

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COLONEL CHARLES E.
POWELL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend and constituent, Colonel Charles E. Powell. Charles is being honored this week by the Texas Southwest Council of the Boy Scouts as their Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Charles was born in Nashville, Arkansas on May 7, 1931. After finishing high school, Charles was accepted into the United States Naval Academy in July of 1950 and graduated with distinction on June 4, 1954. That day, he commissioned into the United States Air Force.

Shortly after his commission, Charles became an Air Force pilot and logged over 7000 flying hours. During the Vietnam War, he logged over 700 combat flying hours as a Rescue C-130 commander and is credited with fourteen combat saves. After the war, Charles served in many different leadership roles throughout the Air Force. In 1980, he was tasked to be the base commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, TX. At the time, Goodfellow was scheduled to be closed and it was Charles' job to prevent the base from being closed. He began working with local community leaders and assisted in shaping a new military mission for Goodfellow Air Force Base. Today, Charles' impacts can still be felt at Goodfellow Air Force Base, as it serves as a training school for thousands of service members from across all branches to train in cryptology, intelligence, and fire-fighting. Charles' dedication and leadership helped save a community that many veterans have come to love and adopt as their own home.

After his decorated military career, Charles continued to serve San Angelo as a leader. Charles went on to serve as vice president of the Southwest Bank, known today as First Financial Bank. In addition to serving as VP of the Southwest Bank, Charles created and directed the SWB Investment Center Inc. He served as the Chairman, President, and CEO of the Center until he retired in 1995. From there, Charles served on a variety of community service based boards such as the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Tom Green County and Texas, the Fort Conch Historical Society, the San Angelo City Council, among many more.

Throughout the years, Charles has been supported by his loving wife Joanne. Joanne has assisted my constituents in my San Angelo office during my entire tenure. Joanne is also an instrumental figure in assisting with our annual military service academy nominations, which is a year round process for her. With Joanne's assistance, many of the young men and women in our district go on to serve our nation and attend one of our distinguished

service academies. Charles and Joanne's support and dedication to this effort have made them very special pieces to my team. I am truly grateful for all of their hard work and dedication to the San Angelo community and to Texas' 11th district.

By serving his country and his community, Charles has upheld the Scout Oath: 'To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.' His service has set an example for many generations of Boy Scouts. I am honored to have the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Colonel Powell with the Texas Southwest Council of the Boy Scouts. Again, I offer my congratulations to Charles for being this year's Texas Southwest Council of the Boy Scouts' Distinguished Citizen.

HONORING BOB CARR AND THE
GIVE SOMETHING BACK FOUNDATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Carr, founder of the Give Something Back Foundation.

Bob Carr is a true American success story. Mr. Carr grew up in the countryside near Lockport, Illinois. The son of a waitress who worked nights to support the family, Mr. Carr graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in computer science. He now is the President and CEO for Heartland Payment Systems, the fifth largest payment processor in the United States. Mr. Carr has received numerous industry accolades including being named Entrepreneur of the Year twice by Ernst and Young and receiving the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the bankcard industry.

In 2003, Bob Carr founded the Give Something Back Foundation to help financially disadvantaged, academically-oriented students at Lockport Township High School earn a college degree. In addition to awarding scholarships, the foundation also provides students with a mentor and offers guidance to prepare them for college. Since its founding, the Give Something Back Foundation has assisted 54 college graduates and has expanded to include 21 high schools throughout Will County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great service that Bob Carr and the Give Something Back Foundation have given to the students of Will County, Illinois.

HONORING DR. YOEL AND MRS.
EVA HALLER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of Yoel and Eva Haller on the occasion of their combined "170th Birthday." Dr. and Mrs. Haller are truly remarkable constituents of California's 24th congressional district, and have touched the lives of countless others through their lifelong efforts in activism, medicine and philanthropy.

Eva was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930. During World War II, she helped create anti-Hitler leaflets before going into hiding during the German occupation of Budapest. Later, after moving to the United States, Eva and her late husband Murray Roman co-founded the Campaign Communications Institute of America. More recently, Eva has passionately devoted her time, skills and resources to a number of causes. She has served on the boards of dozens of non-profit foundations and institutes, including Free the Children USA, the Women's Leadership Board at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Jane Goodall Institute. She has also been honored with various recognitions and awards from Glasgow Caledonian University, the Forbes Women's Summit and the United Nations Population Fund, among many others.

Yoel has dedicated his career to caring for others as a practicing Obstetrician/Gynecologist and later as a professor of OB-GYN medicine at the University of California, San Francisco Medical School. Dr. Haller also served as the Medical Director of Planned Parenthood San Francisco-Alameda Counties. In retirement, Yoel has joined his wife in advocating for numerous organizations and causes.

Dr. and Mrs. Haller were married in 1987 and have spent their lives together advocating for those less fortunate and the betterment of our community. The Hallers' generous philanthropy has benefitted not only the Santa Barbara community, but organizations and individuals around the world. We are grateful for their tireless dedication to improving the lives of others and making the world a better place. Today, as this exceptional couple celebrates their 85th birthdays, I wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

KENTUCKY RIVER COAL CORPORATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Kentucky River Coal Corporation,

• 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.

marking a major milestone in its long and important history in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kentucky River Coal Corporation was formed in April 1915, creating a land company with a large ownership of land, timber, coal, oil and gas and other minerals in eastern Kentucky. Congregating larger boundaries of mineral properties made possible the arduous construction and development of the first railroad into eastern Kentucky and resulted in mineral extraction entities employing thousands of people in the region.

As with most American companies and people, Kentucky River Coal Corporation struggled through the Great Depression, but stood strong through the First and Second World Wars, providing the natural resource base that literally helped power America. Timber from its properties was used in the early manufacturing of automobile parts, like wooden spokes, as well as for housing across the country. With the discovery of oil and natural gas, Kentucky River Coal Corporation's lands again produced important resources to power the nation.

Through the decades since its formation, Kentucky River Coal Corporation has been a model corporate citizen in Kentucky, paying millions of dollars in taxes, and donating to various worthwhile causes. Through its charitable outreach, Kentucky River Coal Corporation has consistently funded important educational programs, established scholarships for students, and made donations to many institutions of higher learning across the state. The company has played an instrumental role in supporting local volunteer fire departments, helping them meet regulatory standards with training and equipment. In effort to support tourism in our region, the company partnered with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife to return the majestic Elk to eastern Kentucky, where the herd now thrives, providing a model for successful reintroduction of wildlife.

Additionally, Kentucky River Coal Corporation joined with Operation UNITE to provide over \$500,000 in much-needed funding to assist with substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. Hundreds of families across the region, devastated by a loved one suffering from addiction, have expressed gratitude for the opportunity for treatment that they otherwise could not afford.

Over its 100 year history, Kentucky River Coal Corporation's lessees have produced over 580 million tons of high quality central Appalachian coal used for decades in electrical generation and manufacturing across the nation. About one out of every 130 tons of coal produced in the United States over the past 100 years came from Kentucky River Coal Corporation. Over its history, the company has returned millions of dollars in taxes to governments, paid salaries to employees, provided contributions to various charitable and educational institutions, and paid distributions to the shareholders located throughout the United States, generating untold economic benefits to communities and shareholders across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great milestone for the Kentucky River Coal Corporation. I believe this company is poised for continued growth and success in the natural resources sector, providing energy for a strong America.

HONORING MARTHA PERINE
BEARD

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor and thank Mrs. Martha Beard for an outstanding forty-four year career of serving the public and to wish her well on retiring as Memphis Regional Executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis on May 8th, 2015.

Originally from Mobile, Alabama, Mrs. Beard received a Bachelor of Arts from Clark Atlanta University and a Master's in economics from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. After, Mrs. Beard joined the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank as a management trainee and served in many different positions before being transferred to the Memphis Branch in 1997. As the Regional Executive, Mrs. Beard was responsible for conducting regional economic research, gauging monetary policy input for banking and business leaders, and hosting community seminars that provided education and materials covering the Memphis zone. The zone included western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and eastern Arkansas.

During her tenure in Memphis, Mrs. Beard was extremely active in the community. She served on the boards of Memphis Tomorrow, the Greater Memphis Chamber, United Way, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Baptist Health Care, and Mid-South Minority Business Council. She has been profiled by many of the area's publications and received numerous awards for her work from organizations like Leadership Memphis, the FBI, and the United Way.

On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck for all future endeavors to the family and friends of Martha Perine Beard.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Luzerne County Head Start, which provides my constituents with valuable services in early childhood education and family development. The organization plays a vital role within our community, and I am thankful for its work.

Luzerne County Head Start has offered crucial aid to children and families since its inception in 1965. The program has worked tirelessly to provide 1,162 children in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties with an environment that is favorable to early academic development. Last month, I enjoyed spending time at the Hazleton Head Start Center, and was impressed with the students and faculty I met. The three and four year olds were excited to read and engage in their class science project. They are learning the skills that will help them to suc-

ceed in kindergarten. Additionally, Head Start strives to encourage similar standards in healthy physical development. Members of the Head Start faculty educate their students about comprehensive health and nutrition, supplying them with information that will increase their well-being.

