

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

**RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIERCE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL**

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Pierce County Labor Council and the celebration of labor standing in solidarity and fighting for workers' rights throughout our region.

The men and women who make up our labor force serve as the backbone of our communities. They are our folks at the port who handle the goods and products that keep Washington state's economy moving and make us a strong national and global trade partner; they are the men and women who make the best airplanes in the world; they are our government employees who help manage our cities, keep our service members safe, provide social services, and deliver our mail; they are the educators who prepare our kids for success in school and in life; they are our grocery store workers who make sure we have fresh food every day and in times of emergency; they are the folks who deliver goods to our homes and businesses; they are the fire fighters and police officers who keep our communities safe; and they are the people in the trades who build the roads and bridges and buildings that strengthen our economy.

For 125 years, the Pierce County Labor Council has fought to protect the rights of our labor force. They are on the frontlines fighting for fair wages, safe working conditions and quality health care benefits. And they are pushing to make sure our current and future retirees can spend their senior years in dignity, by receiving their hard-earned benefits.

Mr. Speaker, leaders like Patty Rose and Vance Lelli have made labor a force in the South Sound region and throughout the state of Washington. In Pierce County, the Council has grown from eight labor groups to 90 affiliates representing 37,000 hard working families. I am proud to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Pierce County Central Labor Council here today and am honored to represent the hard working men and women throughout our region who will continue to fight for a strong workforce.

**HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES**

**HON. PATRICK MURPHY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 22 high school seniors from the

Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 22 enlistees, three are Air Force enlistees, four are Army enlistees, three are National Guard enlistees, eight are Marine Corps enlistees, and four are Navy enlistees. These young men and women have demonstrated a tremendous sense of bravery and patriotism in their commitment to defend our nation. Therefore, it is important that they know they have the full support of the United States House of Representatives, the American people, and their communities. The dedication of these individuals reminds us that in the face of a diverse set of challenges, the United States remains an example of freedom, justice, and perseverance throughout the world.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these 22 local graduating seniors for their commitment to our nation and their selflessness by naming them here today: Ricky De Los Rios, Andrew Hendrix, Justice Cooper, Bradley Monk, Carlton Morgan, Thomas Sebastyn, Jr., Nicholas Gunther, Cameron Manochi, Adrian Coomes, Nicole Harrison, Daniel Gonzalez, Jose Rivera, Blake Ashworth, Mikelli Dorcius, Marcelo Aguirre, Justin Lalonde, Joseph Venuti, Michael Garrity, Blake Boyle, Breanna Reinhardt, Dylan Samons-Knight, and Husani Sylvester.

All will be recognized on May 4, 2015 at the Our Community Salutes event in West Palm Beach.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who commit to defend our great nation by serving in the United States Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we can all be proud of. For this reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

**HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend five exceptional leaders from Indiana who were honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2015. The Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame was created by The Times and Business magazine, and inductees are determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2015 Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees include Richard Schepel, Michael E. Schrage, Roy Berlin, Beth Wrobel, and Joe Coar, who

was honored with the Partners in Progress Award. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees were recognized at a ceremony at the Radisson Hotel Celebrity Ballroom in Merrillville, Indiana, on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Roland Parrish, president, owner, and chief executive officer of 24 Parrish McDonald's Restaurants Ltd., was the guest speaker at this year's event.

Richard Schepel is the president of Schepel Buick-GMC, Inc. Although he has retired from the dealership's daily operations, Richard remains connected to the foundation of superior customer service upon which he built the dealership. In 1970, Richard built Schepel Buick on Route 30 in Merrillville. Within a few years, he was the number one Buick dealer in the Chicago zone. Under his outstanding direction, Schepel Buick-GMC, Inc. has succeeded for over 45 years. Richard devotes much of his time, effort, and support to charitable endeavors throughout Northwest Indiana, including area high school driver education programs, work-study programs for students, and American Red Cross blood drives, among others. He also has served as a member of several Chambers of Commerce throughout the community. Through his involvement in his church, Redeemer United Reformed Church, Richard has been able to help serve many families and individuals in need. Richard Schepel believes strongly in giving back to the community that has supported his business throughout the years. For his commitment to the citizens of Northwest Indiana and beyond, he is worthy of the highest praise.

Michael Schrage, president and chief executive officer of Centier Bank, became the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the First Bank of Whiting, which was renamed Centier Bank years later. This family-owned bank has grown throughout the years, and today Centier operates over fifty branches in Indiana. Under Mr. Schrage's leadership, Centier established an award-winning lender division, introduced a financial literacy program, and the company has been named one of Indiana's best places to work for the past nine years. This is indisputably due to Mike's value-based work ethic, and the significance he places on Centier's most important resource, its employees. In addition, Mike gives much of his time and effort to charitable endeavors including the Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few. Mr. Schrage is truly an inventive business leader, and his commitment to improving the community of Northwest Indiana is noteworthy.

Roy Berlin is the president and chief executive officer of Berlin Metals in Hammond. Berlin Metals is a value-added processor and distributor of thin metals, primarily tinplate, light gauge cold-rolled steel, and stainless steel, with much of the steel being manufactured in Northwest Indiana. Roy's career at Berlin Metals began in 1988 as a salesman. He became director of purchasing in 1992, executive vice president in 1995, and president in 1999. The

• 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.

continued success of the company can be credited to Roy's exemplary leadership skills and his focus on the needs of customers, suppliers, and Berlin Metal's employees. In addition, Roy Berlin and Berlin Metals are committed to educational efforts and have made numerous donations to the Acorn Foundation in Hammond, which provides scholarship funds to local high school students who have excelled in math and science. They also support the Metal Service Institute Center, which works to educate employees in the metal distribution business. For his outstanding contributions to the success of the Northwest Indiana community and his commitment to education, Roy Berlin is to be commended.

Beth Wrobel has been the chief executive officer of HealthLinc, Inc. since 2002. HealthLinc is a federally qualified health center with facilities in Mishawaka, Michigan City, Valparaiso, Knox, and East Chicago. The organization provides medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health services. Under Beth's direction, HealthLinc has become a leader in the healthcare industry in Northwest Indiana due to her focus on each patient's unique experience. Beth and the exemplary staff at HealthLinc provide outstanding support and guidance to some of the most vulnerable residents of the region. Beth serves on the Indiana University Northwest School of Medicine's advisory board and on the boards of the United Way of Porter County and the Indiana Primary Health Care Association. She is also a member of the Valparaiso Human Relations Council and is president-elect of the Rotary Club of Valparaiso. For her lifetime of service to those in need and her dedication to the healthcare industry, Beth Wrobel is an inspiration to us all.

The final inductee, and this year's recipient of the Partners in Progress Award, is Joe Coar. Joe was the vice president of operations at Tonn and Blank Construction for 25 years before retiring in December 2014, and he currently serves as a consultant for the company. Joe began his career in 1967 as a carpenter apprentice and continued to work his way up in the company into supervisory positions including superintendent, manager of operations, and ultimately, vice president of operations. Joe has worked on a variety of projects throughout his career for many companies including Urschel Laboratories, Sisters of Saint Francis, and Computer Services, Inc. Joe's heartfelt passion for the industry has been the driving force throughout his career. Mr. Coar also works very hard to support the community of Northwest Indiana and gives to many charitable organizations. He has served on the boards of the Construction Advancement Foundation, Ready Northwest Indiana Workforce Development, Northwest Indiana Forum, Northwest Indiana Business Round Table, and LaPorte County Redevelopment, among others. For his unwavering commitment to the building trades and to the community of Northwest Indiana, Joe Coar is truly worthy of the prestigious honor bestowed upon him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of this honor, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of them is worthy of our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE TEXAS STATE  
CHAMPION CALHOUN HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS POWERLIFTING  
TEAM

### HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Calhoun High School Girls Powerlifting Team. On Friday, March 20, 2015, the team, led by Head Coach Jason Bagwell and Assistant Coach Kellie Whitaker, won their 10th consecutive Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association's (THSWPA) Texas State Championship at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas.

This is the first time this feat has been accomplished in the history of THSWPA, and I am sure this record breaking accomplishment will stand the test of time. I congratulate the coaches and these amazing young women on their hard work and dedication and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

Calhoun High School Sandies Team Members: Kassidy Colianni, Miranda Smith, Danielle Bacon, Marissa Martinez, Belinda Perez, Perla Resendiz, Brooke Downs, Abby McFall, Zoey Dierlam and Jeanette Olachia.

RECOGNIZING FRANK CORNELIUS  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

### HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to visit "Frank and Nancy's Marine Corps Museum" in De Pere, Wisconsin.

At the museum, I met Frank Cornelius, a 22-year Marine Corps veteran who seemed to do everything in twos. Frank was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant two times: First, in 1953 during Korea, and again in 1962 during Vietnam. He served two terms as a Drill Instructor: First, in San Diego, CA, and then in Parris Island, SC. Frank served two wars: First, in Korea and then, in Vietnam. He served in two different units, the infantry for the first 10 years and the air wing for the second. Frank was also an instructor two times: First in Division School in Camp Pendleton, CA, and second in electronics at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, TN.

Frank Cornelius has won many awards in recognition of his outstanding achievements. He received 2nd place in the West Coast Regional Technique of Instruction Competition in 1958 in the "Sergeant and Below" category. More recently, he was named a National Heritage Fellow on September 17, 2008 by the National Endowment for the Arts.

I urge anyone who comes to the area to visit Frank and his wife, Nancy, at their museum for a personal tour. There, you will find a patriotic veteran's personal contribution to his community and a very interesting story of the past.

HONORING THE VENTURA COUNTY  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Ventura County Leadership Academy as they celebrate 20 years of promoting and cultivating the next generation of community leaders in Ventura County.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy was established in 1994 by the United Way of Ventura County as a pipeline for developing a strong, dynamic group of leaders. These leaders are driven with ambition and purpose to create a stronger community and to heighten the quality of life in Ventura County.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy has developed into a premier program, facilitating life-long friendships and bonds that draw graduates back to volunteer their time and skills in order to make the Ventura County Leadership Academy the best experience possible for future cohorts.

The diverse individuals that collectively make up the cohorts each year are provided a curriculum, which includes a focus on regional issues related to education, public safety, economic development, health care, and more. Students have the unique opportunity to meet with key decision-makers from the public, private, and non-profit sectors of the county. This experiential learning environment brings participants to the forefront of critical issues in our community.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy instills the confidence and skillsets that comprise a well-rounded change agent. To date the Ventura County Leadership Academy has had 20 outstanding cohorts, and 430 successful graduates making strides across the county with what they have gained through the Ventura County Leadership Academy.

For the past two decades, the Ventura County Leadership Academy has contributed an invaluable service to our community by developing influential and effective leaders that continue to propel Ventura County into the 21st century and beyond. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer the Ventura County Leadership Academy my sincere congratulations in reaching this milestone, and I am pleased to join them in celebrating their 20th anniversary.

WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING PERSON

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Ms. Jeralean Talley, a resident of Michigan's 13th District for a truly extraordinary distinction: Being named the world's oldest living person by the Gerontology Research Group, which keeps global longevity records. Ms. Talley was born in 1899 in Georgia and moved to Michigan in 1935, where she has resided ever since.

An active member of her family and community, Ms. Talley bowled until she was 104 and mowed her own lawn until just a few years

ago. According to the Gerontology Research Group, only one in 5 million people live to 110 years. Ms. Talley will turn 116 next month.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article from the Detroit Free Press from April 7, 2015 recognizing Ms. Talley for leading an extraordinarily full life and for achieving this unique distinction.

[Detroit Free Press, April 7, 2015]

INKSTER'S JERALEAN TALLEY IS OLDEST PERSON, GROUP SAYS

(By Bill Laitner)

The front door flew open as a reporter approached a brick ranch house in Inkster and a voice called out, "C'mon in—I've got Time magazine on the phone."

The speaker stood Thursday night over a placid figure dressed in a pale pink nightgown named Jeralean Talley, a bright-eyed elderly woman in spectacles who—despite her profound hearing loss—was fully aware, relatives said, that she'd just been declared by gerontology experts to be the oldest person in the world.

