illness, addiction, poverty, and homelessness.

For thirty years Community Hope has offered housing and care for those suffering from mental illness. Community Hope's first therapeutic residence included professional counselors who assisted individuals in successfully transitioning back to communal and familial life after years of psychiatric hospitalization. In 2004, Community Hope proudly opened the largest transitional housing program in New Jersey for homeless veterans.

Over the past fifteen years, Community Hope has vastly expanded its operations. During the course of these fifteen years, Community Hope has increased the number of individuals it assists from 57 to over 400. The non-profit has also increased its budget by almost \$10 million since the year 2000. Originally operating under the name Project Hope, the organization currently inspires hope through its several housing facilities, including the Valley Brook Village at Lyons Veterans Hospital, which assists veterans and individuals at risk of becoming homeless.

Community Hope continues to expand its presence in New Jersey with the goal of assisting as many people recovering from mental illness as possible. In particular, this non-profit launched its multi-year 450 Campaign in 2011. Through this campaign, Community Hope seeks to serve as many as 450 individuals a day who require assistance. The 450 Campaign was so successful that it has transformed into the 1,250 Campaign, with the goal of assisting 1,250 individuals in one calendar year. Community Hope has also expanded its role in helping veterans and their families through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. Community Hope was one of the first organizations to be awarded an SSVF grant to establish this program, and now is the largest SSVF Program in New Jersey.

Community Hope also hosts events to raise awareness about mental health issues and fund its operations. Community Hope's upcoming events include its Flag Day 5k Run and Fun Walk, the 19th Annual Sparkle of Hope Gala, and its Annual Learning Forum and Wellness Fair, which is focused on contemporary living and spirituality.

To celebrate 30 successful years of providing housing and care for individuals with mental illness, Community Hope is hosting its Thirtieth Anniversary Reception on Thursday, April 30th. The reception will be held at the Lowenstein Sandler Reception Center, located at 75 Livingston Avenue in Roseland, New Jersey.

I commend the members of Community Hope, its Board of Trustees and Board of Directors, especially its chief executive officer, J. Michael Armstrong, for their dedication to providing for the welfare of individuals battling mental illness. Community Hope serves as the perfect model for other non-profits seeking to administer these critical services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Community Hope as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

LAUREN HILL—PROFILE IN COURAGE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, athlete, student, daughter, friend, fighter and hero—this was Lauren Hill. At just 19 years old, Lauren fought the beast of cancer on the basketball court as the world watched. As everyone scrambled and stressed filling out their March Madness brackets, hoping to have the perfect bracket, Lauren was battling a brain tumor.

Lauren was a freshman basketball player at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a high school student when she was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. But Lauren wasn't going to let a tumor stop her.

She set off to college to achieve her dream: to play on a college court. And of course, she did it.

The NCAA allowed Mount St. Joseph move up its opening game so that Lauren could play.

Xavier University even offered their arena so more people could come watch her shoot some hoops. Tickets to the game sold out in less than an hour. 10,000 people came to watch Lauren doing what she loves—play basketball. Among the 10,000 was legendary Tennessee Women's Basketball Coach Pat Summitt and some notable WNBA players.

Because the tumor had so aggressively attacked the right side of her body, her dominant side, Lauren shot a left-handed layup just 17 seconds into the game. And by no surprise, she made it. But she was not quite done.

She made the last basket of the game. This time, she shot the layup with her right hand. One can only imagine what it was like in the arena that day. The spectators were able to watch such a strong soul and example be able to live her dream in spite of her illness. Tears and smiles filled the arena.

When she wasn't on the court, Lauren worked to raise awareness and money for cancer research through her nonprofit foundation.

She never let the disease define her, because she was Lauren, a college basketball player, who was just doing what she loved. In

watching her strength, she has given so many hope—hope that even in the midst of a battle for life, there is faith.

As a father of four kids (three of them being girls), and a grandfather of 11 kids (7 of them being girls), I know how special our girls are. Lauren Hill definitely left an impression not only on her team and school community, but the rest of us as well.

Thank you Lauren, for so selflessly sharing your story with the world. Thank you for inspiring and encouraging all of us.

President Kennedy would have referred to Lauren Hill as a "profile in courage."

And that's just the way it is.