In addition to placing an emphasis on early childhood development, Luzerne County Head Start also focuses on strengthening families. In order to assist them in achieving greater self-sufficiency, the organization provides families with a wide array of services, including housing, employment, and education. Notably, Head Start offers support to parents interested in attaining a high school General Equivalency Diploma as well as other education and employment opportunities, all of which go a long way in ensuring brighter futures for parents and their children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Luzerne County Head Start as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary, and I commend the work that its faculty undertakes in order to serve the children and families of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties.

RECOGNIZING MARTIN DOSTER
FOR RETIREMENT AFTER 33
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Martin Doster on his retirement after serving 33 years with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Doster has been a vital member of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation since 1982 and has dedicated his career to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment.

Mr. Doster has served as the Western New York Regional Remediation Engineer for the Division of Environmental Remediation since 1989 and formerly was an engineer with the division of water beginning in 1982. During his tenure Mr. Doster oversaw the New York State Superfund Emergency Response Program where he was responsible for managing and coordinating efforts to remediate property impacted by hazardous waste. He has been responsible for the design and construction of many significant projects in Western New York, such as the Buffalo River Restoration Project and the Buffalo Color Remediation. Mr. Doster has also protected Western New York's Environment by implementing and enforcing the Clean Water Act, The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Mr. Doster's service to the Western New York community does not stop with his work at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Doster has helped educate future Civil and Environmental Engineers at University at Buffalo through graduate level courses and lectures. He has served as a leader in his community as a Past President and Chairman of the First Trinity Lutheran Church. Mr. Doster has the utmost pride in his community; this is demonstrated by his volunteer service to the American Red Cross as a

local team supervisor, service as a Boy Scout Troop Leader and devoting 8 years as as a DEC Team Leader for Brush Up Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize Mr. Martin Doster. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Doster on an accomplished career, and to commend him for the exemplary work he has done to enrich the communities and protect the environment of Western New York.

NATIONAL SYRINGOMYELIA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as National Syringomyelia Awareness Month, with the hope that increased awareness of this disorder will bring a cure.

Syringomyelia, often referred to as SM, is a progressive disease of the spinal cord and has no known cure. Over 40,000 Americans are affected by SM and those individuals can suffer from chronic pain and even paralysis. It is imperative that we educate the public and provide resources to the medical community in order to find a cure for this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me not just today but every day in helping to raise awareness to Syringomyelia.

INTRODUCING THE ENDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to end the use of corporal punishment in our nation's schools.

Corporal punishment is a form of physical punishment where someone deliberately inflicts pain on another individual in order to punish them. In schools, it includes the spanking or paddling of children by school officials.

While corporal punishment in schools has its place in our nation's history, it must be banned immediately. Not only is there no conclusive evidence that it is actually beneficial in modifying disruptive behavior, but it is disproportionately used as a form of punishment for African American students and children with disabilities. These punishments can result in physical as well as emotional harm to children.

Schools are supposed to be safe places where students are protected from harm. They are intended to nurture children as they grow and develop. However, 19 states still allow corporal punishments in school. Last year, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) reported that, on average, 838 children were hit each day in public school, based on a 180-day school year. This equates to just over 150,500 instances of corporal punishment per year. This statistic is astonishing considering the fact that 31 states have already banned corporal punishment in schools.

This bill would prohibit any educational institution from receiving federal funding that allows school personnel to inflict corporal punishment on students and creates grants to encourage climate and culture improvements in schools which promote positive behaviors.

Mr. Speaker, corporal punishment is not proven as an effective means of disciplining children or modifying disruptive behavior. School should be a safe space for children to learn, grow, and develop, not live in fear of those who have been charged with their academics. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

UNVEILING THE SOUTHBURY
SENIOR CENTER WALL OF HONOR

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the unveiling of the Wall of Honor at the Southbury Senior Center.

Today, we recognize the senior citizens from Southbury who proudly served our country in uniform. These men and women answered the call of duty to protect our nation and defend its ideals. They served during war and during peace, at home and abroad. No matter their deployment or their mission, each of our veterans deserves the recognition and accolades they will receive during today's ceremony.

While we can never fully repay our veterans for their service and sacrifice, I believe it is important to take every opportunity to thank and honor them. I hope when the wall is revealed, each veteran will feel the appreciation and gratitude of our community and the entire nation.

I would like to thank Wayne Rioux, Amanda Hadgraft, the staff and volunteers at Southbury Senior Center for creating this memorial to recognize these local American heroes.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,487,619,906.99. We've added \$7,525,610,570,993.91 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE LUFKIN HIGH
SCHOOL PANTHERS, 2015 CLASS
5A STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, state championship titles are always an extraordinarily exciting accomplishment for athletes. But when that state championship is unprecedented, it takes on a new dimension.

It is truly an honor to acknowledge the outstanding achievement of the history-making Lufkin High School Panthers soccer team. The Panthers completed their most impressive season yet by claiming the title of 2015 Class 5A State Soccer Champions, a victory which is also the first state soccer title claimed by a northeast Texas school of its size.

After an unsteady start to their season with two back to back losses, the Panthers immediately recognized the challenging road ominously lying ahead of them. With renewed focus and zeal, the Panthers recovered from those losses and overcame stiff competition from their fellow east Texans to become the district champions. Due to their hard work and dedication, the Panthers then entered the playoffs with an exceptional win-streak of nineteen matches.

Lufkin's first playoff match was to be a challenge for the team when the game lasted for nearly an hour before a goal was scored. The Panthers battled on to keep the score at 1-0, winning the game and advancing to the next round of the playoffs. Five hard-fought victories followed, and the Panthers then advanced to the championship game against Georgetown's undefeated East View High School. Even though the championship was played on East View's home field, the Panthers were undeterred due to the fact that they had never lost a game away from home. Dedicated fans from the "Panther Nation" arrived in exuberant force, driving the long distance to cheer on their home team.

The team's skill and fans' encouragement were the necessary ingredients in the final match. Time and again the Panthers' defense was tested, and their offense was held back. This did not last, however, and the Panthers were finally able to overcome East View's defenses and score. When the game was over, the score stood as testament to the Panthers' dogged determination coupled with their tantalizing talent. The final score was Lufkin 3 and East View 1. The Lufkin Panthers had won the state championship.

Congratulations should be extended to team members Terry Mark, Sammy Villegas, Rodrigo Vargas, Cristian Julian, Cesar Camacho, Jesus Cisneros, Bradley Slusher, Alexis Roque, Omar Zamarripa, Javy Montes, Kacy Bennett, Javier Patlan, Chris Marquez, Dorian Bravo, Cristhian Pineda, Luis Lopez, Jake Williams, Joel Rodriguez, Gustavo Garcia, Ivan Hernandez, Omar Roque, and Miguel Gonzales.

The staff and faculty who led and inspired the Panthers to victory consists of Lufkin High School Principal Mark Smith, Lufkin ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya Goffney, Head Coach Russell Shaw, Assistant Coach David McPherson, Assistant Coach Eliazar Caldera, Trainer Forestt Bridges, Trainer Sarah Hartman, Student Trainer Edgar Medellin, Student

Manager Coltone Radke, and Student Manager Jessie Santoyo.

It is a privilege to highlight this landmark achievement of East Texas' own Lufkin High School Panthers soccer team. The Panthers not only made history by capturing the title of 2015 Class 5A State Soccer Champions, but they brought Panther pride to their team, their school, the Lufkin community, the First Congressional District of Texas, and the entire State of Texas. The Lufkin Panthers' story of commitment and success is now recorded in the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), torture survivors and CVT staff and volunteers on the occasion of the organization's 30th anniversary. Since its inception in 1985, CVT has become a global leader in treating victims of torture here in the U.S. and around the world. CVT has provided life-saving mental health services and rehabilitative treatment to thousands of torture survivors from the Bosnian War in Sarajevo in Eastern Europe to the Continent of Africa from Liberia to Sierra Leone.

CVT represents the best of the United States to our planet's most vulnerable citizens, and is one of only three healing treatment centers in the world. The professionals who care for torture survivors represent hope and dignity for thousands of people from more than 60 countries around the globe.

In 1985, CVT set forth on a mission to extend interdisciplinary care to torture survivors in Minnesota, and over the years expanded those services to countries around the world, with healing centers today in Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya and Uganda. The work has grown to include training professionals in the United States and international locations in the specialized rehabilitation skills needed for people suffering the post-traumatic effects of torture, and also to advocating for human rights and put an end to torture practices.

For the past three decades, CVT has helped more than 30,000 survivors reclaim their lives. Through combined direct services, capacity building and policy advocacy work, CVT has touched the lives of more than 50,000 survivors and approximately 100,000 of their family members.

