

in a 40-day surprise attack that came to be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." Between December 16, 1944, and January 25, 1945, the U.S. forces fought back the German attack, and in doing so, incurred their highest casualties for any operation of the war. America's fighting spirit prevailed and, late in January, the Allied forces scored a decisive victory over Germany.

The Allied forces fought the enemy up the Ryan River and forced the German's back to Berlin. Payne's battalion was stopped from attacking Berlin due to terms of the Yalta Agreement. The United States and England capitulated to Russia, and agreed that the only invading forces would be the Red Army. "We had the fight and we had the spirit to battle the enemy all the way to Berlin, but Russian dictator Joseph Stalin had convinced the Allied forces to stop our progress."

On May 8, 1945, Payne was near Dusseldorf, Germany when the Allied forces announced Victory in Europe. The six-year-old War had concluded in Europe, but the Japanese were still fighting in the Pacific Theatre. Payne and others were told that GIs involved in the Normandy Invasion were exempt from the war in the Pacific. The Pacific conflict ended only after the August 6, 1945, detonation of the Atomic Bomb. President Harry S. Truman ordered the deployment of the new weapon that caused the Japanese to capitulate to Allied demands. Payne waited from June until November to be shipped back to the states.

On Dec. 5, 1945, Payne was discharged from the U.S. Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Ten days after his discharge, he married Helene Takie in his hometown of Benton, IL. Their marriage lasted almost 65 years, until her passing in July, 2010. Payne returned to his position at the Bank of Benton and eventually became its president. He remains active as a community leader, a champion of education projects and a philanthropist.

Mr. Speaker, today Payne will celebrate his 100th birthday at his rural Benton, Illinois, home. We extend our deepest appreciation to Howard Lee Payne for his service to his country, both in battle during WWII, and for his post-war contributions.

PATRICIA JOAN HOFSTETTER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Judge Patricia "Pat" Joan Hofstetter, who passed away on March 25, 2015, at her home in Ferndale, California. Ms. Hofstetter was a pioneer for women on the California bench, and her commitment to the communities in which she lived was well known to everyone acquainted with her. A longtime fisherwoman, Ms. Hofstetter grew to know and love Northern California rivers, for which she was a staunch advocate.

Born in Burbank, California, on August 25, 1927, to Helen Culbertson and Leonard Orin Hofstetter, Ms. Hofstetter grew up in the towns of Artesia and Whittier. She graduated from Whittier High School in 1943, Monmouth College in 1948, and Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California at Berkeley in 1951.

Ms. Hofstetter opened a law office with her sister Marilyn in 1953. She was appointed to judge at Whittier Municipal in 1963, and became the first woman to serve as President of the California Judges Association in 1976.

Ms. Hofstetter was a life member of Soroptimist International and the American Association of University Women. She served on the College Board at Monmouth College, where she was later inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ms. Hofstetter was an active member of the Democratic Party and a champion of democratic values on the North Coast.

Among her favorite hobbies was fishing the rivers and lakes of California and Oregon with her lifelong friend and partner, former California Assemblywoman Sally Tanner. In 2001 and 2002, Pat and Sally were winners in the California-Oregon Fishing Derby. Ms. Hofstetter was an avid poker and bridge player and had a great appreciation for music and movies. Pat is survived by her companion Sally Tanner; her sister Helen Raphael and niece Rose Anne of New Liberia, Louisiana; her sister Marilyn Hofstetter of Ferndale and nephew John Raphael and wife Christine, along with their children Melanie and Kathleen.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that we pay tribute to Ms. Patricia Hofstetter and extend condolences to her partner, Sally Tanner, and surviving family. Her presence will be sorely missed and her legacy not soon forgotten.

H. RES. 208, THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION OF 2015

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 208, the Equality for All Resolution of 2015, which is being introduced by my good friend from Indiana Mr. CARSON.

As a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and representative of a diverse and vibrant LGBT community in California's 13th Congressional district, I strongly support this legislation.