"It's truly incredible because Ms. Talley is very aware of what's going on. Her mental state is very sharp," said Michael Kinloch, 56, of Canton, a GM engineer and longtime family friend of Talley's through their church.

"It's unfortunate that other people passed away, but this has certainly elevated her. She's feeling no pain. She just can't get around like she used to," Kinloch said, who sat on a couch as he gestured to the walker that stood before Talley's easy chair.

Talley, who will turn 116 on May 23, climbed to the top spot after Gertrude Weaver, the world's oldest person for just five days, died Monday in Arkansas. She was 116.

Weaver, who was born July 4, 1898, to sharecroppers near the Texas border, was also the oldest American. She died at 10:12 a.m. at the Silver Oaks Health and Rehabilitation in Camden, a spokeswoman told KTHV-TV in Little Rock.

She was crowned the oldest just Wednesday after the death of Misao Okawa in Japan. She was 117.

At Talley's Inkster home Monday, a religious tapestry hung on the wall and around the room were others signs of her devotion to God. Asked for the key to her longevity, she gave the answer she has given before:

"It's coming from above. That's the best advice I can give you. It's not in my hands or your hands," she said, pointing vigorously skyward with both index fingers.

Talley, born according to U.S. Census records in 1899 in Georgia, came to Michigan in 1935 and said, "I've been here ever since then."

Her advice to the world on the occasion of her having attained a new level of celebrity was a rephrasing of Christianity's Golden Rule: "I ain't got nothing more but to treat the other fellow like you want to be treated. You don't tell a lie on me so I won't tell a lie on you."

Talley is widely known among experts who chart those who monitor the members of a rare worldwide club—the one in 5 million humans to live at least 110 years. She bowled until she was 104 and still mowed her lawn until a few years ago, according to previous Free Press reports. Equally amazing, Talley lived alone until seven years ago, when she was joined in the small home under the flight path of Detroit Metro Airport jets by her daughter, Thelma Holloway, 77, and Holloway's daughter, 26, who has added an ever-smiling spark to the supra-centenarian's life—little Armmell, now 2 years old and a frequent visitor to his great-great grandmother's lap.

On Thursday night, Armmell showed his elder his child-sized computer.

"He's fifth-generation," Thelma Holloway said, as the two bent over the toy together.

Kinloch said he's looking forward to taking Talley, despite her advanced age, on their annual fishing trip.

"We go to a trout pond in Dexter. She really likes that," he said.

RECOGNIZING WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the recognition of World Hemophilia Day, which occurred on April 17.

Hemophilia is a rare disorder in which an individual's blood does not have enough clotting factor, causing them to potentially bleed longer than someone not affected by the disorder. As I have heard from my constituents, the health problems endured by those living with hemophilia can be debilitating. These problems can lead to seizures, paralysis and in some cases death. Sadly, there is no known cure for the disorder but treatment options can reduce symptoms and save lives.

In recognition of World Hemophilia Day, I ask that we remain aware of the burden of blood disorders and their impact on American citizens. In addition, on this day we should commit ourselves both to ensuring our country has the best treatment options available and also to working for a cure.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the recognition World Hemophilia Day which occurred on April 17.

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In recognition of World Hemophilia Day, I ask that we remain aware of the burden of blood disorders, their impact on American citizens, and work proactively to ensure our country has the best treatment options available, but that we also work for a cure.

HONORING G. OLIVER KOPPELL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative for New York's 16th Congressional Dis-

trict, I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing and honoring an array of incredible public servants. But few, if any, have worked as hard and achieved as much as my dear friend Oliver Koppell has for the people of the Bronx, and all of New York State.

The son of refugees from Nazi Germany, Oliver moved to the Bronx when he was two years old, and began a lifelong love affair with the borough. He attended Bronx elementary schools, graduated from Bronx High School of Science, and, following his tenure at Harvard University, where he graduated Cum Laude as both an undergraduate and law student, he returned to the Bronx to begin his life of public service.

On March 30, 1970, Oliver was first elected to office as a Bronx Assemblyman, and served as a member of that legislative body for over 23 years. I spent many of those years as a colleague of Oliver's, and was always struck by his incredible intellect and undeniable passion for his constituency. His legislative record as a Member of the Assembly was sterling, and showed the breadth of his interests and knowledge.

It was no surprise to me then in 1993 when Oliver was selected by his colleagues to serve in a higher capacity, as New York State Attorney General. As Attorney General, Oliver initiated dozens of public interest lawsuits, collected over \$100,000,000 for the state treasury, and negotiated the largest environmental settlement in the history of New York.

As a follow-up to his time in statewide office, Oliver returned to serve the local Bronx community, as Council Member for New York City's 11th District. From his election in 2001 to the end of his tenure in 2013, Oliver was a leading progressive voice in the Council and a tireless advocate for the constituents he represented in the northwest Bronx. To see the success of Oliver's tenure, look no further than his election results: he served three terms in office with overwhelming support from the community.

But for Oliver, no legislative accomplishment can compare to his greatest success, as a father and a husband. He is married to the love of his life, Lorraine, and has three amazing children, along with 5 beautiful grandchildren. I have had the privilege of getting to know all of the Koppells over the many years we have known each other, and they are all truly wonderful people.

This year, the Riverdale Temple is honoring Oliver with a tribute luncheon in celebration of his years of dedicated service to the community. There is no more fitting honoree than him. Oliver Koppell has been a true public servant, an advocate for people from all walks of life, a man of exceptional integrity. I honor Oliver along with the Riverdale Temple and wish to congratulate him on this wonderful, and incredibly well-deserved, honor.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the centennial

anniversary of the Trinity United Methodist Church located in West Palm Beach, FL.

In October 2014, the Trinity United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. Founded in 1914 by Reverend John H. Gordon, the church was organized along the Seaboard Railroad on Tamarind Avenue in West Palm Beach. Trinity was renovated following a fire and later modified after being heavily damaged during the Storm of 1928. In 1968, the church was sold and a new sanctuary was constructed on the corners of 9th Street and Golf Avenue in the Roosevelt Estates. Trinity's history is the story of faith, sacrifice and of a membership devoted to the community.

Since its founding, Trinity has served at the forefront of the community, working to enhance educational, social, and economic prosperity. Known as the "Civil Rights Headquarters," Trinity United Methodist Church served as the main meeting place to plan strategies in the fights for the right to vote, integration of schools, and equal access. Today, Trinity is still the headquarters for free rides to the voting polls, and often partners with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Urban League on various other important initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Trinity United Methodist Church is a true pillar of the community and I continue to applaud their efforts. I wish the Trinity United Methodist Church many more years of continued prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPPORTING COLORECTAL EXAMINATION AND EDUCATION NOW (SCREEN) ACT OF 2015

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act of 2015. This legislation promotes access to critical colorectal screening procedures by removing barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available. Simply put, colon cancer screening tests like colonoscopy save lives by detecting and preventing cancer, also reducing costs for individuals, their families, the Medicare program, and the health care system as a whole.

The likelihood of developing colorectal cancer is greater than one in twenty; meaning that 133,000 Americans will be newly diagnosed this year. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 2,550 new cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in my home state of Massachusetts this year and 930 Bay-Staters will die from this deadly disease. Among all cancers, colorectal cancer is the number two killer of Americans. This year alone, approximately 50,000 Americans will die from colorectal cancer.

Despite these daunting statistics, I am encouraged by the opportunities for improvement as colorectal cancer is among the most preventable of all cancers. Unlike most other cancer screenings designed to detect cancer at an early stage, colorectal cancer screenings can actually prevent cancer from occurring in the first place. If found early through screening tests like colonoscopy, pre-cancerous growths

called polyps can be removed, thus halting the progression to colorectal cancer. Therefore the way to beat this deadly disease is to ensure Medicare beneficiaries are screened regularly through a variety of detection methods, including colonoscopy. In fact, a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die of colorectal cancer this year, screening colonoscopy could save more than 50 percent of these deaths.

The month of March was "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" and, I think, an appropriate time to reflect on some of the strides we have made as a nation in confronting colorectal cancer. While it remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women combined, both the incidence and death rate have been steadily declining in recent years. This is a budding public health success story due to improvement in screening rates, demonstrating the power of preventive medicine. Yet there is much more to accomplish. The federal, state and local governments, as well as other stakeholders have come together and pledged their efforts to achieve the goal of 80 percent of eligible Americans screened by 2018.

The screening rate for those in the target populations has increased nearly 10 percent over the past decade. In Massachusetts, we can boast one of the highest screening rates in the country at 75 percent. However, that still means that one out of every four eligible people is not getting screened. Furthermore, screening rates for recommended tests remain unacceptably low across the country, highlighting the need for public policies to help us achieve this collaborative national goal of 80 percent screened by 2018. In particular, the Medicare-age population, which is at the greatest risk for developing colorectal cancer, has screening rates far below this goal. CMS should be commended for implementing policies to increase screening utilization rates. However, Medicare beneficiaries make up two-thirds of all new cases of colon cancer, and the number is expected to increase by more than 50 percent by 2020.

Accordingly, the SCREEN Act is designed to enhance Medicare beneficiaries' ability to access colorectal cancer screening by fixing coverage gaps and disincentives under the benefit. Medicare currently covers certain colon screening services, but Medicare beneficiaries are not appropriately using this benefit for various reasons, including out-of-pocket costs and fear of the procedure itself. Medicare waives cost-sharing for cancer screenings recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which assigns an "A" rating for colorectal cancer screening. However, if a doctor finds and removes a pre-cancerous polyp during a screening colonoscopy—the whole point of the procedure in the first place—Medicare no longer considers it a "screening" and the beneficiary is required to pay co-insurance. The SCREEN Act waives cost-sharing under this scenario, as well as the necessary follow-up colonoscopy upon a positive finding of other recommended colorectal cancer screening tests covered by Medicare. These changes will help achieve this "80 percent by 2018" goal and will ensure there are no financial barriers for Medicare beneficiaries across this screening continuum in colorectal cancer prevention. Relatedly, the SCREEN Act would

stabilize Medicare reimbursement for screening tests for the next three years to encourage Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries and screening initiatives as we strive towards the "2018 goal." This bill would ensure that the Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit works for both patients and the physicians treating Medicare beneficiaries.

Unfortunately, fear of the screening colonoscopy test itself undermines the goal of increasing colorectal cancer screening utilization rates. This fear has also undermined screening rates for another public health epidemic in Medicare, Hepatitis C. Medicare has concluded that our nation's veterans and baby boomers—who make up about 30 percent of the U.S. population—account for two-thirds of the people with Hepatitis C in the U.S. CMS also notes that roughly 85 to 90 percent of those infected with Hepatitis C are asymptomatic, meaning they have no outward signs of disease. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and USPSTF recommend age-based screening for both colorectal cancer and Hepatitis C, even if the Medicare beneficiary has no symptoms. Just like colorectal cancer screening, we must do more to increase screening for Hepatitis C.

The SCREEN Act recognizes the critical role that doctors play in providing information, alleviating fears, and encouraging patients to ask questions, and thus establishes a demonstration project to allow Medicare beneficiaries the opportunity to discuss these screening procedures with the provider performing the procedure. Thus, allowing the Medicare beneficiary the option to be screened for Hepatitis C at the same time the beneficiary is undergoing a screening colonoscopy. One recent study has demonstrated that more patients will agree to get a Hepatitis C screening while they are undergoing a screening colonoscopy.

In addition to raising awareness, now is the time to redouble our commitment to preventing and beating and preventing colorectal cancer. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the SCREEN Act.

HONORING TERRY CLEMENTS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our communities remain vibrant and strong thanks to volunteer leaders who maintain a high level of involvement. Terry Clements has been a shining example of that type of civic engagement.

Terry Clements was born in Chicago, Illinois, and began her esteemed tenure of service as a graduate of Antioch College with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology, followed by a Masters in Elementary Education at Fordham University.

After earning her degrees, Terry resided in West Hollywood, California. She was a prominent talent manager and consultant in the entertainment business, working with such stars as Kenny Loggins, David Bowie, Iggy Pop, the Charlie Daniels Band, and Michael Jackson.