CVT was instrumental in helping Congress to pass the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorizes federal funding for torture survivor rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2015, the Center for Victims of Torture commemorates 30 years of helping torture survivors rebuild their lives and restore their hope. It is a great honor to work with CVT and its dedicated staff and volunteers. Please join me in paying tribute to the Center for Victims of Torture and its distinguished commitment to providing healing and hope to those who most need it.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF HARKER HEIGHTS COUNCILMAN SAM MURPHY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Harker Heights Councilman Sam Murphy who will retire on May 12, 2015. Sam's extraordinary commitment to community service reflects the best values of Central Texas.

Sam thrived in a 22-year career in the U.S. Army where he took on assignments in the United States, Europe, Korea, and Vietnam. During his prestigious military career, he graduated from Airborne and Ranger schools, had a teaching assignment in the Gunnery Department of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and had an assignment at the U.S. Air Force Academy as the Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 29. He retired from the Army at Fort Hood, Texas on October 1, 1989.

Sam continued his public service by joining the office of former Representative Chet Edwards. He proved to be a leader and voice of the people as he represented servicemen and veterans in then District 11. During his time as Rep. Edwards' liaison to military and veteran communities, Sam's personal military history proved to be an invaluable asset when serving those who have sacrificed so much to preserve our freedoms. Sam retired on March 31, 2007 after working for U.S. Rep. Edwards for 16 years.

With his established community service and his proven leadership skills, Sam successfully ran for Harker Heights City Council. He continued to serve and better his community every day. Throughout his time on the Council, Sam made a positive impact on his beloved hometown and for that we are forever grateful.

Sam's service doesn't stop when the work day is over. He is active in local community affairs including serving as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Heart O' Texas Federal Credit Union, teaching federal and state government at Central Texas College's Fort Hood Campus, co-founding the Harker Heights Economic Development Corporation and co-founding the Leadership Belton program. His military background and experience prepared him for being president of the Central Texas—Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I commend Sam Murphy for his hard work and dedication to his community. I wish Sam, his wife Peggy, and their children and grandchildren only the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH CYCLONES SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Cyclones Special Olympics Team founded in 1990 by Julia Scott and Patrick Noonan. The non-profit organization will be celebrating this landmark achievement at a special May 15, 2015 appreciation dinner to honor the founders.

The Cyclones are a chartered Special Olympics Texas team serving the needs of adults and children with intellectual disabilities. The organization provides them with year-round sports training and athletic competition in a wide variety of sports. Some of the sporting events that the Cyclones participate in include bowling, basketball, aquatics, track & field, bocce ball, and flag football.

Since the founding of the Cyclones in 1990, the organization has functioned as an all-volunteer group committed to providing services to hundreds of athletes with intellectual disabilities. Additionally, the non-profit organization regularly raises all the funds needed to support the training, travel, and competition costs of their athletes through a bowling event and a gala.

The Cyclones have been tremendously successful in their endeavors, with Carrollton-Farmers Branch athletes competing with success at both regional and state levels.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Cyclones Special Olympics Team on their successes and in celebrating their 25th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA MARSHALL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jessica Marshall upon winning the Congressional Art Competition in the 3rd District of Iowa. Jessica, a junior at Griswold High School, is the daughter of Michael and Tracy Marshall of Lewis, Iowa.

The Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," is open to high school students nationwide. Since 1982, the competition has been an opportunity for Members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. One winner is selected by a panel of 16 judges, one from each county in Iowa's 3rd District.

Jessica's piece, "Word Art: The Young Child," was named the winner out of over 75 entries. It is a unique and moving graphite pencil drawing of a young boy drawn entirely of words. Jessica's creativity and dedication to her craft is admirable. The example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them

with the world. “Word Art: The Young Child” will be displayed in the halls of the Capitol for all to admire and enjoy.

I commend Jessica for her artistic talents and I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for being chosen as the winner of the Congressional Art Competition in the 3rd District of Iowa. It is an honor to serve Iowans like Jessica and her parents, and I wish her the best of luck in her future academic and artistic endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CINDY BERANEK

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Cindy Beranek on her outstanding teaching career. For more than thirty-two years, Ms. Beranek engaged the imaginations of her art students at Stratford Senior High School.

Her passion for art and teaching was evident in her students' artwork. Stratford High School is always well represented in the annual Congressional Art Competition, often earning top honors, and, in the case of the 2015 competition, they took home all four awards, including the grand prize.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the powerful role that teachers play in molding our children's minds, but it is a rare teacher who also shapes their hearts. Ms. Beranek leaves a legacy of devoted service to the Stratford community, but takes with her the thanks and appreciation of a countless many students who will always treasure their time in her classroom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAROLD CUMMINGS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to honor the life of a friend, neighbor, and local stalwart from the Town of Vernon, Harold “Hal” Cummings, who passed away this month.

Most recently, Hal served as town attorney in Vernon, but he held a number of local positions over the years including the Conservation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Board of Education. He was also involved in his local church and Rotary Club and was a founding member of the local Chamber of Commerce. This list of accomplishments demonstrates that Hal held the well-being of Vernon, Connecticut close to his heart. Hal, his wife Isabel and their children Jay, Joel, and Justin fostered a commitment to community that runs deep through their family and is felt profoundly by Vernon residents. Hal's passing is a loss for our town and the many local employees and advocates who relied on his experience and advice.

While Harold had long served as the town's top Republican as the Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, he and I shared a mu-

tual respect and friendship that transcended party affiliation. My respect for Harold stemmed from his unwavering and long-standing commitment to the betterment of our community, and from the many times we worked together to make progress in the town of Vernon.

Hal's record of military service, as well as that of his son Joel, was a source of great pride for him. After I was elected to Congress, he always made positive, informed comments on military policy, the stresses of active duty service, and the need to help America's veterans. Hal was a staunch supporter of the New England Civil War museum, one of Vernon's most treasured destinations—yet another example of his widespread involvement in our community.

Harold was known throughout Vernon for his positivity, and his hard work to keep our town running smoothly. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life and achievements of Harold Cummings, and expressing our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

REINTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2015. This legislation will promote robust public health policy, promote needed job growth, and create more affordable opportunities for individuals who are interested in becoming wildlife and zoological veterinarians.

As you know, wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care and management that is required for animals in both their natural habitat and in captivity. These physicians preserve natural resources and the lives of animals while subsequently helping to protect human health by preventing, detecting and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

As global interaction between humans, livestock and wildlife have intensified over the decades, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife continues to increase. Controlling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more challenging over the years, yet there has never been a time where this is a more pertinent issue. We must take preventative measures to ensure the well-being of both animals and humans. However, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to ensure our safety from this threat.

Following their graduation, professionals that practice wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine move on to earn relatively low salaries, compared to their companions in animal medicine. Studies have also shown that on average, veterinarian graduates owe roughly \$130,000 in student loans. The expectation of a low salary, combined with enormous educational debt, amidst insufficient employment opportunities, discourages these students from pursuing these vitally important careers. More-

over, due to the severe lack of practical training and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine, many that do graduate are unable to make significant contributions to the field immediately.

My bill directly addresses these issues which prevent and dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife and zoological medicine. It will also contribute to the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians to enter upon graduation. The bill will limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula around wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, wild animals play a very critical role in our natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. The number of endangered species has only increased. Invasive non-native species and infectious disease threaten our public health. Therefore, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be prioritized and given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2015, students, faculty, and staff will gather in historic St. Mary's City, Maryland, to celebrate the St. Mary's College of Maryland Class of 2015 Commencement. They—along with many others across Maryland and our country—will also be marking the 175th anniversary of the College's founding.

Since its humble beginnings in 1840 as a public, nonsectarian boarding school for girls at the elementary through secondary levels, St. Mary's College of Maryland has been a center of learning and educational empowerment. Set along the St. Mary's River, where Leonard Calvert and the first English settlers disembarked from the *Ark* and *Dove* in 1634 to found the colony of Maryland, it expanded in the early twentieth century to become the State's first junior college and became co-educational. In the 1960's, the school transitioned into a four-year college and granted its first undergraduate degrees in 1971. Recognizing its tradition of excellence in liberal arts education, its high standards, and its unique history, the Maryland General Assembly formalized St. Mary's College of Maryland as a public honors college in 1992. Today, it continues to graduate some of Maryland's best and brightest students from thirty-one academic programs.

I am proud to represent the students, faculty, and staff of St. Mary's College of Maryland in Congress as well as to have served as

a member of its Board of Trustees since 1995. Alumni of the College run businesses, contribute to the arts and athletics, conduct research in marine biology and the environment, report the news through national outlets, and serve in government—including in my Congressional office. They are continuing their alma mater's tradition of preparing graduates to make a difference wherever they live and work throughout Maryland and across our country.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the entire St. Mary's College of Maryland community, led by its dynamic new President, Tuajuanda Jordan, on reaching its 175th year of serving as a living memorial to those first Maryland colonists' commitment to religious freedom, tolerance, and opportunity.

RECOGNIZING ST. CLOUD AREA
CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS
RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the recipients of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Owner of the Year, St. Cloud Area Family Owned Business of the Year, and the St. Cloud Area Emerging Entrepreneur.