It is a shame and a disgrace that in 2015, after the LGBT community has made such enormous strides towards equal protections under the law, that we continue to see discriminatory legislation advanced in states like Indiana and Arkansas.

At a time when what we truly need is comprehensive legislation to ensure that LGBT individuals are treated and protected, intolerance is sadly being codified in law under the false flag of religious liberties.

I am glad that the national reaction to discriminatory RFRA laws was swift and disapproving, from businesses and individuals, to governments and communities. I was proud that the City of Oakland located in my district, banned city-funded travel to Indiana in the wake of the state's discriminatory statute.

Now, Congress must respond by sending a strong message that we will not stand for prejudice and small-mindedness.

This resolution is a step in the right direction. It outlines the need for LGBT people to receive full protections under the law and urges comprehensive legislation to prohibit

discrimination in areas where unequal treatment against LGBT people is still the law of the land.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana as well as my fellow colleagues in the LGBT Equality Caucus for introducing this important resolution and urge my colleagues to lend it their support.

HONORING DIANE JUERGENSMEYER FOR BEING NAMED TO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Diane Juergensmeyer for being named to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Coach Juergensmeyer led the St. Elizabeth softball team to more than 400 wins in 31 seasons, including three state titles.

Coach Juergensmeyer's dedication to her players, both on and off the softball field, brought more than state champions to St. Elizabeth. Her mentorship throughout the years helped mold her players into respectful young women, and it was her leadership that united a school and a community.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Coach Diane Juergensmeyer for receiving this distinctive honor.

HONORING THE BELMONT UNIVERSITY BRUINS

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Belmont University and its men's basketball program, the Belmont Bruins, led by Coach Rick Byrd.

Under Coach Byrd's leadership, Belmont's basketball program has flourished. Belmont is consistently among the top Division I teams and has made it to seven NCAA tournaments. But its most prestigious accomplishments are not on the court. The USA Today said it best: "Belmont wins where it counts: In the classroom."

Thanks to its perfect score from Inside Higher Ed's rankings, Belmont won the national championship for academics for the second time in three years. Every single player graduates. The team's cumulative grade point average has been above 3.0 for fourteen consecutive seasons, and no Belmont player since 2003 has left the basketball team for any reason other than graduation.

Belmont's successes both on and off the court have separated the Bruins from the rest of the pack. Today, I join my fellow Tennesseans in honoring Coach Rick Byrd and the Belmont Bruins for their vigorous commitment to the highest standards in academics and athletics. They make our district and the state of Tennessee proud.

HONORING NATIONAL CRIME  
VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to thank Mike Nerheim and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office for organizing the event. This year's theme of engaging communities and empowering victims emphasizes the role that communities can and should play to support victims of crime during their recovery.

Engaging communities to recognize the impact of victimization enables us to help more victims by providing a safe environment where they are supported and empowered. By working with local community leaders like victim counselor Debbie Vanderwall, State's Attorney's citizen advisor Pastor John Caples and education advocate Jonathan Meier, we can leverage our resources to better understand the needs of victims.

We are fortunate that Lake County is such a strong community, eager to offer help to those who need it. I am honored to work with State's Attorney Mike Nerheim to help raise awareness for this important cause and facilitate new partnerships to elevate victims' rights.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF TOM  
RAY RAPER

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Tom Ray Raper, an innovative entrepreneur, generous philanthropist and devoted family man from the Sixth District of Indiana.

Tom embodied what it meant to live the American Dream. He took a \$2,000 investment in 1964 to open a small used car dealership and eventually turned it into one of the largest RV dealerships in America. He owned and operated Tom Raper RVs for 38 more years before selling his dealership empire to David Bane's Camping World Company in 2002.