Terry became the co-principal of a recording studio in Chicago, and helped inspire the concept of Studio Jams, a live studio concert on

NBC radio affiliate. Terry returned to West Hollywood to manage music producers, song writers, and other recording artists, providing crucial opportunities for actors in both the film and television industry.

Terry relocated to New Rochelle in 1981, becoming an indispensable member of the community. Involved in groups like the Jack and Jill of America Westchester Chapter, New Rochelle FUSE, the New York State United Teachers, and the Westchester Alliance of Black Student Educators, Terry maintained a high standard for all of her community involvement.

As President of the New Rochelle Lions Club, she organized a benefit for the victims of the Haitian Earthquake fund, and partnered with the school district to get glasses for kids in need. Terry also is active as a former member to the Latino Advisory Board and the New Rochelle Advisory Committee on Boating and Marinas.

Terry has been involved in local politics, serving as a district leader for the New Rochelle Democratic Party, and as Vice Chair to the Westchester County Democratic Committee. She is a member of The Black Democrats of Westchester, Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, and is the former State Committee Woman for the 88th AD.

Currently, Terry is an educator at Columbus Elementary School in New Rochelle and a former adjunct professor at Fordham University. Terry's true pride and joy though is her family. She is married to her husband, George Clements, Jr., and they have two daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

The New Rochelle Democratic Committee is honoring Terry at their 2015 Victory Dinner this year. She is very deserving of this recognition, and I want to congratulate her on the wonderful honor.

H.R. 1560 AND H.R. 1731

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tepid support of H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731, which would bolster our cyber defenses by supporting information sharing between the private sector and government.

Public and private sector networks are under constant attack. Security experts and government officials alike have cautioned that as we become more interconnected and dependent on cyber networks for everyday aspects of life, the more susceptible we are to crippling cyber attacks. The attack on Sony Pictures, the major breach at Anthem that compromised personal information for nearly 80 million people, and the breaches at national retailers like Target and Home Depot demonstrate that information sharing legislation is needed. In the face of such extreme threats, Congress must enact robust protective measures that safeguard civil liberties.

The two bills we are considering this week make significant improvements compared to CISPA, which passed the House last Congress. While CISPA did not require the private sector to remove personal information before sharing that information with the government or other non-government entities, H.R. 1560

and H.R. 1731 would require private entities to remove any personal information before sharing, after which the government would be required to conduct a second scrub.

While I will support H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731, improvements should be made in conference with the Senate. As drafted, the bills could provide sweeping liability protections to operators of critical infrastructure that do not take adequate defensive measures or share information about attacks against their networks. The liability protections are currently so broad that they could even provide immunity to entities that act negligently.

Congress has not passed major cyber security legislation since 2002. While this week's bills are not perfect and should be improved, they would enhance our cyber defenses.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT**

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 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 \$18,151,939,363,157.16. We've added \$7,525,062,314,244.08 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.

**RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS (ANZAC) DAY**

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day.

First held on April 25, 1916, ANZAC Day was originally dedicated to commemorating those Australian and New Zealand forces that fought in the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I.

Today, ANZAC Day is set aside to recognize all Australian and New Zealand forces who have "served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served." We call ours Veterans Day.

As the Delegate from the U.S. Territory that is geographically closest to New Zealand and the third closest to Australia, I am proud to recognize the servicemen and women from our partners in the region.

The long-standing relationship between the United States and our partners in the South Pacific cannot be understated. Whenever we have found ourselves standing to defend the spirit of freedom and democracy around the globe, we have always been able to rely upon our friends in New Zealand and Australia to be standing right beside us.

Our shared ideals and hopes for the planet ensure that our bond is strong and lasting, and I want to recognize the servicemen and women of Australia and New Zealand for the sacrifices they have made to uphold these common traits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the sacrifices and dedication of the servicemembers of our friends in Australia and New Zealand.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DELBERT CEDERQUIST**

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delbert Cederquist on his work as a school board trustee for the past 62 years.

Mr. Cederquist was born and raised in Fresno, California. In 1950, after completing his education, he launched a vineyard in Easton, California and became a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Mr. Cederquist is married to Denise Cederquist and has two children and three grandchildren.

In 1953, Mr. Cederquist became involved in education for the first time as a board member for the University Colony School District. Since then, he has been involved on the boards of several local, state, and national education associations in a variety of different roles.

Mr. Cederquist has been a member of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) since 1967. In addition to being a member of the Board of Directors, the Delegate Assembly, and several committees, Mr. Cederquist has also served as Conference Chairman and President.

Currently, Mr. Cederquist is an active member of the Fresno County Board of Education. The Board has oversight over more than 190,000 students and 32 school districts throughout Fresno County. Mr. Cederquist was elected to Fresno County Board of Education for the first time in 1994 and is currently in his fifth term. Additionally, he has served as its President on three separate occasions.

While education may not have been his professional trade, it became a lifelong passion for Mr. Cederquist. Due to his extensive experience and dedication, Mr. Cederquist is widely recognized for his knowledge, expertise, and commitment to education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Delbert Cederquist for his 62 years of dedicated service to the students, teachers, and schools of the Central Valley and the State of California.

**IN HONOR OF THE 14TH ANNUAL WALTER AND LEAH RAND SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 14th Annual Walter and Leah

Rand Scholarship Dinner and to recognize this year's honorees, J. Mark Baiada, Louis Cappelli, Jr., and Thomas A. Isekenegebe.

Founded in the year 2000 in honor of former New Jersey State Senator Walter Rand's legacy of public service, the Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University serves as a research and public service center at the Camden campus. Each year, the institute awards members of the community whose tireless efforts improve the quality of life for South Jersey with the Walter and Leah Rand South Jersey of the Year Award.

The private sector honoree, J. Mark Baiada—an alumnus of Rutgers University—is the president and founder of Bayada Home Health Care. Bayada Home Health care is a health care company, located in Moorestown, that employs nurses from throughout the state and provides outstanding health services to South Jersey. Mark has already expanded his company to over twenty-five states, offering the same high quality health care to people beyond New Jersey's borders.

This year's public sector honoree, Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., has brought his keen legal mind and innovative ideas to a lifetime of public service. As a resident of Collingswood, New Jersey, Louis has been a dedicated servant of his community. He began by serving on the Collingswood School Board and was later elected to the Collingswood Board of Commissioners, where he played an instrumental role in revitalizing the town. Louis was first elected to the Freeholder Board in 2003 and has since worked to transform county government, delivering services more efficiently to constituents while reducing the costs of doing so.

The non-profit sector honoree, Dr. Thomas Isekenegebe, is the president of Cumberland County College, and has used his knowledge of higher education to increase enrollment and graduation rates at the college. Coming to America in 1981 from a small village in Nigeria, Thomas' passion for education and helping minorities succeed in higher education has been an inspiration. At Cumberland, Thomas has provided leadership for increasing enrollment, developing new academic programs, revising courses for a seamless transfer to four-year universities, and developing learning communities that lead to student success.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. Mark Baiada, Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., and Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegebe are the sort of inspirational and dedicated leaders that South Jersey needs and is proud to recognize. I join with the Walter and Leah Rand Institute for Public Affairs in honoring their talents and accomplishments that have made South Jersey an even better place to live.

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HONORING STUART GOLDSHEIN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, community partners who are truly dedicated to serving the public good are an invaluable asset to any elected official in government. As the Representative of New York's 16th district, I have had the pleasure of working with some truly remarkable community leaders, none more remarkable than Stuart Goldshein.

A native of the Bronx and a life-long resident of New York City, Stu always retained a close affiliation with the Jewish community. While living in Manhattan, he involved himself and his family in Temple Israel of the City of New York, encouraging his children to attend religious school and partaking in the Jewish traditions.

In 2006, Stu and his family relocated to the North Bronx. Despite the move, Stu maintained his connection to the Jewish community, becoming a member of the Riverdale Temple. A year after becoming a member of the temple, he was elected to the synagogue's leadership. For the past eight years, he has served on the Temple's Board of Trustees, helping to establish the policies and procedures of the Temple, administering the Temple's business affairs, and monitoring the Temple's property and revenues. Additionally, he has been the synagogue's Treasurer for the past five years, utilizing his 35 years of business experience to manage the institution's finances. Through his service, Stu actively has sought to better the Riverdale community.

Aside from his involvement with the Riverdale Temple, Stu is a CPA who has spent his business career in accounting and finance. He worked for Price Waterhouse and Dun & Bradstreet. Recently, he retired as the Vice President and Corporate Controller of Nielsen Media Research.

In addition to his phenomenal career achievements, Stu has created an incredible legacy at home with his beloved wife, Jean, their two children, Jeff and Debra, and their four grandchildren, Ian, Evan, Emma, and Sammy. They are his true pride and joy.

This year, the Riverdale Temple is honoring Stu at its Student Sponsorship Breakfast for all he has done to better the Riverdale community. I am honored to be able to congratulate Stu on this incredible achievement.

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RECOGNIZING PAMELA RAINEY  
LAWLER

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, both in my district and around the globe, the name Pearl S. Buck is synonymous with enthusiastic activism and a deep commitment to humanitarianism.

Today, Pearl S. Buck International advances that legacy by providing opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, building better lives for children around the globe and promoting the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Landmark home. To honor the timeless work of Pearl S. Buck, the Pearl S. Buck International Woman of the Year Award was established in 1978 to recognize "women, who like Nobel and Pulitzer prize-winning author and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck, have distinguished themselves in their career, devotion to family and pursuit of humanitarian goals."

This year, I am proud to congratulate Pamela Rainey Lawler as the recipient of this noble achievement.

Pamela launched her career as corporate writer in Philadelphia and later, as a mother of

two children, realized how important food and nourishment were to growing children. Always the writer at heart, she took on a research project to find a solution to the domestic hunger problem in Philadelphia. Her research was the impetus to launch the non-profit organization, Philabundance in 1984. Today, Pamela is a social entrepreneur creating the Food Solutions Design Lab. She spends time giving back by mentoring and advising young social entrepreneurs and social impact start-ups. The first woman to run for the Mayor of Philadelphia, Pamela serves on the Board of Directors of Philabundance and Art-Reach, among others. Her influence within the food science and nutrition field, the non-profit community at Philabundance, the world of impactful social entrepreneurs and among women who are all about action will be felt for a long time.

There is no doubt that Pamela embodies the positive qualities of the late, great Pearl S. Buck and is worthy of the Woman of the Year Award. Her work in our community—and our world—expands the positive impact of Pearl S. Buck to meet new challenges for a new generation.

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on this day I would like to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. On this month 100 years ago, April 1915, the Ottoman Empire began a campaign of forced deportation, starvation, and massacres of over 1.5 million Armenians. This tragic event would later be used as an example for how we define and understand the word genocide.

The modern state of Turkey continues to deny the events of the past. Those who deny the Holocaust, the destruction of European Jewry, are met with outrage and disdain, as they should. Equally, the denial of the Armenian Genocide should elicit the same reaction. Denial of this atrocious event disrespects the lives of all those who perished. The Armenian Genocide is not a contested debate. It is not of varying opinion. It is an undisputed historical fact.

For decades our Armenian-American communities have urged the American government to rightly recognize the actions of the Ottoman Empire as genocide. President Obama recently characterized the actions of the Ottoman Empire as "the first mass atrocity of the 20th Century." This is an accurate description, but it is truly disappointing that he decided not to use the word genocide. Armenians do not seek retribution for the acts of violence inflicted upon their ancestors. Armenians simply seek closure to a very dark and tragic chapter of their otherwise proud and distinguished history.

HONORING THE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (MCFSC) OF IDYLLWILD, CALIFORNIA

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) of Idyllwild, California for their tireless dedication to keeping the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountain communities safe from devastating wild fires.

Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council of Idyllwild is the local chapter of more than 125 Fire Safe Councils of California. Since 2002, volunteers and staff from the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council have helped raise awareness among residents about the dangers of wild fires and helped residents take action to protect their land and property.

MCFSC has organized members of the community to reduce hazards that can spread the devastation of wildfires in our mountains. MCFSC volunteers known as the "Woodies" are the heart of the organization. These selfless volunteers donate their time, tools and equipment to decrease wildfire hazards and reduce fuel storage on properties owned by elderly, disabled and low-income residents. Since the organization's inception, MCFSC volunteers have contributed more than 915 cords of firewood to the Idyllwild Help Center, and volunteered more than 24,107 hours.