Larry Logeman is the 2015 St. Cloud Area Small Business Owner of the Year. Larry is quite literally a man with a plan. Though he did not grow up with the dream of one day owning a business, he wrote a plan to become a business owner and set a personal deadline of 5–7 years. Nearing the end of his timeframe, he bought Executive Express. Larry's customer-focused business model has served him well. What began as a modest shuttle service between central Minnesota and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport grew into a business with 85 employees, 31 vehicles, and a projected revenue stream of \$3 million in 2015.

Viking Coca-Cola, owned by Michael Faber, is the St. Cloud Area Family Owned Business of the Year. After Joe Faber, one of the founders and owners of the company, passed away in the 1990s, his son Michael moved back to Minnesota to join the management team. Keeping it in the family proved fruitful for the business. With Michael's help, Viking Coca-Cola capitalized on its existing success by expanding to canning and adding new products where consumer needs arose. The company now boasts nearly 500 employees and has a multi-state distribution operation. To top it all off, Michael and the company are active members in the community, helping local organizations and participating in charitable events.

Luke Riordan, owner of DAYTA Marketing, is the St. Cloud Area Emerging Entrepreneur. DAYTA's success is attributed to its focus on a specific subset of the digital communications field—people and businesses who need help with social media but at an affordable price. Luke and his team work closely with their clients towards a noticeable online presence for their businesses. Luke's ambition matches the digital marketing industry—it's not slowing down. His company's doors opened in early 2012, and in the last three years they've

expanded into larger office space four times and now have 25 employees.

I know I speak for the entire 6th District when I say I am so proud of these individuals' hard work and the example they set for those around them. Small businesses—and their owners—truly are the lifeblood of our beloved nation. The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce picked an excellent group to highlight this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join me in honoring Larry Logeman, Viking Coca-Cola, and Luke Riordan for their invaluable contributions to St. Cloud and the surrounding area, and the State of Minnesota.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF KAISER
PERMANENTE'S SACRAMENTO
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kaiser Permanente's Sacramento Medical Center as the Center celebrates its 50th anniversary. For half a century, Kaiser's Sacramento Medical Center has provided high quality care to residents of the Greater Sacramento area. As members, physicians, and staff gather to celebrate the Center's 50th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center and its indispensable place in the Sacramento health care community.

Kaiser Permanente was founded 70 years ago in Oakland, by Henry J. Kaiser, a business leader who believed in providing affordable, quality health care. Today, Kaiser Permanente is the nation's oldest and largest health care system.

On May 1, 1965, Kaiser Permanente began providing health care for the first time in the Sacramento region with the purchase of the 64-bed Arden Community Hospital on Morse Avenue. The hospital opened with 13 physicians serving 12,000 members. Since then, Kaiser Permanente has grown into a leading health care provider and one of the largest private employers in the region with more than 737,200 members, 1,530 physicians, and 11,780 staff.

The Sacramento Medical Center has been integral to Kaiser Permanente's success in the region, earning numerous honors over the years, including Top Hospital from The Leapfrog Group, Top Performer from The Joint Commission, and Best Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. As the population of the region has grown, the Sacramento Medical Center has grown to meet its needs. The Center now has 287 beds and one of the busiest emergency rooms in the region. The Center is home to the Comprehensive Community Cancer Center, an Advanced Neuroscience Center, and a certified Primary Stroke Center.

In addition, Kaiser Permanente has helped improve the health of the region through its involvement in community programs, including support of the local nonprofit clinics, Sheriff's Community Impact Program, Arden Manor Recreation and Park District, Mutual Assistance Network, and the San Juan Unified School District.

Mr. Speaker, as the physicians, staff, and members of the Kaiser Permanente Sacramento Medical Center come together to celebrate the Center's 50th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their excellent work in the Sacramento Region. I am confident that the Sacramento Medical Center will continue to be a leader and a model for quality health care for many years to come.

HONORING KEVIN JONES

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kevin Jones, a dedicated educator and principal of Center High School in Center, Colorado. In recognition of his continued excellence, the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals has selected Mr. Kevin Jones as the 2015 Colorado High School Principal of the Year.

Mr. Jones earned this competitive award achieving many successes despite the challenges of a rural and bilingual institution. Six out of the last seven years have seen the school earn the Colorado Department of Education's Center of Education Excellence while simultaneously earning the Colorado Education Initiative's Healthy Schools Champion Award for 4 consecutive years. Mr. Jones' leadership and personal attention to each student along with constructive assessment of teachers and the curriculum on a regular basis has enabled Center High School to rise considerably above academic standards in the state.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to honor Mr. Jones for his enthusiasm and ability to inspire students and his staff. His dedication to teaching and his desire to excel as an educator and leader continue to benefit his community. I congratulate Mr. Jones on his selection for this prestigious award.

ROSIE TILLES OBITUARY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, as night fell she entered, like a light: on October 17, 1910, Rosie (Willie) Thurmond was born on a small rural farm in Lexington, Mississippi. Alfred and Missouri (Polk) Thurmond were resilient and spiritually fulfilled parents who taught their daughter to love and always be faithful to God, church and family. Rosie was the eldest of four Thurmond children: Alfred, Jr. (deceased), Joseph (deceased), and an only sister, Juanita. In living out her parents' expectations of her, in a way, Rosie's own narrative is suggestive of other God fearing women pioneers' stories. No different than the likes of Harriet Tubman who escaped slavery to become an important abolitionist, Rosie possessed the same strength of character, which inevitably called her to migrate from one place to another, and then all at once return for others. Many times she traveled back to the Jim Crow South and northern states. Who

will never remember that Rosie went by Amtrak and Greyhound bus to liberate family and friends from various forms of oppression? Ultimately, she would selflessly welcome many of her people to the same sense of freedom she found in southern California. Los Angeles, was the warm and sunny place she fondly called her home. The length and quality of this blessed woman's life is to be examined by the use of nonlinear contexts, spaces, stories, memories, photographs and God-filled times that span the miraculous course of one hundred and four years. So long a journey. Hers was a supply of great love and great associations. Rosie lived just long enough to put some of the pieces of the great mysteries of this life together. Her sunrise was like her sunset—deepening in a Word and a Love that has always been. On March 3, 2015, as night fell she returned to the Light.

Because she was born in the early 1900's and lived in a segregated cotton county, Rosie's timely life was certainly full of social, political, economic, and educational hardships. Because of rigid anti-black laws, she faced insurmountable obstacles. Being a person of color and growing up in the South meant she had little if any genuine recourse in a racial caste system. Thus, Rosie would only travel a limited path toward academic achievement. As a girl child, with plaited hair, she was forced to leave the Sharp Rural School in the fourth grade to work alongside her parents in sweltering fields throughout Holmes County. She knew an early life of August heat and sweat, March rainfall, floods and manual labor, which can scarcely be understood by young people today. She often shared the details of her small farm life. Her recollections were of "quiet songs," saving dimes, forgotten relics, and homemade remedies, like lard salves and Vicks vapor rubs, which she promised could cure everything from fevers to the flu.

Rosie told the old childhood stories about growing food, making soap, washing clothes by hand, hanging them on a line to dry, plucking birds, fetching water from wells, gathering firewood for potbelly stoves, picking cotton, and marching the long dusty miles to and from Zion Hill AME. But what child could bear such a trying life? A child who knew who her Heavenly Father was, a child who thought to pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. According to Rosie, color did not matter. She didn't hate nobody. She loved everybody. So even though racism and poverty made it extremely difficult for girls of color to advance, the same systematic measures of disparity that created a strong sense of depression and rage in others, cultivated Rosie's individual desire for change, and her unwavering commitment to the embodiment of peace, and her quest for equal access to greater opportunities.

What was once, always shall be; and now imagine a life devoted to service and prayer. As a young door keeper in the house of the Lord, Rosie would rise afore the sun, boil a kettle, and travel to the little white church house altar, long before the other congregants gathered there. And far before Rosie left Lexington for Jackson, and Jackson for California, she carried "God's will be done" prayers, and cadences like "If I Can Help Somebody" along the old Tchula road. She served God by singing spirituals and hymns with His choirs. She went to Sunday school, prayer meetings and revivals. As a beginning usher, she distributed

bulletins, service programs, and paper stick-fans. She collected the tithes and offerings. Young Rosie was adept at it.