PHILLIP PRATER'S ESSAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Phillip Prater attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

"OBAMACARE" . . . one of the most important changes in the history of healthcare reform. Millions of Americans desperately in need of some form of health insurance are going to benefit mainly because individuals got involved in the political process.

The political process reaches far back to when our founding fathers created this great democracy. They instilled during that time that a democratic society is effective only if individuals are given the opportunity to express their concerns and actively participate in the political process.

Laws in government are made that affect our lives each and every day. Some of these laws are positive, yet some are negative. But we have to live by them. However, apathy is contagious. Our democracy could be a stake if we chose to ignore hearing about and participating in the political process. If you don't participate, then you can't and should not complain about an outcome that greatly affects you. Some individuals believe that government has no bearing on our daily lives. But this is farthest from the truth. Government affects every single aspect of our lives.

For example, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools. Many thanks to Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. and countless individuals, who marched thru city streets, participated in freedom rides, and some ultimately paying the ultimate sacrifice so that future generations could live and VOTE in a land of opportunity. It also paved the way for other civil rights legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you're eligible to vote, then vote!!!!!! This is by far the easiest way to get involved in the political process. But pulling the lever also means understanding the issues that candidates are for or against, so that you can make the right vote.

Another way is to write your representative and present your opposing views or disapproval on a topic that you firmly agree on.

Other ways to get and staying involved in the political process are as follows:

Volunteer to help with voter registration drives

Educate voters by developing voter guides

Volunteer to work on a political campaign

Participate in protest rallies and marches

Attend a debate or a town hall meeting

Getting involved in the political process by every individual is critical if our democracy is to continue as the greatest country in the world!!!!

RIEMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riemann Family Funeral Homes on the occasion of the opening of their Jackson County location. This facility will continue the legacy of service the Riemann family has provided the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast for nearly a century.

In 1920, Ernest and Ruth Riemann moved from Michigan to South Mississippi and purchased Wilder Funeral Homes. They would be proud of the success and growth of their family business.

Today, with locations all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast this new Jackson County location provides the Riemann family another opportunity to compassionately serve their neighbors, friends, and family during life's most difficult times.

The Riemann family is blessed with a dedicated and professional staff that combined has hundreds of years of experience. Like the Riemann family, they are committed to faithfully serving their community.

Once again, I would like to thank the Riemann Family for their four generations of dedicated service to the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE 2015 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT "CREATE, GROW, SUSTAIN: LEADING BY EXAMPLE"

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is wholly fitting that I rise today, Earth Day, to call attention to a report that attests to all of the wonderful strides our nation's largest companies are taking in the interest of sustainability—strides taken not in response to government mandates, but because they are good for customers, good for employees, good for the bottom line, and good for the communities in which these companies do business.

Mr. Speaker, for several years Business Roundtable, a fine organization that represents CEOs of more than 200 of the country's largest companies, has released a comprehensive Sustainability Report in conjunction with Earth Day. The companies participating in the report—most of the Roundtable's members—submit considerable information about the many ways in which they are striving to take sustainability to an even higher level.

Some companies have focused on drastically reducing the energy they use or increasing their use of renewable energy. Others have cut their waste production while increasing their commitment to reuse and recycle in ever more innovative ways. Still others have built sustainability into their products and workforce policies. Many have made progress on several fronts at once.

The 2015 edition of the Business Roundtable's Sustainability Report, "Create, Grow, Sustain: Leading by Example," is hot off the presses, and it is a pleasure for me to introduce it into the RECORD today. What is most notable—and impressive—to me is that the CEOs themselves contributed to this report through signed letters. These leaders personally attest to the steps taken by their companies and are justifiably proud of them. What a perfect way to mark this Earth Day.

Beyond that, what is most striking about the long list of accomplishments in the area of sustainability by our nation's largest firms is that for the most part, their actions have been taken not because they were forced to by regulations and legislation but because they were good for the bottom line. We see this happening more and more. Companies are using their ingenuity to reduce their impact on the environment, not because they are threatened with government action, but because they consider solid corporate citizenship, including lessening their environmental footprint, to be a major company value.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will take the time to review "Create, Grow, Sustain: Leading by Example" so that we all can share with our constituent companies the many lessons that Business Roundtable companies have to offer.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, roughly three months into the New Year, we commemorate Equal Pay Day—the typical time into the year where a woman's wage catches up to what men were paid the previous year. This day symbolizes the blatant and persistent wage gap between men and women. Even in 2015, women earn only 78 cents to every dollar made by a man. It's time to make equal pay not just a nice slogan but a reality for women and families.