In 2009, MCFSC received a U.S. Forest Service grant and worked to remove fuels from the areas surrounding structures in the Silent Valley Campground. Their extraordinary work in promoting fire preparedness and adaptation before the devastating 2013 Mountain Fire was credited by the U.S. Forest Service for reducing the severity of the fire and aiding firefighters.

I congratulate the extraordinary volunteers of the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council on their efforts and dedication to protecting our mountain communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF EARL C. HARGROVE JR.

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and a great Marylander, Earl Christian Hargrove Jr., who passed away on April 6 at the age of eighty-six. I've known Earl for many years, and I am certain that he will be missed by a great many people throughout the Greater Washington area.

Earl was a larger than life presence in Harwood, Maryland. His estate—Holly Springs Farm—attracts thousands of neighbors and residents from throughout the region each Christmas with a captivating display of holiday lights and decorations. A graduate of Bladensburg High School in 1946, Earl served in the U.S. Marine Corps that same year and was honorably discharged in 1948. When the Korean War broke out, however, Earl re-enlisted and served his country in uniform until

1954. Following his military service, he returned to Maryland and to the business he had launched with his father, Earl Hargrove Sr., in the late 1940s creating parade floats and specialty decorations.

Known affectionately as "the President's prop-man," Earl provided event staging for every presidential inauguration since Harry Truman's in 1949. In January 2013, his company, Hargrove Inc., did so once again for the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. Earl Jr. became president of the company after his father's sudden death in 1971, and today the business is run by Earl's daughter, Carla Hargrove McGill, and son-in-law, Timothy McGill. Hargrove Inc. continues to employ talented artists and craftspeople who design and plan some of Washington's largest events and conferences, including the National Walk for Epilepsy, the annual AIPAC Policy Conference, and the White House Correspondents Dinner.

My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife of sixty years, Gloria Love Hargrove, his children Earl "Chris" Hargrove III, Kathleen Hargrove Kelly and her husband Clyde, Carla Hargrove McGill and her husband Timothy, Cynthia Diane Hargrove and her husband Michael Busada, and Carey Martin Hargrove and his wife Wendy Miller, and his seven grandchildren. May his memory continue to bring strength and comfort to them and to all of us who were fortunate to know and cherish Earl Hargrove Jr.

RECOGNIZING DAVE MCCONNELL ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY REPORTING FOR WTOP RADIO

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dave McConnell, WTOP's Capitol Hill correspondent who is celebrating his 50th year of reporting for the Washington all-news radio station.

"A True Journalism Icon" was how the Merrell College of Journalism at the University of Maryland described Dave in a recent tribute. Members of Congress and media colleagues have heaped deserving praise on Dave in recognition of his 50-year milestone. Most recently, Dave was the recipient of the first ever Career Achievement Award from the Radio and Television Correspondents Association, and he has won other honors including the Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame Award.

Dave has a voice that was made for radio. He has a delivery that is authoritative and commanding but at the same time reassuring and resonant. His voice is readily recognizable by several generations of radio listeners in the Washington region. He has earned the respect of listeners and news sources because of his encyclopedic knowledge of Congress, his thorough and objective reporting on the complex issues that come before this body, and his professional manner and demeanor.

While many reporters have moved from station to station and city to city as they moved up the media ladder, Dave began his career in his hometown and has reported in Washington throughout his career, most of it from his third

floor perch in the Capitol that he refers to as the "booth." As WTOP Senior News Director Mike McMearty joked in a recent tribute to Dave, "It's part of WTOP lore that Dave McConnell, while other kids were skipping school to go catch a baseball game and see the Senators, he was sneaking into the Capitol to hear the actual senators debate."

There are few reporters in Washington who can boast they have covered 12 presidential elections, five inaugurations, and many other milestones spanning a half-century of the nation's history. Dave McConnell is one of them, although he would never boast about it; it's not his style. He is all business and all about the news.

At a time when men of Dave's age are spending their Golden Years doting over their grandchildren (and Dave has seven), WTOP's Capitol Hill correspondent continues to use his vast institutional knowledge to give perspective on a daily basis to the comings and goings of Congress.

Dave McConnell's colleagues say Dave has no intention of retiring any time soon and that is good news for many Washington-area residents who have grown accustomed to getting their news about Congress over the radio from "a true journalism icon."

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave on this wonderful milestone and in wishing him continued success.

HONORING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Memorial High School in San Antonio for its exceptional music education program. This year, Memorial is one of just 120 schools in the nation to be awarded the prestigious SupportMusic Merit Award from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The school's outstanding commitment to music education is particularly evident in the spirited, talented, Memorial High band.

Music education is so important for our young people. Not only does it help students develop leadership skills, but new research shows that participation in music education programs can improve brain function, spark language development, and lead to increased academic success in subjects like reading and math.

Despite the proven benefits of music education, arts departments are often the first to suffer budget cuts, or to be eliminated altogether, when school funding is tight. Receiving the NAMM SupportMusic Merit Award helps schools like Memorial High demonstrate the importance of music education to their students' overall success in school and draw attention to the need for further resources to sustain these vital programs in the future.

Again, I want to congratulate Memorial High School for this achievement and for giving San Antonio students the opportunity to experience the joy of music and all the other academic advantages music education affords.

INTRODUCING THE FDA DEEMING  
AUTHORITY CLARIFICATION ACT  
OF 2015

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation, the FDA Deeming Authority Clarification Act of 2015, to make a technical change to the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA). The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act provides the framework for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate tobacco products and products with nicotine derived from tobacco.

Under the FSPTCA, the FDA was provided immediate regulatory authority over cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco. Further, the FSPTCA allows FDA to regulate other tobacco products through a regulatory process.

The issue that my legislation seeks to remedy relates to a specific date—the predicate/grandfather date of February 15, 2007. The FSPTCA specifies that any cigarette, smokeless tobacco or roll-your-own tobacco product that was in the market before February 15, 2007 is grandfathered and can stay on the market without manufacturers submitting applications to FDA approval, but FDA is still able to regulate these products.

Manufacturers making changes to grandfathered tobacco products or introducing new tobacco products after this date are required to file an application with the FDA.

Further, a manufacturer is able to file a more abbreviated substantial equivalence application if the manufacturer can demonstrate that the modified or new tobacco product is substantially equivalent to a tobacco product that was on the market before this grandfather date. For this reason, this date is doubly important because it serves as both the grandfather date and the predicate date.

The FSPTCA further lays out that any products that came to market between February 15, 2007 and the date of enactment (June 22, 2009), or during the following 21 months (before March 22, 2011) were permitted to stay on the market, but the manufacturer was required to file a substantial equivalence (SE) for those products before the end of this transition period.

Finally, no product may be brought to market after this transition period without authorization from FDA.

Questions may be raised as to why the so-called predicate/grandfather date of February 15, 2007 was picked in the Act. If you look at the legislative history, February 15, 2007 was the date the Act was introduced in the 110th Congress. There was no other specific reason for the date chosen in the Act. Moreover, the 2007 date reflects the predicate/grandfather date for those immediately regulated products—not for products that FDA could choose to regulate at a later time.

On April 25, 2014, FDA released its proposed deeming regulation, which would grant authority for the agency to regulate cigars, vapor products and other products with nicotine derived from tobacco.

However, in the proposed rule, the agency stated it would maintain the February 15, 2007

as the predicate/grandfather date for newly deemed products even though the FDA has the regulatory discretion to choose a different date. Notably, the FDA provided for a two-year transition period, similar to the 21-month transition period contained in the Act.

The FDA claims that it lacks the legal authority to change the February 15, 2007 date even though it has used regulatory authority to make a number of decisions that were not spelled out in the initial Act. The agency should apply that same authority to altering the predicate/grandfather date for newly deemed tobacco products, while maintaining this important transition period.

Should the agency choose not to alter the date, the February 15, 2007 predicate/grandfather date will make it costly and create significant barriers for the industry and the FDA to bring innovative new products that may significantly reduce the harms associated with tobacco to market, and could force the withdrawal of many products that have come to market since February 2007.

The end result will be that newly deemed tobacco products would be treated much more harshly than immediately regulated products. Specifically, the “look back” period for cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco products was two years (June 2009 to February 2007) while the period for newly deemed products would be eight years (June 2015 to February 2007) if FDA meets its June 2015 target to publish a final deeming rule, and perhaps longer if FDA does not publish its final rule in time.

It makes no sense that immediately regulated products—which Congress decided were most in need of FDA regulation—get such an advantage over later regulated products.

In addition, applying the February 2007 predicate/grandfather date to newly deemed products or failure to provide for a transition period will immediately and dramatically add to FDA’s enormous backlog of SE applications, which stands at thousands to date.

Even though the FDA already has this authority, the legislation I introduce today will underscore that FDA should choose a new grandfather/predicate date each time the agency deems new tobacco products. Specifically, the bill would make the grandfather/predicate date for newly deemed tobacco products the effective date of the final rule and mimic the 21-month transition period provided for cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco.

Accordingly, on the crucial issue of path to market, later regulated products would be treated no better and no worse than immediately regulated products.

CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate and celebrate the 36th anniversary of the passing of the Taiwan Relations Act, the landmark piece of legislation that provides the legal basis for our bilateral relations with Taiwan, our close economic and security part-

ner and friend with which we share so many principles and values.

Our relationship with the Republic of China dates back decades, but it is as important today as ever. Taiwan stands today as a symbol of what countries can accomplish when they commit themselves to democracy, free enterprise, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. The Taiwan Relations Act, accordingly, stands as a symbol of the United States’ unwavering support for those values and its commitment to protect and uphold them wherever they take root.

The Taiwan Relations Act is also more than a symbol, however. It is a binding resolution that we in Washington will “consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.”

Today, the peace and security of that critical region is being undermined by a military buildup on the mainland and increasingly aggressive behavior in its littoral waters. In this strategic environment it is critically important that we reaffirm our support to countries that share our values and behave with respect to their neighbors and the norms of international behavior.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2015

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as the nation’s capital brings thousands of Americans to Washington, D.C. this tourist season despite recent security incidents, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2015. The bill is as timely now as when I first began working on it. I saw the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society after the Oklahoma City bombing, whose 20th anniversary we commemorated this year. I saw it again after 9/11. This bill grows even more urgent as the country is ensnared in wars that threaten our security, causing an increasing variety of security measures to proliferate throughout the country without due diligence and deep thinking about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and often without guidance from the government or bona fide security experts. Take the example of some ordinary government buildings. Security in some federal buildings bars tourists here for Cherry Blossom season from even getting in to use the restroom or enjoy the cafeterias. The security for some federal buildings has for too long been unduly influenced by non-security experts, who happen to work for an agency but do not have the expertise to take into account actual threats.

Another example is the District of Columbia’s only public heliport, which the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shut down following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, without explanation or means to appeal the decision. Just days after the 9/11 attacks,

however, helicopter service was restored in New York City, the major target of the attacks. Yet, even 12 years after the attacks, TSA and FAA and particularly the Secret Service still will not permit commercial helicopters to fly to D.C., unlike all other cities in the United States.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin a systematic investigation that fully takes into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the president designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance that should be required between openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time at the same table, also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts should not alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, on an often ad hoc basis. Some federal buildings such as the U.S. Capitol have been able to deal with security issues, and continue their openness to the public. Others, like the new Department of Transportation headquarters, remain mostly inaccessible to the public. These examples, drawn from the nation's capital, are replicated in public buildings throughout the United States.

After 9/11, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against the frightening threat of terrorism. However, in our country, people also expect their government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These times will long be remembered for the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and for the unprecedented challenges it has brought. Nevertheless, we must provide ever-higher levels of security for our residents and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. What we have experienced since Oklahoma City and 9/11 is no ordinary threat that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission),

and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. In the aftermath of the 2013 Navy Yard shooting, I wrote to the President of the United States requesting the establishment of an independent panel to investigate issues raised by that tragedy and to evaluate how to secure federal employees who work in facilities like the Navy Yard that are a part of a residential or business community. However, this bill seeks a commission that would act not in the wake of a tragedy but before a crisis and before erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither require nor are subject to civilian oversight or an analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th-century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
RAY SCHAAF

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Ray Schaaf, U.S. Army, Retired of Round Rock, Texas as he celebrates his 90th birthday on April 24, 2015. Even with nearly a century of living behind him, he remains a vibrant part of his growing central Texas community.