As a symbol of her friendship and deep love for a young man from her hometown, she courted and then married the late Abner Cross in 1929. They settled on the Roger plantation in the Rose Bank community. The Rose Bank Baptist Church soon became her new place of worship. In the midst of the Great Depression and attacks on Pearl Harbor, their union brought forth the lives of four children: Earlene, Lonnie (departed) James, (departed) and Gerlee (departed). As fate would have it, Gerlee died of pneumonia at age seven. And then Rosie faced the trials of a mother's deepest anguish. When asked how she endured the loss of a child, she often said her faith in God healed the wounds of that grief. When more seasons changed, and her marriage ended, she did not give up or sit down and grieve. Rosie continued to trust in God for comfort, peace, hope and direction. Alas: She left Lexington and her family in order to see if she could live differently in Jackson, Mississippi. Her new way of living developed in parallel. Rosie experienced the innovations of city life. She loved the modern amenities of a grander place of greater size and population. She liked the nuances of going to downtown Jackson or "Little Harlem" for Cotillions. But more relevantly, she was glad to be an usher for the Blair Street Baptist Church. However, there were still recollections of rural life and the family she left behind. Nonetheless, Rosie gladly worked at the Old Baptist Hospital on State Street. She was a nightshift cook for disabled children, doctors and nurses. While in Lexington she also worked and studied diligently to become a beautician. It seems only fitting that Rosie's ordered steps would start her out on a new journey.

In the summer of 1951, Rosie decided that she would move to Los Angeles, California. She boarded a westbound Amtrak train, with a small suitcase, and a letter of recommendation from a White employer who praised her exceptional domestic work and cooking skills. Although she was leaving the only state that she had ever known, she traveled with a great sense of optimism. Further assured by her unwavering faith in GOD, and a belief that the outcome of this westward journey would welcome her into a land ripe with the new possibilities, she eagerly moved in with her close friends George and Frankie Sims. She stayed with them until she was able to secure a day job and save enough money to rent her own housing. During this time, she also began attending various worship services around Los Angeles. She was in search of a new church home. Eventually her diligence led her to First African Methodist Episcopal Church at 8th and Town Avenue. This church would later become the foundation for FAME. During her membership at FAME, Rosie served in various capacities. She was a Sunday school teacher, and a member of both Usher Board No. 1 and the Sarah Allen Women's Missionary Society.

As Rosie continued to settle into the blessings of her new California life, the Sims introduced her to their good friend Clarence Tilles (departed). Clarence was a kind and gentle man of great integrity. They would marry in 1952 and remain together and in-love until his death in 1990. While Rosie embraced newlywed life, she began to encounter some of the familiar racial inequalities that were ramp-

ant in the South. Although the city of Los Angeles did not practice some of the more overt segregation policies found in southern states, there was extreme discrimination in housing, which prevented many minorities from renting apartments or purchasing homes in specific areas of the city. Despite these constant obstacles, Rosie and Clarence were finally able to rent a modest two bedroom apartment near downtown Los Angeles. They moved into the William Meade Housing Project, which is located near historic landmarks like The San Antonio Winery, Olvera Street and Union Station. Because of the loud barking that came from the neighboring Ann Street Animal Shelter, the William Meade Housing Project was also known as "Dog Town."

Nevertheless, Rosie and Clarence's new home provided a deep sense of belonging and community, which would later be enhanced by the arrival of deeply missed members of Rosie's Mississippi family. The new settlers included her daughter (Earlene), her granddaughter (Mary) her mother (Missouri), her Aunt (Lee), her brother (Alfred Jr.), her Sister (Juanita), her nieces (Debra, Denise, Shelia and Rochelle) and nephews (Dyke and the late Bernard Redmond). Rosie and Clarence would also host numerous friends and family as they vacationed or relocated to California. She called the old red brick, William Meade Housing Project home for over 40 years. She not only helped raise her grandchildren and great-grandchildren there, she was also able to establish close knit ties and bonds with generations of families in her community. She also participated and volunteered to fill bags in a community based outreach program that fed disadvantaged families in the project. This is yet another example of how Rosie devoted her life to family and to the service and care of others. When Clarence went home to be with God, Rosie moved across the street from her second home: The First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles.

Before becoming physically unable to do so, Rosie attended three services every Sunday for over twenty years. She also attended prayer meetings every Wednesday at Noon. Yet even as her memory faded, and her eyesight weakened and her gait became more unsteady, she persevered. She told anyone who asked her how she was doing that I'm slow but sure. Again, Rosie's was a steady upright walk with the Lord. As she did in childhood, Rosie faithfully began each day of her older life in prayer. She was often overheard calling out the names of family and friends in her evening petitions to God. When she felt like she could not go any further, she took to her easy chair and received the spiritual nourishment she required by watching The Church Channel from sun up until sundown.

It has been said that the things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy. Rosie leaves an incredible legacy for her family and friends to value. Since Rosie lived such a rich yet unembellished life, not a soul has to worry about how to divide the love she left behind. During the last several years, Rosie lived at the St. John of God Retirement and Care Center in Los Angeles. She was blessed to have many visitors. Although sometimes when her memory failed her, she would lean over to see who she thought you might have been. When guessing failed and she could not recall, Rosie would often shake her

head and say that she had so many relatives and loved ones that she could not remember them all by name. She would simply look you in your eyes and say, "You know your name." Those beloved names include her devoted Daughter Earlene Dye, her loving sister Juanita Redmond, 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren, a great number of relatives and friends and members of her extended church family.

The end is in the beginning and lies far ahead.—Ralph Ellison.

HONORING MS. BARBARA WAGNER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor Ms. Barbara Wagner. Ms. Wagner is being honored by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus with the prestigious title of 'Artistic Director Emeritus'.

Ms. Wagner was the founding artistic director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. She helped found the group in 2001 and conducted their first meeting on September 11th. Although this day was tragic to all Americans, this group was able to find solace during their first rehearsal. Ms. Wagner bound the newly formed choir with the song "How Can I Keep From Singing," which would then go on to be performed at every concert and rehearsal for her 10 year tenure and beyond.

While the choir was under Ms. Wagner's leadership, the Buffalo Gay Men's Choir received numerous awards, and performed on some of the grandest stages in Buffalo. With Ms. Wagner's direction the BGMC received multiple "Best in Buffalo" Awards from the local *Artvoice* newspaper, and was recognized by the Empire State Pride Agenda in 2005 for excellence in music and dedication to the community. Ms. Wagner led the choir to receive the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council Award for exceptional contributions to the arts and cultural community in Western New York. Under Ms. Wagner's leadership the choir performed at the historic Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, and alongside the renowned Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. Barbara Wagner's commitment to The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is to be recognized with the distinguished title of 'Artistic Director Emeritus', during a special ceremony in their upcoming concert. I ask today, Mr. Speaker, that we honor her dedication to the arts and successes as choir director.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED RODNEY ROLLO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Rodney Rollo. Rodney was a true patriot, and he will be greatly missed.

Rodney was born in Pensacola, Florida and raised in neighboring Santa Rosa County,

Florida. After graduating from Milton High School, Rodney answered the call of duty, enlisting in the United States Navy in 1947. After serving 20 years with honor and distinction, Rodney retired from the Navy in 1967 as a Chief Hospital Corpsman and moved to Washington D.C., where he worked as Chief of Administrative Services for the American Psychiatric Association. However, as with so many others born and raised along the Gulf Coast, Rodney returned to his hometown in 1975, and he and his wife, Ann settled in Milton.

Rodney was a proud lifelong Republican, and after moving back to Northwest Florida, he quickly immersed himself in local politics, becoming a leader in civil society. Rodney and Ann joined the Santa Rosa County Republican Executive Committee, and, with an unwavering commitment to advancing the conservative principles upon which our country was founded, they worked tirelessly to register Republicans across Santa Rosa County. In just over a decade, Rodney and Ann's efforts helped triple the number of registered Republicans in the county, and soon thereafter, every county elective office was held by a Republican. Rodney's leadership was recognized on many occasions, as he served multiple terms as Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Republican Executive Committee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Rodney Rollo. He was a loving husband, patriot, and defender of freedom, and his immense contributions to Northwest Florida will be felt for years to come. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest condolences and prayers to his sister, Betty Rollo Wolfe; nieces and nephews: Janet (Larry) Chambers, Tom (Sue) Palmer, Jeannie Cotton, Sam (Nancy) Palmer, John Palmer, Rebecca (Doug) Griener, and Sandra Clark, and the entire Rollo family.

THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE U.S.
BISHOPS IN MORAL QUESTIONS
REGARDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently hosted a briefing entitled *Catholic Engagement on Nuclear Disarmament: What are the moral questions?* and one of the speakers, Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi, presented the following statement:

At the time of Senate ratification of the New START Treaty in 2010, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, then President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, whose death we recently mourned, declared: "The horribly destructive capacity of nuclear arms makes them disproportionate and indiscriminate weapons that endanger human life and dignity like no other armaments. Their use as a weapon of war is rejected in Church teaching based on just war norms."

The Cardinal was standing on a firm foundation of longstanding teaching when he made that assertion. The 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," established the U.S. Catholic bishops as a moral voice on nuclear disarmament. The bishops argued that "each proposed addition to our strategic system or change in strategic doctrine must be

assessed precisely in light of whether it will render steps toward 'progressive disarmament' more or less likely."

Ten years later in the "Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace," the bishops declared: "The eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal." This vision continues to shape their public engagement.