Unequal pay is not just a women's issue—it's a family issue. Our country is evolving and more than ever before families rely on income from two parents. In fact, two out of three families now depend on the wages of working moms. Additionally, women are the primary breadwinners in 40 percent of U.S. households. It is a very real consequence that when

women are discriminated against in the workplace the entire family struggles. This serves as an urgent reminder why we need to work together to ensure equal pay for equal work.

Women have made remarkable strides in workforce participation and higher education. Today women make up nearly half of all workers as compared to 37 percent in 1970 and receive nearly 60 percent of all bachelor degrees granted in the U.S. Yet, regardless of the level of academic achievement, women's median earnings are still less than men's earnings. Sadly, a recent study by the American Association of University Women found that regardless of a woman's college major, occupation, age, geographic region, hours worked and more there is still an unexplainable seven percent wage gap a year after college graduation.

The gap in wages only grows from there, leaving a disproportionate impact on women and their families throughout the rest of their lives. The Joint Economic Committee found that lower earnings "can result in smaller private savings to draw upon in retirement, smaller contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans, smaller Social Security benefits, and smaller paychecks for those women who continue to work later in life." The disparity is even more devastating when calculated over a course of a woman's career. By the time a woman retires it's estimated that she's lost over \$430,000 to the pay gap.

It is important to recognize that women make tremendous contributions to our nation's economy with potential to make even more. It's estimated that greater pay equity between men and women would produce nearly half a trillion dollars of additional income, stimulating our economy by close to three percent of 2012 Gross Domestic Product. Also, by closing the wage gap between men and women we could cut the poverty rate in half, raising an entire nation to a better standard of living.

Paying women their equal share has many implications. It means that we are a nation that stands for equality. That we are choosing to uplift women and families, reduce poverty and boost our economy. That is why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthens the Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and providing effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work. I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation that confronts discrimination in the workplace. It is time for us to prioritize the long-term well-being of our nation's hardworking women and families.

GIRLS OF STEEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Chairman's Award at the 2015 Buckeye Regional FIRST® Robotics Competition in Cleveland, Ohio.

This is the most prestigious award at FIRST and it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The Chairman's Award is presented to the team judged to have the most significant

measurable impact of its partnerships among its participants and community over a sustained period, not just a single build season. The winner is able to demonstrate progress towards FIRST's mission of transforming our culture. I think that winning this award is a remarkable accomplishment that speaks volumes about the dedication these young women have in pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math or "STEM" careers, along with the hundreds of hours they have spent conducting outreach in the community. They even served to inspire the two female tech characters in the recently released Pixar film, "Big Hero 6".

FIRST, which stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," is an organization dedicated to engaging students in STEM fields. Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experiences through FIRST every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are valuable tools for helping our young people explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can produce in my district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our nation's future prosperity. I want to commend organizations like FIRST for their important work in encouraging young people in these pursuits. The FIRST Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

Fifty young women from 8th through 12th grades associated with schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area are members of this year's Girls of Steel, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these aspiring STEM professionals by name. They are Vishi Agrawal, Sonia Appasamy, Isabella Arnone, Arushi Bandi, Emilia Bianchini, Madeline Butch, Tristan Close-Abuyen, Samantha Eppinger, Adelle Fernando, Mackenzie Ferris, Payton Ferris, Marie Gerges, Kyra Halbert-Elriott, Corinne Hartman, Kristina Hilko, Sydney Hnat, Anna Jablonowski, Alaina Kotchey, Greta Lazzara, Jisue Lee, Sophia Lee, Sylvie Lee, Gayathri Manchella, Clara McCormick, Sree Mekala, Cheyenne Meyers, AJ Molder, Hera Mukhtar, Gigi Nieson, Anne Kailin Northam, Maddie Oppelt, Sanam Parwani, Helen Paulini, Sofia Porter Bacon, Priya Ray, Rachel Sadeh, Isabella Salvi, Lauren Scheller-Wolf, Sarah Seay, Alexa Selwood, Kriti Shah, Makayla Shreve, Annika Urban, Molly Urbina, Becca Volk, Mhairi Webster, Ziya Xu, Alayna Yates, Julia Young, and Natalie Young.