Born in Colorado, LTC Schaaf entered the Army in June 1943. After rigorous training, he arrived in England the following year where he bravely flew combat missions with the 381st Bomb Wing over Europe. His post-war military career saw this brave aviator serve in Korea, China, Greenland, and numerous bases in the U.S. LTC Schaaf retired in 1970 and made his home in the Lone Star State.

Following his retirement, the warrior became an artist. A skilled handyman, LTC Schaaf makes jewelry and restores saddles. He's an avid painter and is especially adept in the centuries-old craft of knife making. This determination to live life to its fullest is a reminder to us all to make the most of every day.

Family remains at the center of his life. LTC Schaaf married his beloved Marge. They brought four children into the world and were united through feast and famine. Now a proud

grandfather of nine, great-grandfather of fourteen, and great-great-grandfather of one, he has the pleasure of watching his beautiful family grow and prosper.

All should marvel at the extraordinary times LTC Schaaf has witnessed. In his nine decades of living, he defended freedom on foreign shores, watched a humble midwesterner take mankind's first steps on another world, and marveled at technological advances beyond any of his dreams. He saw how America has been defined by extraordinary men and women who fought for a country brave enough to confront its past imperfections and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow.

LTC Ray Schaaf's patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service reflect the very best values of both the Greatest Generation and Central Texas. Let April 24 continue to be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy 90th birthday and all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SOCIAL  
SERVICES AGENCY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for 50 years, The Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency has been protecting the children of Bucks County.

Through investigating reports of child abuse and neglect, providing for the temporary care of children not able to remain with their own families and working to develop community-wide social service programs that empower kids and their families, Children and Youth has played a vital role in our community for decades—a fact we celebrate this anniversary.

As a former County Commissioner, I've had the opportunity to work side-by-side with the committed staff and leaders that make this agency the success it is. Their work has promoted safer, healthier communities and played a part in strengthening the lives of thousands of children.

Our children are our greatest resource. And, through the dedicated efforts of Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services, Bucks County's future is brighter.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DONALD S.  
POWERS

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a notable Hoosier, Mr. Donald S. Powers, who passed away on April 21, 2015. I would like to express my gratitude for his community service and economic development in my hometown of Munster, Indiana. Most important to me, he was a friend and mentor who was always ready to provide sound guidance. He was among my very first supporters

in my first run for Indiana Secretary of State, and he, Margo, and their family have been close friends for nearly my entire life. More than that though, many people who call Northwest Indiana home can rightfully claim the same kind of relationship with Don Powers.

Mr. Powers proudly fought for our nation during World War II as a Navy fighter pilot and was called into service again during the Korean War. I know it was an honor for him, as a member of the United States Navy to protect the country he loved, the greatest nation the world has ever seen. His fearless exploits as a fighter pilot on an aircraft carrier would shape his business approach leading to a willingness to take risks that others would not.

After his contributions to our nation, Mr. Powers moved to Munster from Kentucky, where he spent many years farming and managing farms for others. He was a graduate of Indiana's 4th District beloved Purdue University. He also helped develop Purdue University Calumet where he served on the university's board of trustees for 15 years, including several as president.

Mr. Powers went on to establish a real estate firm and developed much of Munster's residential neighborhoods. He also developed the golf course community of Briar Ridge that many of the region's families call home. His annual Purdue golf outings at the course were major fundraisers that brought Boilermaker coaches and athletes into town.

In 1973, Mr. Powers took part in the creation of Community Hospital in Munster, voted one of "America's 50 Best Hospitals" seven years in a row. In 1989, he developed the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, home to the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and South Shore Arts. His efforts in developing Munster led to nationwide accolades for the community, even making Forbes Magazine's "25 Top Suburbs for Retirement."

Mr. Powers was highly regarded in the community for his philanthropic and business endeavors. He served on the Board of Directors of the Munster Medical Research Foundation and most recently as the CE of Community Healthcare System. He personally funded nursing scholarships at Purdue University and Indiana University Northwest. Mr. Powers received many honors including the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award and Entrepreneurial Excellence Award from the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center. He was twice recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash recipient, by Indiana Governors.

Mr. Powers leaves behind his beloved wife Margo, daughter Frankie Fesko, three grandchildren, Heather, Donald and Timothy, and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Trena. Indiana and the nation lost a committed leader, but his legacy can be found in the hundreds of lives he positively affected over the years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 171, 172,

173 on April 23, 2015, due to my participation in the Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Armenia for the centenary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted:

On roll call vote no. 171 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 172 I would have voted YES.

On roll call vote no. 173 I would have voted YES.

#### COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S., JAPAN, AND KOREA

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. As we seek America's rebalance to Asia, I firmly believe that further cooperation between the U.S., Japan and Korea will play a pivotal role for peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region as well as the globe. To this end, we are working hard to promote cooperative efforts through the House Armed Services Committee.

Japan is a valued and trusted ally of the U.S. They have been a model world citizen for 70 years and is a leader in global foreign aid distribution. Japan and the U.S. have a bright future together and I welcome Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to address a Joint Session of Congress on April 29th.

One thing stands between this day and that bright future and Prime Minister Abe can eliminate that obstacle during his address to the Joint Meeting of Congress: He can make a formal apology to, and say that his government takes legal responsibility for, the more than 200,000 young women and girls from across Asia, but mainly from Korea, who were forced to become sex slaves during World War II by the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan. These are the euphemistically termed "comfort women."

The scholarship on this topic and the personal testimonies of the surviving women is voluminous and settled. Everywhere, that is, except in the mind of Prime Minister Abe and his government. Previous Japanese officials and governments have accepted the country's responsibility for creating and maintaining the comfort women system, as well as Japan's colonial and wartime aggression.

He has denied that these women were coaxed, coerced and conscripted against their will to serve in "comfort stations," forced into sex slavery. He says they were ordinary prostitutes of the time. He has denied documented evidence of coercion. He has called the personal testimonies of the women "baseless, slanderous lies." He dispatched envoys to the United Nations, to ask it to overturn an exhaustive report affirming the coercion of the comfort women and recommending Japan take responsibility, and to McGraw-Hill Education publishers, to ask them to change textbook language about the comfort women. Thankfully, both bodies refused the Japanese attempts to whitewash the past.

Not only do these efforts defame the women, they destabilize the entire East Asia

region. And these are not just issues relegated to history. Violence against women in wartime and military sexual assault continues to occur to this day. For these reasons, I hope the Japanese Prime Minister Abe's visit and speech to the Joint Meeting of Congress will lay the foundation for healing and reconciliation, in particular in bringing closure to the pain and suffering endured by the Comfort Women who've waited with their very lives for an unequivocal apology.

More specifically, Mr. Abe must seize the opportunity of his Washington visit to reaffirm the 1995 Murayama Statement and 1993 Kono Statement as they were issued, and also uphold the previous Japanese government's positions and views on aggression, colonial rule and coerced sexual slavery by using clear, unequivocal and specific language.

This House has given a rare and special honor to the Prime Minister: An opportunity to address a critical ally on a grand stage. I hope Mr. Abe does the right thing.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY FEDERAL CHARTER

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Georgetown University during the bicentennial year of its federal charter. A 200 university year charter in the nation's capital is a special occasion to be celebrated not only for Georgetown alumni but also for the nation's capital, which has enjoyed countless educational benefits from having one of the nation's most distinguished universities in our city.

Founded more than two centuries ago by Bishop John Carroll, Georgetown became only the second school in the nation's history to acquire a federal charter from Congress. Today, the university remains true to its founder's Roman Catholic and Jesuit values. Georgetown graduates have gone on to not only change the nation but the world. The university continues to produce leaders at home and abroad. The list of its distinguished alumni is replete with public servants and foreign dignitaries, including former President William "Bill" Clinton. For the past two centuries, Members of Congress who have either been alumni or staff of the University are too numerous and noteworthy to name. I am proud to continue as a tenured member of the Georgetown Law School faculty, teaching one seminar each year, after having served as a permanent professor at the law school before my election to Congress. Currently, there are 15 Members of Congress, most of them alumni, who are affiliated with the university.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in applauding 200 years of the Georgetown University federal charter, and the university's outstanding contributions to the nation's capital and the nation itself. The university's esteem and success continue to grow and we anticipate its continued success for years to come.

SISTER MARY JO MIKE

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Jo Mike, named 2015 Principal of the Year by the National Catholic Educational Association.

Sr. Mary Jo, of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, has devoted more than 40 years to Catholic education and has led Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral Parish elementary school for the past 23 years, the longest serving principal in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi.

Sister Mary Jo soars beyond the call of duty, deeply involving herself in the life and ministry of her parish, school, local community, and the culture of the Gulf Coast, and encourages others to do the same. From their daily arrival to their departure, Sr. Mary Jo is dynamically present in the lives of her students' school setting. She inspires teachers to identify and nurture each student's strengths and to discover ways to help them overcome their challenges. Her ministry and leadership encompasses the healthy development of the whole student—mind, body, and soul.

True to her calling, Sister Mary Jo seeks and claims opportunities to improve life for those around her. Under her leadership, Nativity BVM now offers a broad range of programs for students of any ability, even including a Robotics team and a Lego® club. Clearly loved and highly respected by all, Sr. Mary Jo runs a tight ship in an environment of love, prayerfulness, justice, and peace. She is an example of always doing one's best and exceeding expectations in herself, her faculty, her students, and her community, believing that when children see their teachers and leaders doing their best, they, in turn, are inspired to do their best, too.

I proudly congratulate Sister Mary Jo Mike as the 2015 NCEA Principal of the Year.

IN HONOR OF PETE PASQUALE

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a health care leader from Connecticut, Pete Pasquale, who will be retiring in July after 42 years with McKesson Corporation.

During his tenure with McKesson, the world's largest healthcare services company, Pete has capably led the many teams he developed in a career spanning roles from District Sales Manager in Albany, New York to Senior Vice President for the Northeast Region in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, with overall responsibility for McKesson's pharmaceutical sales and distribution activity in the Northeast market. McKesson's involvement in nearly every health care sector provided Pete with a unique understanding of health care policy and a platform to inform policymakers. I had the opportunity to visit McKesson's Rocky Hill offices last summer, where I was impressed by the incredible efficiency of McKesson's op-

erations and the high morale of employees there who benefited from Pete's leadership.

When Pete began his career with McKesson as a Sales Trainee in 1973, many pharmaceutical products were shipped to pharmacies directly by the manufacturers, and Pete and his wife Deb spent every Sunday afternoon calling customers to take their orders. Pete would then bundle the orders by hand and personally drop off the shipments at the post office for Monday deliveries. Pharmaceutical deliveries may have evolved since then, but Pete's values of focusing each day on customers and patients have inspired his friends and coworkers throughout his career.

Pete and his wife Deb raised three kids—Timmy, Gina and Cara, together every step of the way. And, not surprisingly, Pete has saved his best role for last—that of Pop. He is the proud grandfather to Stella, Pete, Gaetana, and Leo, who always bring a smile to his face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Pete Pasquale for his outstanding career in health care, and I personally want to thank Pete for his 42 years of dedication, leadership and commitment to patients, our community and our country. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING EILEEN PACKER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTER

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Eileen Packer on her retirement after 9 years of service as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC).

During her tenure, Ms. Packer was instrumental in founding HARC and seeking the organization's nonprofit designation. She designed the organization's triennial needs assessment and was critical to building strong support for the organization across the community.

As a physician and a native of the Coachella Valley, I commend Ms. Packer's work to assess the health and wellness of Coachella Valley residents and improve access to critical health care services. To date, the data from these surveys has helped generate over \$7.1 million in funds for much-needed programs and services to improve the wellbeing of residents in our community.