At the time of the drafting of the 1983 pastoral, I worked as a religious educator and was active in efforts to engage Catholics in discussions of the various drafts of the peace pastoral. The process of producing this document was significant. The bishops actively solicited feedback from both experts and people in the pew on each of three drafts. The bishops remained the teachers, but they acknowledged that prudential judgments were also involved and this required dialogue.

Consultations were held at the national and local levels, and in many settings, at universities, parishes and think tanks. These dialogues helped shape the final pastoral letter, but perhaps more importantly they also raised awareness of the fundamental issues related to nuclear weapons among many Americans. Today the Conference of Bishops is working with others to revitalize Catholic thinking and engagement on issues involving nuclear weapons today as decades have passed since they first became involved with this issue in a major way.

Over the years, in light of Church moral teaching, the bishops have also exercised leadership regarding specific elements of U.S. nuclear policy. In the late 80s they raised moral questions regarding missile defense initiatives. The bishops supported the Strategic Arms Reduction treaties (Start I and II) in the early 1990s. And in the late 90s they supported the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, lamenting its defeat in the Senate. The bishops welcomed the 2002 Moscow Treaty as a positive step, but called on the United States, and by implication other nations, to do much more.

During the past decade, the Conference of Bishops has opposed federal funding for research on the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, the Reliable Replacement Warhead and new nuclear weapons. They weighed in on the Nuclear Posture Review, asking President Obama to narrow the purpose of the nuclear arsenal solely to deterring nuclear attack. They made a major effort to offer vigorous support for Senate ratification of the New START Treaty in 2010, and have supported and welcomed the P5+1 dialogue with Iran over their nuclear program, as has the Holy Father and the Holy See.

At its Deterrence Symposium in July 2009, the U.S. Strategic Command turned to the Conference of Bishops to offer moral reflections. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, then an Archbishop and a member of the bishops' International Committee, gave a major address on "Nuclear Weapons and Moral Questions: The Path to Zero." He urged the nuclear powers to "move beyond" deterrence. Subsequently, he joined Global Zero and addressed their February 2010 summit in Paris.

In his speech at the 2009 Deterrence Symposium, Cardinal O'Brien reiterated the longstanding position of the U.S. bishops: "The moral end is clear: a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons. This goal should guide our efforts. Every nuclear weapons system and every nuclear weapons policy should be judged by the ultimate goal of protecting human life and dignity and the related goal of ridding the world of these weapons in mutually verifiable ways."

U.S. Church leaders are not naive about the challenges that lie along the path to a world without nuclear weapons. Cardinal Francis George wrote a letter to President

Obama in 2010 in which he “. . . acknowledged that the path to a world free of nuclear weapons will be long and difficult. It will involve many steps:

Verifiably reducing nuclear arsenals as the new START Treaty continues to do;

Ratifying and bringing into force the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

Reducing our nation's reliance on nuclear weapons for security as the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review began to do;

Securing nuclear materials from terrorists;

Adopting a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty to prohibit production of weapons-grade material;

Strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor nonproliferation efforts and ensure access to peaceful uses of nuclear power; and

Other actions that take humanity in the direction of a nuclear-weapons-free world.”

The Cardinal went on to say, “We are pastors and teachers, not technical experts. We cannot map out the precise route to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, but we can offer moral direction and encouragement. Although we cannot anticipate every step on the path humanity must walk, we can point with moral clarity to a destination that moves beyond deterrence to a world free of the nuclear threat.”

Given these longstanding concerns of the U.S. Bishops to reduce nuclear weapons and secure nuclear materials, in April 2015, Bishop Oscar Cantú, Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, spoke on a panel on “Nuclear Weapons and the Moral Compass” sponsored by The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See and The Global Security Institute at the UN Headquarters in New York, and in November 2014, Bishop Richard Pates, a member of the Committee, spoke at a seminar on “Less Nuclear Stockpiles and More Development” sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Rome.

The bishops of the United States are deeply engaged in the moral enterprise of working for a world without nuclear weapons. As Bishop Cantú said in his April UN talk: “To achieve this goal, we must, in the words of Pope Francis, acknowledge that ‘now is the time to counter the logic of fear with the ethic of responsibility, and so foster a climate of trust and sincere dialogue.’”

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5327 FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2015 RUN FOR THE WALL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the veterans of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5327 in Wentzville, Missouri for their participation in the 2015 Run for the Wall.

Since 1989, Run for the Wall has united veterans across the country through a 10-day motorcycle ride spanning from Ontario, California to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. Participants of this ride are not limited to just veterans; each year a number of current service members, families and

supporters of our nation's armed services join veterans in this nationwide journey to find healing and remember those we have lost in battle.

As they make their way across the United States, Run for the Wall riders visit memorials, veterans' hospitals, and schools to discuss and pay tribute to the men and women who have served this country with honor and distinction. Additionally, this event serves as a time of reflection for all participants, building awareness for those who are still missing and emphasizing the motto that no soldier should be left behind.

This year, participants will depart on three different routes beginning on May 13, 2015. The central route will arrive in Wentzville, Missouri on the evening of May 18, 2015, wherein VFW Post 5327 will provide dinner and lodging for riders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants of the ride and the veterans of VFW Post 5327 for their contribution to the cause.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have had the great privilege of meeting many of our nation's veterans, and I am always humbled by their selflessness. They have made remarkable sacrifices to protect the liberty we enjoy in this great country. Without our nation's veterans, we would not have the rights and privileges that we take for granted as Americans each and every day.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Run for the Wall mission and its participants.

STOP WARRANTLESS SEARCHES ON AMERICANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, nearly two years have passed since a then-unknown 29-year-old nerd-turned-international fugitive aired the NSA's dirty secrets to the world. Edward Snowden is no patriot. However, the alarming information about the NSA's abuse of power he revealed cannot be ignored. Until Snowden, most Americans were unaware that their own government was trampling on their Fourth Amendment rights. Most people did not know their every move could be tracked by Big Brother. They trusted that this agency acted purely in the interest of national security to keep us safe. Not only were Americans in the dark on this, but so were many Members of Congress (including myself) who voted for legislation that NSA then used and abused to conduct its rogue activities.

Post 9/11 and with two ongoing wars, many believed that government surveillance—including warrantless searches and seizures—was limited to foreign nationals, not American citizens.

That would be consistent with federal law and the Constitution. But this did not happen. For example, NSA uses Section 215 of the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act permits targeted surveillance when that surveillance is justified by a court. Instead, NSA collects bulk meta data—such as surveillance of phone numbers in whole zip codes or phone carriers. These Soviet Style dragnet tactics went far beyond the scope of what Congress authorized in

Section 215 of the Patriot Act. Government simply cannot disregard the law just because it is inconvenient.

We also now realized that the agency has misused and expanded the intent of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). NSA uses Section 702 as a means to gather not only data but content and to allow law enforcement to later search this data for information about American citizens without a warrant. Because it gathers and searches content of individual communications, Section 702 is more intrusive than Section 215. FISA permits the collection of such data of a suspected agent of a foreign power, but the federal government is also storing and later searching the content of emails, text messages and phone calls of American citizens—all without a warrant. In the course of this collection, the data of American citizens, many of which have done nothing wrong or illegal, gets collected.

That kind of reverse targeting of American citizens is not what Congress intended, is inconsistent with the Constitution and must stop.

The NSA has claimed it has no interest in monitoring the activity of “ordinary” Americans. My response to that is simple: then don't do it. But, most Americans have a hard time accepting that line. They question that for the simple fact that had Edward Snowden not revealed what was really going on within NSA in the first place, this snooping and spying would still be going on in the dark shadows of government operations. And, equally important, they know that this snooping and spying is still going on today.

It's time for Congress to rein in this blatant violation of the Fourth Amendment and stop the warrantless searches of Americans. This issue—protecting the Fourth Amendment—has unified liberals and conservatives. This week, Congresswoman Rep. ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA), Congressman Rep. THOMAS MASSIE (R-KY), and I introduced the End Warrantless Surveillance of Americans Act. The bill would prohibit warrantless searches of government databases for information that pertains to U.S. citizens. It would also forbid government agencies from mandating or requesting “back doors” into commercial products that can be used for surveillance.

The legislation mirrors an amendment we offered to the USA Freedom Act, which was backed by a broad bipartisan coalition including Members of Congress and outside groups across the political spectrum.

The USA Freedom Act that passed out of the Judiciary Committee last week is an improvement over current law and a step in the right direction. But we can do more to protect the Fourth Amendment. In addition to stopping bulk data collection, Congress should also act now to fix the other loophole and stop warrantless searches under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Failure to address this gaping loophole in FISA leaves the constitutional rights of millions of Americans vulnerable and unprotected. This bill also ensures that the federal government does not force companies to enable its spying activities. The NSA has and will continue to violate the constitutional protections guaranteed to every American unless Congress intervenes. Until we fix this and make the law clear, citizens can never be sure that their private conversations are safe from the eyes of the government.

Last year the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed similar legislation as an amendment to DOD Appropriations.