Not only was Tom a monumental success in the RV business, but he was also known for his huge heart and charitable spirit. After selling his company, Mr. Raper used his time and money to give back to the Richmond community. In 2009, Indiana University East renamed Middlefork Hall to Tom Raper Hall after he bequeathed \$2.17 million to the university. Tom donated more than \$1 million to Wayne County to build a 5,000-seat exhibition building and to make other improvements to the Wayne County Fairgrounds. He also gave \$250,000 to the city to transform the gymnasium at the Civil Hall into a modern performing arts center.

Most recently, Tom, established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund at Ivy Tech Community College in Richmond as a means to provide more students with the opportunity to get a college education. It is for selfless contributions like these that the city of Richmond

renamed Williamsburg Pike to Williamsburg Pike/Tom Raper Way.

I have had the pleasure to meet with Tom several times throughout my life. He was an icon in Richmond and a philanthropic inspiration for any man or woman looking to give back to their community. I will always be grateful for the contributions he has made to improve the great city of Richmond, Indiana.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Tom Raper. My thoughts and prayers go out to Tom's family and his wife of 46 years, Suzanne. May God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Job Corps program as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

For fifty years, Job Corps has served America's most at-risk and vulnerable youths by providing an opportunity to finish their education while obtaining career training and the skills necessary to become productive members of society. It is Job Corps' unique model, partnering the federal government with private industry that has made the program so successful for so many years. Each year Job Corps serves over 50,000 at-risk youth at 125 residential campuses located across the country, and over eighty percent of Job Corps graduates find employment, enlist in the military, or enroll in higher education classes.

I am honored to represent two of these outstanding centers: the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center in Morganfield and the Muhlenberg Job Corps Center in Greenville. These centers are true assets to their communities. I have visited these centers in person, and I have met with educators, staff, and students. It is the students who are the true testament to the success of this program, and I am moved each time I visit with them and hear just how much Job Corps has changed their lives.

I cofounded the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus in 2006 because I believe in this program. I congratulate Job Corps on its fifty years of success, and I hope it will continue to enrich the lives of many more young people in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING POWERTALK 21

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Alcohol Awareness Day and the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's (MADD) initiative to have open discussions with children about alcohol. PowerTalk 21 is a program that gives families an opportunity to come together to discuss the dangers of underage drinking.

The Southeast Florida chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving has been proactive in

their efforts to educate the community about the dangers of underage drinking. This year they have offered more ways than ever before to share personal experiences about alcohol abuse and the consequences of driving under the influence.

Every day from April 1 to April 21, MADD volunteers published blog posts about their personal tragedies caused by individuals driving under the influence. By sharing their stories, these brave volunteers have given a face to the daunting statistics of lives lost to drunk driving.

The Southeast Florida Chapter of MADD has a long history of championing efforts to raise awareness of underage drinking in our community. They also facilitate the DUI Victim Impact Panel Program, an awareness program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. This program shows offenders the trauma, emotional suffering, and financial loss that is commonly experienced by innocent victims and their family members resulting from a DUI-related accident.

I am honored to recognize the PowerTalk 21 program, and I hope that this initiative can help inspire our community to come together to make safer decisions for all of us in South Florida and around the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF THE "START BY  
BELIEVING" CAMPAIGN

**HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2015*

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, there were 1,725 reports of rape or attempted rape in 2012, which is five sexual assaults per day. And in 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice gave an alarming estimate that as many as 1 in 3 Native American women would be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, a rate 2.5 times higher than for any other group.

Unfortunately, only 40 percent of sexual assaults are reported, and if the victim is in college that number is cut in half, according to the Justice Department. Research and information from Pennsylvania State University and a 2010 U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing found that the top reason sexual assault victims do not report the crime is their fear of not being believed and being blamed for the attack.

To address this issue, End Violence Against Women International has developed a program titled "Start By Believing," a message that confronts the reality that many victims do not get the support they need when they report the crime. Local governments, private businesses, universities and colleges across the country are participating in the Start By Believing campaign.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I encourage people everywhere to share this simple message of support for survivors of sexual assault.