As a Registered Dietitian and Certified Association Executive, Ms. Packer worked in the Los Angeles area as Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Tarzana Regional Medical Center. After 11 years there, she led as CEO of the 7,000-member California Dietetic Association located in Los Angeles.

As a volunteer, Ms. Packer currently serves on the Riverside County Office on Aging Advisory Council and is a member of the Gilda's Club Medical Resource Council. Previously, she served as President of the Southern California Society of Association Executives.

Mr. Speaker, Eileen's dedication to public service and health education is a true testa-

ment to her great work ethic and leadership. On behalf of all those who have benefited from HARC, the medical community and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate Eileen for her exceptional commitment. I wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING LONG LIFE SOCIAL ACTIVIST MARIAN LUPU

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor my dear friend Marian Lupu; a visionary and warrior in the fight for fairness and social justice. Marian has never ignored the plight and needs of others. We celebrate her 90th birthday and relish in her work. I want to submit a profile of Ms. Marian Lupu that appeared in the Arizona Jewish Post, written by Shelia Wilensky; this, better than I, describes a life worth honor.

Marian Lupu, now 89, founded the Pima Council on Aging in 1965. She didn't retire as executive director until 2006, when she was 82. "If you love what you're doing, why not?" Lupu asked the AJP. A pioneer in her field, Lupu took one of the first courses ever taught on aging when she was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. "I soon decided," she says, "that all the research in the world wasn't going to help the aging population unless it provided services and advocacy."

In her elder years, Lupu practices what she preached. "The biggest thing I've learned is to use the supports I have," she says. "I take all the support I can get, use a walker or a cane, without having the resistance of many older people who drive and get into accidents or who fall down because they want to be independent."

Lupu started her career as a student working at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and later supervised the first study on aging Spanish-American War veterans. Her 1948 marriage to Charles Lupu, Ph.D., eventually brought the couple to Tucson in 1965, when he landed a job at the Tucson Medical Center. She started the Tucson Council on Aging as a volunteer. The agency later became the Pima Council on Aging.

"I recognized there were no services for the aging population here, whether they were Jewish or not. I learned a great deal," says Lupu, from Betty Brook, who was instrumental, with her husband, in helping to build Tucson's Jewish community, including Jewish Family & Children's Services and Dr. Ted Koff, the first director of Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging.

"Family counseling is very much a concern to the Jewish community," says Lupu, who grew up in "a very Orthodox family, and in a very kosher environment in Elmwood Park, Ill, a suburb of Chicago. Our Shabbos goy was our next-door neighbor. It was a very Italian neighborhood. In order to have services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we brought in a rabbinical student and rented a storefront."

Back in 1929, she recalls, "there was no telephone in the shul so a messenger would come get the Jewish doctor for an emergency. We had to wait till he returned for a minyan."

Years later, says Lupu, as an adult living in Tucson with her husband and three children, “our family always went to Seders at Handmaker when Ted Koff was the director. We watched as more and more synagogues came to Tucson. I remember when the Jewish Community Center [came about] through the great skills of Ben Brook. When we first came here there was discrimination against Jews. There was only one country club and Jews weren’t allowed.”

That’s changed, notes Lupu. “Mayor Jonathan Rothschild is so involved with the Jewish community and is now our mayor. There’s much more acceptance now of a Jewish mayor than when George Miller was mayor” during the 1990s.

Still, “we discriminate against current immigrants,” she says. “My own mother came from England through Canada and when she married an American citizen, at that time she didn’t automatically become an American citizen,” which happened later. “How do we know how legal our ancestors were?”

“It concerns me that [discrimination toward immigrants] could lead to discrimination against Jews. I also fear that discrimination could resurface in Tucson as it has in Europe over the conflict in Israel and the [negative] media coverage.”

Lupu, whose husband died in 2002, still lives in the same home where they raised their family. “I love Tucson,” says Lupu. In the city’s future, “I would like to see more concern for others through increased assistance at all human levels and less segregation of different populations.”

Since her 2006 retirement, Lupu has become president of the board of Dancing in the Streets, Arizona, which is a diverse performing arts organization, primarily for at-risk youth. The dance school, based in South Tucson, is run by Lupu’s daughter, Soleste Lupu, and her husband, Joseph Rodgers, both of whom are professional dancers.

Seventy-five percent of the dance school’s participants are on partial or full scholarships due to poverty in the region. Lupu attributes the poverty to both “our prejudice and the lack of jobs.”

“I thought I saw poverty in the ‘60s and ‘70s when I was involved in bringing the needs of the elderly to the community,” she says. “But you very rarely heard of the homeless elderly. For kids today it’s different. I’ve never seen poverty among children the way you see it now.”

As a lifelong social activist, it seems natural for Lupu to be taking on the plight of children. “Staying involved with what excites me challenges me to give meaning to my life beyond my own existence,” she says. “That’s why I’m so happy to be working with children.”

In closing, I just want to thank Marian for her kindness, friendship, and guidance she has graciously given me. I remain humbled and privileged to know and call Marian Lupu my friend and ally.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 FINALISTS  
SELECTED IN THE 24TH CON-  
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF  
TEXAS ART COMPETITION

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the following 30 high school students from the 24th Congressional District of Texas who were selected as final-

ists from the 250 district entries in the Congressional Art Competition:

Erin Branscum, “Curly Hair”;  
Tea Brooks, “Fawn”;  
Eunice Choe, “Change is Calling”;  
Julie Choi, “Monotonous Preparation”;  
Hannah Christensen, “Selfie”;  
Taylor Coughlin, “Fish”;  
Kathryn Deatherage, “Two Lions”;  
Amie Deng, “Fire”;  
Paloma Diaz, “Dallas”;  
Avani Gallo, “Man Horror”;  
Madeline Huang, “Nighttime Adventures”;  
Diane Huynh, “Humility”;  
Zhixin Jiang, “Driving the Herd”;  
Haley Justitz, “Sad Boy”;  
Jacob Kim, “Frozen Grass”;  
Allison Li, “A Spring Afternoon”;  
Nicole Martin, “Aluminum”;  
Elissa McCracken, “Rings of Life”;  
Duc Tran Nguyen, “Vitalygo”;  
Jeongho Park, “Horse and Rider”;  
JC Patino, “Adam”;  
Sydney Peel, “See No Poverty”;  
Brittney Phan, “Diversion”;  
Hayley Rothballer, “Wisdom”;  
Nicole Schifferdecker, “Bluebonnets”;  
Kate Sheedy, “Ireland”;  
Anna Sim, “Japan in Texas”;  
Kaitlin Westbrook, “Street Side”;  
MacGregor Williams, “Tuskegee Airmen”;  
Arden Wolski, “Texas Impressionism.”

The art competition was represented by a variety of high schools in the 24th District, and I am honored at this time to acknowledge the participating schools and the students’ art teachers:

Summer Neimann and Eric Horn, Carroll Senior High School;  
Holly Hendrix, Carrollton Christian Academy;  
Tamera Westervelt, Coppell High School;  
Sarah Royce, Colleyville Heritage High School;  
Bob Thomas, Creekview High School;  
Jeff Nisbet, Grapevine High School;  
Melissa James, Newman Smith High School;  
Brenda Robson, Prestonwood Christian Academy;  
Caroline Kinlaw, Ranchview High School;  
Steve Ko, Steve Ko Art Studio;  
Carolyn Allen, Trinity High School;  
Sharice Williams, Uplift North Hills Preparatory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional high school artists on becoming finalists in the 24th Congressional District of Texas Art Competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 13; Tuesday, April 14; Wednesday, April 15; and Thursday, April 16, 2015, I was out on medical leave while recovering from surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 145 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1249),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 146 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1265),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 147 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1480),

“No” on roll call vote No. 148 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 189),

“No” on roll call vote No. 149 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 189),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 150 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 650, with instructions),

“No” on roll call vote No. 151 (on passage of H.R. 650),

“No” on roll call vote No. 152 (on passage of H.R. 685),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 153 (on the motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 11),

“No” on roll call vote No. 154 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 200),

“No” on roll call vote No. 155 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 200),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 156 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1562),

“No” on roll call vote No. 157 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1563, as amended),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 158 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 622, with instructions),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 159 (on passage of H.R. 622),

“Yes” on roll call vote No. 160 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 1105, with instructions), and

“No” on roll call vote No. 161 (on passage of H.R. 1105).

24TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE  
CELEBRATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration Washington, D.C. on May 22–25, 2015.

DC Black Pride 2015 is a multi-day festival featuring a reception, films, a poetry slam, a church service, educational workshops, community town hall meetings, a basketball tournament, awards ceremony, and a health and wellness expo, among other events. We in the District of Columbia are pleased and proud that the DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world’s pre-eminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation’s capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the “Black Pride Movement,” which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents. The Center For Black Equity, the celebration’s organizing body, chose “DC Black Pride 2015: 25! Inspiring a Movement, The Mission Continues” as the theme for this year’s celebration. This theme reflects the 25

years of connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the African American LGBT community. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate our heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center For Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Anthony Hutton with assistance from a volunteer Advisory Board, which coordinates this annual event and consists of: Andrea Woody-Macko; Genise Chambers-Woods; Re'ginald Shaw-Richardson; Joseph F. Young; Cedric Harmon; Jeffrey Richardson; Angela Peoples; Thomas King; C. Hawkins; and Sonya Hemphill as well as scores of volunteers.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 25th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the American citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

PASS CHRISTIAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB-QATAR CENTER

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the State of Qatar for its continued support of the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast Qatar Center at Pass Christian, Mississippi. We welcome the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States, Mohammed Al-Juwari.

In 2005, the Mississippi Gulf Coast was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, resulting in the destruction of many of the Boys and Girls Clubs in South Mississippi. In June of 2009, through the generosity of a 5 million dollar donation from the people of Qatar, the Boys & Girls Club opened a new, beautiful, state-of-the-art facility in Pass Christian.

When the facility opened its doors in 2009, over 175 children enrolled in programs offered by the club. The staff has worked hard to provide the best care, programs and opportunities to benefit the children of the Gulf Coast.

The Qatar Center now serves well over 300 children daily, and it continues to grow, giving children the opportunity to reach their full potential. It helps allow the Boys and Girls Club to fulfill its mission to "enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

Today, with Boys & Girls Club locations all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Pass Christian location continues to provide the perfect model for other centers to follow.

Once again, I would like to thank the people of Qatar for their generosity to the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIE HERBST, EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT, TEACHER, MOTHER, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family of Marie Herbst upon her passing on April 23, 2015. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to describe the range of accomplishments Marie achieved during her amazing life. A wife of 63 years, a mother of 5, a schoolteacher for 37 years, and on top of that a record of public service at the state and local level that spanned decades.

As one of the most dedicated citizens of Vernon, Marie stood as an activist for her town's needs in the area of education. This commitment to the Vernon community was not limited to activism, as Marie saw the need to serve her constituents locally and ensure that her neighbors' voices were heard.

Marie was elected to the Board of Education, Town Council, as Mayor of Vernon and served for over eight years as a State Senator representing her friends and neighbors in Hartford. She demonstrated further dedication to her fellow citizens after she left the Connecticut General Assembly to resume her position on the Town Council.

During that time, Marie focused on her most abiding passion: the welfare of the Town of Vernon. During her tenure, the town saw new schools, fire stations, police headquarters, roads and bridges. Never one to duck controversy, she nonetheless had an extraordinary record of political success due in large part to her integrity and honesty. In a word, people trusted Marie, even if they did not always agree with her.

At the end of the day we can all look back on her life and marvel at her energy and passion for helping others through her service in public office. At the same time, she never shortchanged her husband Paul, her children Paul, Debra, Kate, Laura and Janet or the students that she taught in the East Windsor school system. She set a high bar of excellence that all citizens and public officials should strive to match.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Marie's life and expressing our deepest sympathies to Paul and to the Herbst family.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF JOHN KELLY HARRIS

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of John Kelly Harris, who recently passed away at the age of 61. A respected leader in Central Florida, John will be remembered for his enthusiastic involvement in our community.

John was born in Owensboro, Kentucky. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BA in Elementary/Special Education and from Troy State University with a Masters in Public Administration.