Congress should do all that it can to reform our national intelligence agencies and to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans, including passing this legislation to close the loophole and ensure that the NSA abides by the letter and spirit of the law. It is our duty to make this right and ensure that the Fourth Amendment rights of the people we represent will no longer be trampled on by the NSA.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA).

Chartered in 1965 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, initially as a social network for retired officers, the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association has transformed into a sizeable advocacy effort on behalf of our Nation's military members and dependents and adheres to the selfless values of the Military Officers Association of America founded in 1929.

Throughout the last five decades, the members of NWFMOA have worked hand-in-hand with our forces stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field, and their tireless efforts have helped ensure our brave men and women in uniform receive the training and equipment needed to successfully accomplish their assigned missions and safely return home. In addition, NWFMOA has been a stalwart presence educating decision makers on how best to make certain our veterans reintegrate into the civilian sector and to safeguard the benefits they have earned through service.

With membership open to all commissioned and warrant officers of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the work of the NWFMOA cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida is proud of its rich military heritage and the members of our Armed Forces who call it home. I want to thank the members of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association for a half century of steadfast dedication to the Gulf Coast military and veterans' community and for their life-long example of service for the cause of Freedom.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. NGUYEN NGOC HANH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the life of Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hanh for his

outstanding achievements as a soldier, photographer, and teacher. His contributions to documenting the Vietnam War over forty years ago continue to inform us about this conflict.

Mr. Hanh was recognized among the Top Ten Photographers of the Photographic Society of America in 1968 for his coverage of the Tet Offensive. His stunning portraits of soldiers and Viet Cong detainees capture the emotion and humanity of the war. He began photographing the conflict in 1956, while serving in a paratrooper battalion. By 1961, at the age of thirty-four, the South Vietnam Armed Forces assigned Mr. Hanh as its official war photographer. Perhaps his most well known photograph is a portrait of a tearful young woman in Hue recently widowed and holding her husband's tags.

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Mr. Hanh declined to use his personal pass for a helicopter transport and instead chose to remain with his fellow soldiers. This led to Mr. Hanh's imprisonment by the North Vietnam Army. For the first year and four months of his confinement, Mr. Hanh's lived in a metal container too small for him to stand and too narrow for him to lie down. He remained detained until 1983, and on his fourth attempt was able to flee from Vietnam to Thailand in 1985.

Four years later, at the age of sixty-two, Mr. Hanh immigrated to San Jose. He soon established the Vietnam Photographic Association while also working at a Fremont technology company delivering mail. Since 1989, Mr. Hanh has trained hundreds of photography students in San Jose. He also exhibited his photos at the annual Vietnamese New Year Tet Festival in San Jose, as well as at several nonprofit fund raising events to raise money for the disabled vets of the South Vietnam Armed Forces. His work has contributed immensely not only to San Jose, but also to our country. I thank him for his contributions, and I recognize him as an outstanding member of the Vietnamese-American community.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles on the celebration of its 130th anniversary.

In 1885, Second Baptist Church was organized as Southern California's first African-American Baptist church. It quickly developed into one of South Los Angeles' most esteemed and effective institutions, offering vital support throughout the community. Over the years, a wide and diverse population of Angelenos have benefited from the church's child care and educational services, its scholarship programs, and its involvement in creating housing for families and shelter space for homeless women and children.

Second Baptist Church has also played an active role in our nation's long and ongoing dialogue about civil rights. In 1954, Second Baptist members raised \$1,500 for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to pay for printing the legal briefs for the Brown vs. Board of Edu-

cation case, which desegregated America's schools. The church also hosted the NAACP's national conventions in 1928, 1942, and 1949.

Second Baptist Church's unflagging commitment to social justice and helping the least among us is also reflected in its long and distinguished list of speakers—a list including ministers, advocates, officials, and scholars. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a frequent speaker throughout his career. Malcolm X, W.E.B. Du Bois, Ralph Bunche, and the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. are just a few of the other orators to have spoken within the walls of Second Baptist.

Because of the church's substantial involvement in some of the most important social fights of our age, it was listed as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in 1978, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. Both are well-deserved honors for this church and for the beautiful Lombardy Romanesque Revival building in which it is housed.

It is my great privilege to represent Second Baptist Church and its congregation in Congress. In times of trial and in times of joy, this church has been a source of strength and unity for all who have been touched by its mission. On its 130th anniversary, Second Baptist Church is both a marker of how society has progressed in its lifetime, and a guiding light continuing to point us towards a brighter future of brotherhood, peace, and justice for all. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating all that Second Baptist Church has done to move the hearts and minds of Angelenos and all Americans, and to wish the church and its congregation a very happy 130th anniversary.

RECOGNITION OF FORMER U.S. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE JAMES "JIM" WRIGHT, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Former Speaker of the House James "Jim" Wright, who passed away on Wednesday, May 6th at the age of 92. Speaker Wright served in Congress for more than three decades and left an indelible legacy as chairman of the House Public Works Committee. He was elected by his peers as Speaker in 1987.

Jim Wright was born in Fort Worth, Texas, the son of a traveling salesman. He was educated at Weatherford College and the University of Texas at Austin. Jim Wright dedicated his life to serving the public. He bravely served in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying combat missions in the South Pacific. Subsequently, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1946. He served as mayor of Weatherford, Texas from 1950 to 1954. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1954 and was reelected 16 times.

Speaker Wright was a visionary who served the people of Fort Worth and this nation well. He is deserving of this tribute. Because of his leadership, the House experienced one of its most prolific periods. Speaker Wright demonstrated his skill as a political leader and

master legislator by shepherding extraordinarily complex legislation through the House. He understood that the business of legislating and good politics required great skill in the art of compromise.

Speaker Wright never backed down from a challenge, and even after leaving office, he continued to serve the public diligently. I was always able to consult with Speaker Wright regarding difficult legislation, and he never failed to provide thoughtful and principled insight.

Our country has lost one of its finest statesmen, and I have lost a close personal friend whose wisdom, dignity and knowledge of the legislative process was unquestionably enviable. He is among the most influential Speakers in the history of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Wright is an unforgettable public servant and leader. A man fueled by passion and concern for others, he set the bar high for his successors. He is survived by his wife, Betty and four children. I stand today to honor Former Speaker of the House, Jim Wright, and to thank him for his work in service to the people of Texas and throughout this great nation. He left a powerful legacy that will live for generations.

THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE U.S.
BISHOPS IN MORAL QUESTIONS
REGARDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently hosted a briefing entitled Catholic Engagement on Nuclear Disarmament: What are the moral questions? and one of the speakers, His Excellency Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations, presented the following statement:

The Holy See has always been morally against nuclear weapons and has always called for their abolition. It has worked and continues to work for a world without nuclear weapons.

In February 1943, two years and a half before the Trinity test, Pope Pius XII had already voiced deep concern regarding the violent use of atomic energy. In an address to a meeting of Western military scientists in 1953, Pope Pius XII said that the possession of "ABC" (Atomic-Biological-Chemical) weapons made legitimate self-defense against an aggressor a less likely prospect, because "if the damage resulting from war is not comparable with that of the 'injustice tolerated,' one may be obliged 'to submit to the injustice.'" Devoting his entire 1954 Easter Message to the question of nuclear weapons, he spoke of the effects of a nuclear war by evoking "the vision of vast territories rendered uninhabitable and useless to mankind . . . transmissible diseases . . . and monstrous deformities." Given such totally uncontrollable and indiscriminate consequences, the Pope demanded "the effective proscription and banishment of atomic warfare," calling the arms race a "costly relationship of mutual terror." This was the first clear papal condemnation of the nuclear arms race, sixteen years before the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Already well within the Cold War era and right after the Cuban missile crisis, Pope

Saint John XXIII, in his 1963 Encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, called for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the establishment of an adequate disarmament program to achieve that end. He spoke very clearly about the theory or doctrine of deterrence as the principal cause of the arms race and of arms proliferation and about the tremendous economic burdens the arms race provoked. He argued quite extensively that "justice, right reason, and the recognition of man's dignity cry out insistently for a cessation to the arms race. The stockpiles of armaments that have been built up in various countries must be reduced reciprocally and simultaneously by the parties concerned. Nuclear weapons must be banned. A general agreement must be reached on a suitable disarmament program, with an effective system of mutual control. Unless this process of disarmament be thoroughgoing and complete, and reaches men's very souls, it is impossible to stop the arms race, or to reduce armaments, or—and this is the main thing—ultimately to abolish them entirely. Everyone must sincerely co-operate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from men's minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust. And we are confident that this can be achieved, for it is a thing that not only is dictated by common sense, but is in itself most desirable and most fruitful of good."

In his address to the UN General Assembly on 4 October 1965, Pope Paul VI characterized nuclear weapons as "nightmares" and "dark designs." He also stressed that the weapons themselves "lead astray the mentality of peoples." His plea of "jamais plus la guerre," of "war never again," reverberated in the General Assembly Hall. But his appeal to let weapons fall from our hands, "especially the terrible weapons that modern science has given us," in clear reference to nuclear arms, still remains unheeded. Pope Paul's call to end the nuclear arms race reached its culmination in his 1977 World Day of Peace message, in which he demonstrated that nuclear arms offered a false sense of security. He reiterated this in his message to the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament in 1978, calling the peace of nuclear deterrence "a tragic illusion." He also reiterated an assertion made earlier in his papacy, that the nuclear arms race retarded the development of peoples, citing the "crying disproportion between the resources in money and intelligence devoted to the service of death and the resources devoted to the service of life."