In addition, I want to commend the staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. As a result of their efforts, more young women can experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the FIRST Championship in St. Louis—the final and largest competition of its kind. This will be their fifth consecutive trip in five years and they will be competing against top teams from all over

the world. I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ZACH JOHNSON

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zach Johnson, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa native, on his 9th place tie the 2015 Masters Tournament held at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia.

Zach Johnson attended Regis High School, lettering on the varsity golf team. The 2007 Masters Champion made the cut at even par after the first two rounds. He followed up on Saturday and Sunday with back to back 68 stroke rounds to finish with a final score of -8, his lowest ever final score at Augusta.

I also wish to commend him for his community service and charity work. Founded in 2005 by Johnson and his wife Kim, The Zach Johnson Foundation through the "Birdies that Care" program has raised over \$800,000 for organizations that serve at-need children in the Cedar Rapids area. In the golfer's own words: "This Foundation will fulfill a dream of mine and Kim's to give back to Cedar Rapids in a long-lasting, meaningful way."

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Zach Johnson on his successful 2015 Masters and would like to recognize him for giving back to his community. I look forward to cheering on a fellow Iowan during the rest of the tournaments this summer.

HONORING ERIC HUBER

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Huber of Fredericktown, Missouri, for his outstanding achievement of receiving his Eagle Scout Award. This award is not easily attained and cannot be achieved without a steadfast determination to succeed.

In order to receive this award, Eric completed several steps and a service project exemplifying patriotism and his commitment to serve others. He first worked as an assistant scout master with Troop 408 Scout Master Ken Braun. He also constructed and installed four benches along the hiking trail at Amidon Memorial Conservation Area for his service project. The Missouri Department of Conservation was grateful to Eric, his Scout troop and the volunteers for their contribution to the Amidon Memorial Conservation Area because it will benefit Missouri residents for years to come.

At a young age Eric has shown values such as honesty, loyalty, and civility that inspire others. He has shown commitment to good citizenship, physical fitness, and education and he has made himself an asset to our community, as well as the nation. Eric is a role model for young and old alike, and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA'S TWENTY PEARLS OF WISDOM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom. The Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

On October 26, 2013, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom were approved as an official interest group under the leadership of the 24th Regional Director, Adrienne P.K. Washington. Under the leadership of the current Regional Director, Mary Conner, Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom chartering ceremony is slated for May 16, 2015. It is during this ceremony that they will learn of their Chapter's name.

Launching new dimensions of service throughout Yazoo County and its surrounding area, Mississippi's newest chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha shall continue steadfastly in its aim to be of service to all mankind as they strive by culture and merit. Energizing Yazoo County and its surrounding areas with C4 power, enabling members to connect, communicate, collaborate, and celebrate.

Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom members actively participate in Yazoo and surrounding communities through annual: MLK Day of Service; Voter Registration Blitz; HIV/AIDS Abstinence Workshop; Lean & Serve Curb Appeal; Scholarship Award (Yazoo & Humphreys Counties; Warm Heart Warm Feet; Lunch & Learn; MCT2 Preparation; School Supply Drive; Easter with Elders; Reading Can Be Fun; Kids Network Toy; Empowering Teen Girls; College Adoption; Breast Cancer Awareness—Pink Matters 5 Mile Walk; Caring with Coats—Esther Stewart Buford Foundation; MLK Day of Service Can Food Drive; Yazoo City Manna House; Earth Day—Think Pink-Go-Green; A Day of Thanksgiving H.A. Scott Senior Citizen Home; and Pink Goes Red for Cardiovascular Disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Alpha Kappa Alpha's Twenty Pearls of Wisdom for its dedication to serving others, giving back to the community and perpetuating the rich heritage of Yazoo.

A TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WEISS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jeremy Weiss for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

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

impact in their communities and their careers. Each year forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on the combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jeremy has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at Sogeti USA, LLC. As a management consultant, Jeremy focuses on transforming business operations to improve their overall effectiveness and efficiency. Jeremy spends his free time serving others by volunteering at the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa and Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity—just to name a few. Jeremy's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jeremy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jeremy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

CONGRATULATING HUMAN SERVICES ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Human Services Association, a non-profit organization based in my 40th Congressional District, on the celebration of their 75th anniversary.

Human Services Association (HSA) was founded as an outreach effort of the Presbyterian Church in 1940, when floods in Southeast Los Angeles County highlighted pre-existing poverty in Bell Gardens and surrounding cities. While HSA remains affiliated with the Presbyterian Church today, all of HSA's services have been administered on a non-sectarian basis since 1975.

Over time, HSA's services have evolved to meet the needs of the community. In HSA's early years, it operated under the name Westminster Center, and focused on recreation programs and group work. It later changed its name to Bell Gardens Community Center, and became a multifunctional social service agency. Its staff and volunteers provided direct services, and it collaborated with other agencies to provide additional services on-site. In 1974-1975, the organization envisioned expanding its human services into the cities of Southeast Los Angeles by increasing its services and funding capacity. As a result, the organization incorporated, and it adopted the name Human Services Association. Today, HSA is the largest community-based nonprofit organization in Southeast Los Angeles, and

provides clients throughout Los Angeles County with an array of comprehensive services to support individuals throughout their lives.

HSA's programs and services for children and families include: Early Head Start; Head Start; State Preschool; Los Angeles Universal Preschool; Parenting Classes; Child Abuse Prevention & Intervention; Domestic Violence Support Services; Choose Health LA Kids, an early childhood obesity prevention initiative focusing on children ages 0–5 and their families; and a Family Preservation Program designed to protect children by strengthening and preserving families whose children are at risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

HSA's services for seniors include: the Congregate Meals Program, which provides a hot, nutritionally balanced meal to seniors five days a week, as well as social activities at the meal sites; the Home Delivered Meals Program, which offers homebound seniors a daily hot meal and a friendly, reassuring visit; the Home Based Care & Registry Referral Program, which matches workers with senior citizens aged 60 and over who need assistance in the home; and the Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center (ADCRC), which allows memory-impaired and/or socially isolated senior citizens to spend their days in a caring, supportive environment, and provides English and Spanish support groups to the family members of the participating seniors.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I salute Human Services Association, its Board of Directors, and its supporters. They have played a vital role in providing critical services to Southeast Los Angeles families over the past seventy-five years. I wish HSA continued success as it continues its mission to provide families with compassionate and comprehensive care which promotes wellness and builds strong communities.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENT WILLETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brent Willett for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on the combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Brent has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work at Cultivation Corridor. As Executive Director, Brent utilizes his communication skills to attract business to Iowa and to help expand existing businesses. Brent spends his free time serving others by volunteering as a one-on-one mentor at Cap-

itol View Elementary School and by helping an emergency food pantry organize its food drives. Brent's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brent in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brent on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EARLHAM
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Earlham High School Boys Basketball team for qualifying for the Iowa Boys State Basketball Tournament for the first time in their school's history. The Earlham team placed third in the tournament.

The roster was led by Canyon Hopkins, named to the Class 1A All-Tournament Team, but Earlham had many outstanding players. Congratulations to: Dan Schmidt, Alan Schmidt, Zach Schreck, Derek Hensley, Ben Williamson, Micah Bailey, Grant Detrick, Andy Algreen, Josh Smith, A.J. LePorte, Gable Johnson, Joey Harkins, Drew Williamson and Mason Madren on a great season. This team also had two dedicated managers. T. J. Harkins and Dominic Braet who also deserve recognition.

The team was led by Coach Kevin Williamson and Assistant Coaches James Severson and Tim Harskamp. Coach Williamson also received the Class 1A Coach of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and coaches demonstrates that hard work, dedication, and perseverance deliver results. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the Earlham High School Boys Basketball team on their accomplishments this year. I wish continued success to this team and school in the future.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year

2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025:

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Chair, I support the CBC Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

As has been highlighted during today's debate, the Federal budget is a blueprint for our nation. It is a statement of our national priorities and of our national values.

Our budget should lay the groundwork to secure a strong middle class, create more jobs, and grow paychecks.