John had a very active professional, political, and civic life. He worked for the Orange County Florida government for over 22 years. John was well known throughout Orange County as a community builder and for his ability to connect people. Some of his favorite projects included the Orange County Targeted Community Initiatives in South Apopka, Holden Heights, and Englewood. He also helped build the Taft Community Center.

The founding president of the Rotary Club of Lake Nona and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, John was always civically involved. He was active with the Greater Apopka Habitat for Humanity, Anthony House Homeless Shelter, American Society for Public Administration, Tiger Bay Club, County Watch, and countless other neighborhood, nonprofit, and community efforts.

John loved photography, telling jokes, and helping people. He leaves behind his wife and best friend, Susan Denton Harris, and his beloved daughter, Lee Collier Harris.

John Kelly Harris' integrity, vision, wisdom, and passionate outlook on life touched the lives of many and made Central Florida a better place. I am humbled to honor the memory, life, and outstanding achievements of John Kelly Harris.

MINNESOTA REMEMBERS THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on April 24th I was honored to be invited to join members of the Armenian-American community from across Minnesota for a service of remembrance at St. Sahag Armenian Church in St. Paul. That evening we remembered the victims of the Armenian Genocide and it was my privilege to deliver the following remarks.

Today we join the people of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora around the world in commemorating a historic reality, a historic truth, a historic crime. One hundred years ago a campaign of cruelty was waged against Ottoman Armenians that resulted in suffering and death of such a profound magnitude that it continues to be felt today.

The entire world—all nations and peoples—need to stand with Armenians everywhere in commemorating the Armenian Genocide, acknowledging the horror of its cruelty, and recognizing the generations of pain it has caused. But this goal cannot be fully realized until truth triumphs over denial; until the historical horrors are acknowledged by the government of those responsible. We need to strengthen condemnations of the past and recognize the important relationship that the United States shares with Armenia today.

The Armenian people were exposed to torture, starvation, deportation, abduction, and massacre. In addition to mass killings, millions of Armenians were forced into deportation and were expelled from their historic homeland. The framework for the United Nations Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was, in part, based on this unbelievable crime. Many survivors of this genocide have passed away now, and we are

running out of time as an international community to move toward peace and reconciliation in the region. We are running out of time for the victims and those who remember the tragedy to come together and heal.

A clear recognition of this atrocity would affirm that the Armenian Genocide is not an opinion, but a widely documented fact supported by a body of historical evidence. Forty three states including Minnesota have recognized, by legislation or proclamation, the Armenian Genocide. Fortunately the Ottoman Empire no longer exists. However, people living in the region, and especially the descendants of the Armenian victims, deserve to have an accurate reflection of history acknowledged in order to move forward toward peace and reconciliation. As a Member of Congress, I want the United States to officially call the events of 100 years ago a genocide inflicted upon the ancestors of Armenian-Americans. Furthermore, our government should call on our NATO ally—Turkey—to acknowledge their historic responsibility.

On this 100th anniversary, my thoughts and prayers are with the families and ancestors of victims of this international crime against humanity. Let us remember and pray for the victims we never have met. Let us pray for those who survived and lived lives of courage. And, let us pray for the Armenian community in Minnesota, across the U.S. and all around the world who stand united in honoring your ancestors and in pursuing the truth with perseverance, honor, and dignity. As we reflect on this tragedy let us also reinforce our own resolve, as Americans, to prevent future genocides.

IN HOPES THAT JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE WOULD UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND ADDRESS COMFORT WOMEN ISSUES

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks an important year for the United States and Japan as August 15th will be the 70-year anniversary of the Japanese surrender and the end of World War II. This upcoming anniversary comes on the heels of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's historic address to a joint session of the United States Congress, the first time a Japanese head of state has delivered such an address. While our two countries have experienced the pains of war and peace, I am looking forward to this historic speech in order for Prime Minister Abe to not merely highlight our strong alliance built over since 1945 but also to deliver justice for women who have endured irreparable harm and trauma in the years before 1945.

In the past, the joint session on the House floor has been used as a platform to call for peace by some of the world's greatest leaders such as Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle and Nelson Mandela. His speech on April 29 would be a great opportunity for Abe to do the same. In particular, it would be significant for him to acknowledge the pain and suffering of comfort women, a phrase used to describe hundreds of thousands of women, mostly Ko-

rean, whom former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton correctly pointed out were "enforced sex slaves" for Japanese soldiers during the war.

The plight of the comfort women was addressed by the U.S. Congress in 2007, when the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 121, which called upon the government of Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility for its coercion of young women into sexual slavery during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands in the 1930s and throughout World War II.

Eight years later, the Japanese government has not officially issued the apology, and there are only 53 Korean comfort women living. Among them is Lee Yong-soo, who had the courage to testify before Congress for the passage of House Resolution 121. I met her several times over the years and was moved to hear of her story of survival. Lee Yong-soo's journey is a reflection of the horrors of war but also demonstrates our collective need to make amends for the things that were committed.

In an effort to overcome the shadows of our past since World War II, the United States and Japan have built and maintained an unbreakable alliance. Japan's political and financial support has substantially strengthened the U.S. position on a variety of global issues, including countering the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and terrorism in all its forms; working to stop the spread of the Ebola epidemic; advancing environmental and climate change goals; maintaining solidarity in the face of Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine; assisting developing countries; countering piracy; and standing up for human rights and democracy. Additionally, Japan is currently our 4th largest trading partner with \$204 billion in goods traded during 2013.

My recent visit to Japan reaffirmed my belief that the U.S.-Japan relationship is the cornerstone of our security interests throughout Asia and the world. Our bond is essential to regional stability and is based on our mutual values, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, respect for human rights and democratic institutions and securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community as a whole.

Japan is one of the world's greatest leaders and most reliable partners in the fight for peace. Prime Minister Abe's mention of this human rights violation would send a message to the world that the lingering pain of the comfort women is real and it would further convey Japan's commitment to human rights and peace in the region.

As a veteran myself, I know firsthand that war creates immeasurable pain and suffering on all sides. With so many Americans risking their lives in war, it is crucial for today's leaders to promote healing in order to continue to make this world a better place for future generations. I hope that Prime Minister Abe would move history forward in advancing diplomacy and ensuring Japan remains a pillar of peace, stability and an advocate of human rights in the region and the world.

RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILD CARE CONSORTIUM AND ITS PARTNERS ON THE 5TH ANNUAL DAY OF THE YOUNG CHILD

### HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary work of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium and their partners on the success of the 5th Annual Day of the Young Child/Día de los Niños celebration.

The cities of Cathedral City, Coachella and La Quinta are proud participants of this important celebration. The planning committee of the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) in 2015 served our communities tirelessly and devoted themselves to raising awareness about the needs of young children and their parents and the importance of early childhood programs.

The Coachella Valley is home to more than 10,000 children under age six. More than half of these children are involved in Early Childhood Programs for at least part of their day in the over 4,300 licensed child care spaces in the Coachella Valley.

WOYC's annual celebration event is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This is the nation's largest early childhood association, with almost 80,000 members and over 300 affiliates, including Riverside County.

This event celebrates the contribution of organizations, community members and parents who support the well-being of our children and the future of our nation.

I would like to thank WOYC committee, the cities of Coachella, La Quinta, Cathedral City and the Riverside County Child Care Consortium for their efforts this year in making our community a better place for future generations.

CONGRATULATING GREENWOOD LABORATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITIONS

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate four outstanding students from Springfield, Missouri's, Greenwood Laboratory School. Luke Ellickson received a National Merit Scholarship Commendation and Madelyn Stroder, Adam Brock and Matthew Woodward are National Merit Finalists.

Upwards of 1.5 million students compete for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship. Of those, 50,000 are identified as high achievers and receive a "commendation." 15,000 will be named as National Merit semi-finalists. Only 7,600 are chosen as National Merit Finalist. These students fall in approximately the top 3 percent of all high school students in the nation.

These four students represent 10 percent of the graduating class at Greenwood Laboratory

School. This is a testament to the quality of education they have received, as well as a testament to their own personal work ethic and academic abilities.

These students' exceptional devotion to their academic careers should be an inspiration to us all. The Springfield community is justifiably proud of Mr. Ellickson, Miss Stroder, Mr. Brock and Mr. Woodward for all their accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them in this impressive achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL  
BRENT BOLANDER'S CHANGE OF  
COMMAND

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for the House's attention to recognize Colonel Brent Bolander who will have a change of command from Anniston Army Depot at the end of July.

Colonel Bolander was commissioned as an Ordnance Officer upon graduation from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. His later education includes the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course; Logistics Executive Development Course; the Florida Institute of Technology, where he earned his Master's Degree in Logistics Management; the Command and General Staff College; and the National War College, where he earned his Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His previous assignments include Platoon Leader, Shop Officer, Battalion S4 and Headquarters Company Commander, 3rd Armored Division, 122nd Main Support Battalion, in Germany, deploying with the division to Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort; Battalion S4 of the 42nd Medical Field Hospital, Deputy Brigade S4, Commander of 156th Maintenance Company, Brigade Inspector General, and later as Chief Assistance Branch, United States Army Armor Center and Fort Knox Inspector General, Fort Knox, KY; Support Operations Officer, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas; Brigade S4, 101st Forward Support Battalion Support Operations Officer and Battalion Executive Officer, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team (Mechanized), Fort Riley, KS; Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General and as the Secretary to the General Staff, United States Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, VA; Commander, 302d Brigade Support Battalion; Operational Readiness Officer, Department of the Army G4 to include a three month deployment to Haiti; Support Operations Officer, Operation Unified Response.

His most recent assignment was Senior Logistics Advisor and Director for Strategic Operations for the Deputy Commander Support Operations, NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Included in his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation

Medal, five awards of the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon with 2 device, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Bolander is married to the former Donna McDonald. They have three children, Jessie, Katherine, and Austin. He led and commanded Anniston Army Depot from August 2012 to July 2015.

The Depot has 4,000 military, civilian and contractor employees with an annual budget of approximately \$750 million.

While at Anniston Army Depot, he safely helped execute millions of direct labor hours while helping overhaul and maintain our nation's critical combat equipment. His hands-on leadership for the workforce helped ensure our nation's military was provided the best possible equipment available to keep them as safe as possible while allowing them to accomplish their vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Colonel Bolander in Anniston, but wish him the very best.

CONGRATULATING SISTER  
VIANNEY FOR 54 YEARS OF  
DEDICATION TO RELIGIOUS LIFE  
AND EDUCATION

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a prominent resident and educator in my congressional district, Sister Vianney, on her 54 years of dedication to Catholic religious life and education.

Sister Vianney first became a nun on July 7, 1961, with the Sisters of Mercy in Tullamore, Ireland, receiving the religious name "John Vianney". She arrived in Costa Mesa at the St. John the Baptist Parish and School and began her career as an educator on August 31, 1962. During her career at the school, she first served as a second grade teacher, then Director of Religious Education, and finally for 40 years was the principal of St. John the Baptist School.

Sister Vianney holds a Diploma in Religious Studies from the Pontifical University of Maynooth, Ireland and a Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

During her tenure as principal, she made a special point of assisting special needs students, instituting a full-time Learning Support program for them in 2000, which enabled hundreds of such students maintain their dignity and self-worth in the context of a mainstream educational program.

Sister Vianney was nominated for the Distinguished Principal of 1993 Award by the Diocese of Orange and received the Bishop Vann Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic

Education just a few months ago. In 2005, she was named one of the "100 Most Influential People who shaped Orange County in the last 25 years" by the Orange County Register (ranking 49th on the list), and in 2013 was honored for her long service by the Costa Mesa Mayor and City Council.

On June 19, 2015, the Mass of Farewell will be celebrated for her at St. John the Baptist Church.

There are few educators anywhere who have had as profound an impact on so many students over so long a time as Sister Vianney, and I know as she leaves St. John the Baptist School that she carries with her the appreciation and fond wishes for a happy retirement of the many whose lives were shaped by her long educational career.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE  
ROBERT W. KASTENMEIER

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of former Representative Robert W. Kastenmeier from Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District.

Bob Kastenmeier died on March 20 at his home in Arlington, VA at the age of 91. As we remember Bob's life and his service to our country, our thoughts are also with his wife, Dorothy; their three sons William, Andrew, and Edward; and two grandchildren.