In 1982, Pope Saint John Paul II addressed a message to the United Nations General Assembly on its second conference devoted to Disarmament. The Pope said that in the "current conditions of the Cold War, 'deterrence,' considered not as an end in itself but as a step toward a progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable. Nonetheless, in order to ensure peace, it is indispensable not to be satisfied with this minimum, which is always susceptible to the real danger of explosion." The Holy Father, therefore, did not countenance deterrence as a permanent measure.

As time progressed and the central promise of the NPT remained unfulfilled, the Holy See stepped up its efforts to argue for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In his 2006 World Day of Peace Message, Pope Benedict XVI criticized the argument of nuclear arms for security as "completely fallacious" and affirmed that "peace requires that all strive

for progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament."

Since the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, there has been an increased attention to the humanitarian dimension of and the risks associated with nuclear weapons. This heightened interest was manifested by cross-regional humanitarian statements in the UN and other regional and international fora and, in particular, by the organization of three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo (March 2013), Nayarit (February 2014), and Vienna (December 2014). These Conferences have seen increased participation of States, of non-governmental organizations and of the greater civil society.

During the Vienna Conference, the Holy See presented three documents: first, the official Statement delivered by the Delegation of the Holy See; second, the message that Pope Francis sent to His Excellency Mr. Sebastian Kurz, President of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in December 2014; and, third, a paper entitled "Nuclear Disarmament: Time for Abolition."

On April 9, 2015, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York organized a conference entitled "Nuclear Weapons and the Moral Compass." The Speakers were neither nuclear scientists nor political authorities, but rather religious leaders: an Anglican Bishop, a Rabbi, an Evangelical Minister, an Imam, and a Catholic Bishop in the person of Bishop Oscar Cantú, Bishop of Las Cruces and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The objective of the Conference was to insist on and strengthen the moral argument against not only the use but also the possession of nuclear weapons. Arguing against the policy of deterrence, the Conference served to echo and further disseminate the Paper that the Holy See presented in Vienna and Pope Francis's strong stand for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The timing of the Conference was in anticipation of the then imminent Ninth Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which opened yesterday at the UN in New York and will continue until May 22.

The NPT is one of the best known and most adhered to Treaties, with Palestine being the 191st Party to it. The Holy See has been a Party to the NPT since the very beginning, not because it has nuclear weapons or has to be constrained from developing nuclear weapons capabilities, but to encourage nuclear possessing States to abolish their nuclear weapons, to dissuade non-nuclear possessing States from acquiring or developing nuclear capabilities, and to encourage international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The documents that the Holy See presented in Vienna advanced anew the moral argument against both the possession and the use of nuclear weapons, and aimed to sustain and advance the discussion along this line.

The Holy See considers it a moral and humanitarian imperative to advance the efforts towards the final objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It argues that disarmament treaties are not just legal obligations; they are also moral commitments based on trust between States, rooted in the trust that citizens place in their governments. If commitments to nuclear disarmament are not made in good faith and consequently result in breaches of trust, the proliferation of such weapons would be the logical corollary.

Despite some progress and much effort on the part of many, nuclear disarmament is currently in crisis. The institutions that are

supposed to move this process forward have been blocked for years. The central promise of the NPT has remained a dream. In fact, while the pre-NPT nuclear power countries not only have not disarmed but are also modernizing their nuclear arsenals, some pre-NPT non-nuclear countries have acquired or are in the process of acquiring nuclear arms capabilities. What is even more terrifying is the possibility that non-state actors, like terrorist and extremist organizations, could acquire nuclear weapons.

The possession of nuclear weapons and the reliance on nuclear deterrence have had a very negative impact on relations between and among States. National security often comes up in discussions on nuclear weapons. All States have the right to national security, but this principle must not be applied in a partial and discriminatory manner, for example, when one State affirms that it needs nuclear weapons for its national security, while at the same time affirming that another State cannot have them. It is urgent to revisit in a transparent and honest manner the definition made by States, especially the nuclear weapons states, of their national security.

Nuclear weapons cannot create for us a stable and secure world. Peace and international stability cannot be founded on mutually-assured destruction or on the threat of total destruction. The Holy See believes that peace cannot be reduced solely to maintaining a balance of power between enemies. On the contrary, as Pope Francis affirms in his letter to the President of the Vienna Conference, "Peace must be built on justice, socio-economic development, freedom, respect for human rights, the participation of all in public affairs and the building of trust between peoples."

In its argument against the possession and use of nuclear weapons, the Holy See also focuses attention on (1) the costs of the nuclear stalemate to the global common good; (2) the "illusions of security" inherent in the possession of nuclear arms; (3) the inequality at the root of the non-proliferation regime according to the NPT; and (4) the enormous toll that current nuclear policies take on the poor and on the world's priorities.

The United Nations will soon adopt the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals contained therein are daunting and require enormous means to implement. It would be naïve and myopic if we seek to assure world peace and security through nuclear weapons rather than through the eradication of extreme poverty, making healthcare and education accessible to all, and promoting peaceful institutions and societies through dialogue and solidarity.

For our own good and that of future generations, we have no reasonable and moral option other than the abolition of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are a global problem and they impact all countries and all peoples, including future generations. Moreover, ever-growing interdependence and

globalization demand that whatever response we may have against the threat of nuclear weapons must be collective and concerted, based on reciprocal trust.

Arguing for nuclear abolition from the moral perspective, the Holy See appeals to human consciences. As Paul VI affirmed in his 1965 Address to the United Nations General Assembly, "Today, as never before, in an era marked by such human progress, there is need for an appeal to the moral conscience of man. For the danger comes, not from progress, nor from science. The real danger comes from man himself, who has at his disposal ever more powerful instruments, which can be used for destruction as for the loftiest conquests."

No one could ever say that a world without nuclear weapons is easily achievable. It is not; it is extremely arduous; it is even a utopia for some. But there is no alternative than to work unceasingly towards its achievement. As President John F. Kennedy said in his Commencement Address at the American University on 10 June 1963, "The pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war—and frequently the words of the pursuers fall on deaf ears. But we have no more urgent task."

Let me conclude by reaffirming the conviction that Pope Francis expressed in his December 2014 message to the President of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons: "I am convinced that the desire for peace and fraternity planted deep in the human heart will bear fruit in concrete ways to ensure that nuclear weapons are banned once and for all, to the benefit of our common home."

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
STATES NAVY RESERVE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise and recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the United States Navy Reserve.

Following the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and Assistant Secretary and future President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated plans to formally launch a world-class naval reserve force necessary to protect the United States. On March 3, 1915, Congress passed legislation establishing the United States Naval Reserve, which is known today as the United States Navy Reserve.

The creation of the Navy Reserve harkens back to our Nation's tradition of Citizen Sailors protecting and defending the shores of the

United States, when residents of seaside towns along the New England coast engaged British warships in the Atlantic before the Continental Congress officially established the Continental Navy. The Navy Reserve has built on this proud tradition, and during the years following its original inception, the Navy Reserve grew tremendously.

The successful growth of the Navy Reserve proved to be crucial during World War II. Ten out of eleven sailors in the Navy during World War II were reservists, and, according to former Secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan, who served as the first Secretary of the Navy following the creation of the Department of Defense, the three and a half million Naval Reservists that served during World War II made possible the rapid expansion of our naval service into the largest the world has ever known. Navy Reservists were there from the very beginning of the war. In fact, Navy Reserve Sailors from Minnesota aboard the USS Ward fired the first shots by the United States against Japanese forces on the day of Pearl Harbor, destroying a Japanese mini-submarine. With the outbreak of the war, the reserves grew further, and in 1942, the Naval Aviation Cadet Program was created, African-American males were accepted for enlistment, and the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) program was created, which allowed women to volunteer for service within the Navy Reserves. By the end of World War II, 91,000 women were actively serving, and over its century of service, five Presidents—John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush—have served in the Navy Reserves.

The Navy Reserves continued to support the United States Navy through the Korean War, Cold War, the Berlin Crisis, Vietnam, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and our continued fight against terrorism. Since September 11, 2001, the Navy Reserve has completed more than 70,000 mobilizations in support of contingency operations around the world and continues to be a vital component of the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our Nation's history, Citizen Sailors and then Navy Reservists have protected the United States with honor, courage, and commitment. The millions of Americans who have served and the thousands who serve today are testaments to the patriotism and professionalism of the best Navy Reserve force the world has ever seen, and I am honored to recognize its Centennial Anniversary and thank the men and women of the Navy Reserve for their steadfast service and dedication to the cause of Freedom.