We should be working to create a level playing field for all Americans.

We cannot continue with these short-term fixes which lately have become all too common in Congress.

For instance, in May, the Highway Trust Fund is set to expire—again.

Yet, more than sixty-five percent of America's roads are in need of repair and the American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation's infrastructure a D in its most recent report card.

We could be creating thousands of jobs—from real estate to construction work—if we got serious about investing in infrastructure.

As the conscious of the Congress. The CBC budget focuses on creating jobs and giving hard-working Americans families a fair-share.

Our CBC budget would provide \$230 billion for our nation's infrastructure—providing an immediate investment to help modernize our roads, bridges, and tunnels, as well as providing dollars to build new and improve existing commuter and public transportation systems.

We cannot delay or rely on short term funding patches that seem to become the norm in this Republican led Congress.

Mr. Chair, when we rebuild our roads and modernize our nation's transportation, we create and maintain good-paying jobs.

That's the best investment we can make of taxpayer dollars. Not only do we keep Americans safe, but we invest in our greatest resource—the American worker. That's what I call a bang for your buck.

A TRIBUTE TO VERA DAUGHTON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vera Daughton on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Vera celebrated her 100th birthday on April 5th, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Vera's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Vera has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Vera in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House

to join me in congratulating Vera on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

EQUAL PAY DAY: TIME TO CLOSE THE WAGE GAP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day and call for long overdue passage of legislation to strengthen the Equal Pay Act.

According to the American Association of University Women, women in my state of New Jersey have a wage gap of 80 percent—for every dollar men in New Jersey make, women make only 80 cents. Nationally, it's 78 cents.

All told, over the lifetime of work, college educated women will lose an estimated \$1.2 million as a result of the pay gap.

The wage gap is not just a women's issue, it's a family issue. Four in 10 American households with children now include a mother who is either the sole or primary earner for her family. Closing the wage gap would allow women to invest more in their children's health and wellbeing and help boost economic stability and security for American families.

As a remedy, I twice supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, now Public Law 111-2. By overturning the United States Supreme Court decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber, we restored and enhanced both the protections against pay discrimination in the workplace and the remedies available for women who have been discriminated against.

While the Ledbetter law was a clear step in the right direction, the numbers demonstrate how much more work we as a society have to do.

Today, I signed on as a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act—legislation I have pre-

viously supported twice when it was brought to the floor of the House for a vote.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would increase penalties for employers who pay different wages to men and women for equal work, create a grant program for negotiation skills training for women and girls, and increase training and outreach to ensure effective implementation.

This legislation would build on the Equal Pay Act and the Ledbetter law by disincentivizing pay discrimination and encouraging employers to enforce equal pay for equal work.

Mr. Speaker, based on data between 2003 and 2013, AAUW predicts that if current trends continue, the wage gap will not close for 124 years.

Over 50 years after the signing of the Equal Pay Act, we are still more than a century away from equal pay.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is necessary to reverse the current trajectory and help accelerate progress to our shared goal of equal work for equal pay.

A TRIBUTE TO CAMERON MICKAEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the heroic actions of sixth-grader, Cameron Mickael of Mount Ayr, Iowa.

On a recent Sunday night, Cameron was eating dinner with his mother, Cindy, and Grandfather Charles, when a piece of food became lodged in his grandfather's throat. Charles was trying to apply the Heimlich to himself with no success. It was then that Cameron stepped in. Cameron jumped up, grabbed his grandfather and performed the Heimlich. Charles credits Cameron with saving his life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent future leaders like Cameron Mickael in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I applaud his lifesaving effort today. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Cameron, thanking him for a job well done, and wishing him a bright future.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES HARDY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Hardy, history teacher at East Union School. Mr. Hardy received the Gilder Lehrman Iowa History Teacher of the Year award.

This award, sponsored by Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, recognizes outstanding American history teachers who possess a strong commitment to teaching American history and who exhibit creativity and imagination in the classroom. Each year, the Institute enhances the education of more than a million students by offering support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians.

I applaud and congratulate James for providing the youth in Iowa's 3rd district the education that they will need to be successful in the future and for being recognized with this prestigious award. I am proud to represent him, his fellow teachers and students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating James Hardy and wishing him well and continued success in the future.