Born on January 24, 1924 in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Bob later attended the University of Wisconsin Law School. During World War II, he interrupted his studies to serve in the U.S. Army in the Philippines. After the war, he returned to the University of Wisconsin to finish his law degree and practiced law in southern Wisconsin until he was first elected to Congress in 1958.

During his 32-year career in Congress, Bob was the standard bearer for Wisconsin's proud tradition of public service and progressive values. Looking back, it turns out Bob was on the right side of history more often than not.

As a courageous and principled public servant you could always count on Bob to speak truth to power. He opposed funding for the so-called House Un-American Activities Committee. He stood up to a president of his own party to criticize the Vietnam War. He continued to speak out as thousands of American GI's, including more than 1,100 Wisconsinites, died in Vietnam.

Bob Kastenmeier served during a tumultuous period in our nation's history that includes passage of the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Vietnam War, and the impeachment trials for President Nixon. Through it all, Bob was quintessential Bob, a calming presence in Congress who held the institution to its values and principles.

Bob leaves behind a long legacy as a champion for the people of Wisconsin and the United States. Through his leadership on the Judiciary Committee, Bob became a giant in the field of intellectual property law. Most notably, Bob helped draft and pass the landmark 1976 Copyright Act, the first overhaul of U.S. copyright law since 1909. He was also influential in the passage of several patent, trademark, and counterfeiting statutes.

I got my start in national politics working on Bob's campaigns while in college. I'll always remember how much all those who were touched by his life's work loved and admired him. His legacy of honest public service remains an inspiration to me and other elected officials in Wisconsin and across the country.

Bob was a leading voice for civil rights and civil liberties, an advocate for peace, and a leader in Congress during his 32 years as a U.S. Representative. He will always be remembered as one of Wisconsin's greatest legislators—among the likes of Bob LaFollette, Gaylord Nelson, and William Proxmire.

I ask my colleagues to join the people of Wisconsin to mourn the loss of a leader whose humility and dedication will forever serve as the model to every person who answers the call to public service. It was a privilege to know him as a friend. It is an honor to continue his legacy in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER YEARGAN'S  
MISSOURI CLASS 3 STATE WRESTLING  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hunter Yeargan of Willard, Missouri, for claiming the Missouri Class 3 high school wrestling title.

Hunter entered the title match with a height and reach disadvantage against his opponent in the state championship match. His opponent kept a solid hold on him until the second period. He only needed one shot to come back, and that one shot is exactly what he got. With only five seconds left, Hunter overcame the odds to pin his opponent and win the championship match.

Hunter had an amazing season with a record of 41–1. This is his second state placing after taking third in his class last year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hunter Yeargan for a strong finish to his season, and for bringing the state title home to Willard High School.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY  
ALYCE TRAYLOR HARRIS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Mary Alyce Traylor Harris, a member of the first graduating class (1945) of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Harris was the third child of John and Ruby Traylor born on April 4, 1926, in Sylacauga, Alabama.

After graduating from East Highland High School, she moved to Birmingham and attended Miles College. She also attended nursing school at Western Olin High School (Now Jackson Olin) and graduated in the top 10 percent of her class. In 1965, she started

working at University Hospital and served as an LPN retiring in 1985.

She married Thomas Harris and had four children. Her husband passed away in 2003.

She currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Alyce Traylor Harris as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.

HONORING THE WAGNALLS  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Wagnalls Memorial Library in Lithopolis, Ohio. The Wagnalls Memorial will be celebrating 90 years of serving the community this May.

The Wagnalls Memorial was dedicated by Mabel Wagnalls Jones in honor of her parents, Adam and Anna Willis Wagnalls, on May 30, 1925. The Wagnalls Memorial houses both a library and a community theatre where families, children and adults are able to learn, perform and volunteer.

In the time since being dedicated, nearly \$5 million in capital improvements have been made to The Wagnalls Memorial, allowing the community to enjoy the use of the library and other facilities for community events. Additionally, The Wagnalls Memorial has hosted events ranging from reading programs, to theatre and art classes for children and adults.

The Wagnalls Memorial continues to be an important cornerstone of the community today. Recently, the Wagnalls Board of Directors approved The Legacy Campaign in an effort to assure The Wagnalls Memorial is able to continue operating well into the future.

The Wagnalls Memorial has had a long history of service and bringing the community together. I offer my sincere congratulations to The Wagnalls Memorial on their 90th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District, I thank The Wagnalls Memorial for all you do for our community and wish you the best in the future.

THE UNITED STATES AND  
KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of the relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States. I recently had the honor of meeting with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov to discuss Kazakhstan and its contributions to the international community when the Prime Minister visited Washington to attend IMF and World Bank meetings.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is an important partner to the United States in Central Asia in many ways and is key to our interests in that region and globally. Led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan is a reli-

able partner on the world stage in the areas of energy and regional security, economic development and trade and political and regional stability.

With a population of 18 million people and a size nearly four times that of Texas, Kazakhstan sits at the heart of Central Asia. The country is bordered by Russia and China and is strategically located near Turkey, Iran, India and Eastern Europe. Kazakhstan was the first post-soviet State to lead the 56-country Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE) in 2010. As a Member of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and a Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, I have seen Kazakhstan's engagement and commitment firsthand.

Kazakhstan has been a global leader in nuclear non-proliferation for 20 years—an achievement reached soon after its independence in 1991. In 1993, it was the first nation to dismantle its nuclear weapons and secure its nuclear materials under the Nunn-Lugar nuclear nonproliferation program, led by former Senators Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN). Since then, it has remained a global leader and U.S. partner in non-proliferation efforts.

Kazakhstan is also an essential partner in assisting the United States in counter terrorism efforts by serving as a supply route and operational partner and supporting the reintegration of Afghanistan into Central Asia, committing millions of dollars. It plays a unique role in fostering and solidifying positive diplomatic relations with regional powers and maintaining economic stability.

The United States and Kazakhstan, among others, strongly support the Modern Day Silk Road initiative, which would revitalize the 2000-year-old Silk Road trading route that connected South and Central Asia to the Mediterranean. The New Silk Road would serve as a critical transportation, communications, trade, energy and cultural bridge between East and West, linking China and India with Europe and supporting the stability of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Kazakhstan is central to its development.

Domestically, Kazakhstan remains the melting pot of Central Asia, given its Kazakh, Russian, Turkish, Mongolian and many other cultural influences. Religious freedom and ethnic tolerance are key principles in its governance, with its diverse mix of people and traditions. In January 2015, Kazakhstan signed an agreement with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to initiate new national reforms for government ministries, the justice system, infrastructure development and green economy initiatives, political reform and human rights and democratic principles through transparency and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that continuing to increase our relationship with the good people of Kazakhstan is important to our common interests, and I encourage my fellow members to participate in opportunities to travel to the region in order to become better acquainted with the progress that has been made in the country, and to encourage the continued political cooperation while taking advantage of the progress in opening the market to encourage joint investment.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF  
SEX SLAVES—“COMFORT  
WOMEN”—OF WORLD WAR II

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the unresolved issue of the World War II sex slaves. Also known as “comfort women,” these 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These young women were coerced and suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. On the solemn occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the survivors of this horrific ordeal are still seeking their long overdue justice from the Government of Japan.

Today, we have one of these survivors in Washington, D.C. Her name is Yongsoo Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation. In 1944, 16-year-old Lee was forcibly taken to Taiwan, where she was victimized by multiple Japanese soldiers every day for a year. Her suffering was unimaginable and unspeakable. Sadly, she was not alone in this nightmare. And yet, out of the 200,000 of her sisters, today, she is one out of a handful of survivors from across the Asia-Pacific still alive.

When the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a Joint Meeting of Congress on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese government.

In 2007, in the very same chamber the Prime Minister will be issuing his address, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Japanese government by unanimously passing House Resolution 121, which I authored. The resolution called on the Japanese government to formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces’ coercion of young women into sexual slavery; publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the “comfort women” never occurred; and educate current and future generations about this horrible crime. We are still waiting for their government to comply.

Time is critical. Today, out of 200,000 survivors, there are fewer than 100 surviving women across the Asia-Pacific. Most of these women are in their 80s. They have been denied justice for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I will be in the House chamber when Prime Minister Abe delivers his address. Ms. Lee will attend as my guest. Both of us hope the Prime Minister will finally, and firmly, apologize, and commit to educating the future generation honestly and humbly. Ms. Lee and her sisters deserve no less.

HONORING PFC IGNACIO SERVIN  
OF ARIZONA

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Ignacio Servin. On September 23, 1944, the 321st RCT, 81st Infantry Division landed on Umurbrogol Mountain, also known as “Bloody Nose Ridge”, in Peleliu to relieve the 1st Marines who suffered nearly 50% casualties during the first week of fighting. Their assignment was to decimate the Japanese resistance and capture a strategic airstrip on the island.

Marines discovered an ammunition storage cave on Bloody Nose Ridge, but a barrage of artillery and naval gunfire failed to neutralize the cave. Company “A” of the 154th Engineer Combat Battalion was dispatched. Commanding Officers 1st Lt. Schauer and 1st Lt. Werdine requested volunteers to crawl to the mouth of the cave, nearly 500 feet with 24 pounds of TNT and a Browning automatic .30 caliber rifle to destroy the stockpile.

PFC Ignacio Servin of Arizona and Charles Samario, (deceased) accepted the challenge. PFC Servin stated he did not allow time to think of the risk or danger, but thought, “If I die, it will be for the greatest country in the world.” Both soldiers survived violent explosions, leveled trees, and flying rocks. PFC Servin states that only “by the Grace of God we were not killed by the explosion or enemy gunfire making it safely back up the hill.”

Today I honor the heroism, courage, and valor of PFC Ignacio Servin, who was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the assault on Peleliu in the Pacific combat theater.

RECOGNIZING THAD BEELER'S  
COMMUNITY SERVICE FOL-  
LOWING THE 2011 JOPLIN TOR-  
NADO

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and public service of Thad Beeler in the aftermath of the May 22, 2011 Joplin tornado, and congratulate him on receiving the Missouri Humanities Council’s Exemplary Community Achievement Award.

Many lives were lost or significantly changed in Joplin that tragic spring day. Many homes and businesses were leveled and thousands of memories captured in photos blew away in the storm. During a visit to his parents to clean up storm damage, Thad realized the need to recover and reunite the lost photos with families.

As the Carthage First Baptist Church’s music minister and ministry outreach director,

Thad was able to coordinate a group of 500 volunteers to recover, preserve and reunite Joplin families with lost photos and personal memorabilia. This group scoured the town in the search of documents and was able to recover some items from as far as Willard, Missouri—some 60 miles away. After 6,000 volunteer hours, more than 35,000 photos and items were recovered, retouched and stored at Carthage First Baptist in what became the “Lost Photos of Joplin” project. More than 17,600 photos and memories have been returned to Joplin residents since the project began nearly four years ago.

The project’s success and notoriety led Thad to establish the National Disaster Photo Rescue, a non-profit supporting post-disaster photo rescue and restoration efforts. The national organization has been in communities across the country that have experienced loss from severe weather, including Moore, Oklahoma, and Washington, Illinois.

Thad Beeler has made it possible for storm victims to find documented history, that would otherwise be lost, and continue passing it down through generations to come. His dedication to his community and serving a special need across the country touches the lives of so many and eases the sting of devastation. I commend Thad for putting a novel idea to action and thank him for this uniquely meaningful service he has provided to Joplin residents and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANNIE  
PEARL WALL GODFREY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey, a 1945 graduate of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Godfrey was born to Celophus and Annie Marzel Wall in Nixburg, Alabama, on May 18, 1924. She was a part of the first graduating class of East Highland High School. She has been married to Rev. Eratus Godfrey for the past 56 years and is a member of New Beginning Ministries where her husband serves as the pastor.

She is the mother of 10 children, three of which are deceased (Donald, Virgil and Gwendolyn) and three of whom are ordained ministers (Kenneth, DeForest, and Mary). She also helped raise the children of her late daughter. Mrs. Godfrey currently resides in Sylacauga.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.