

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NAN MCEVOY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Nan McEvoy, who passed away on March 26, 2015 at her home in San Francisco at the age of 95. A trailblazer and tour-de-force in every aspect of her life, Mrs. McEvoy left a lasting impact on family, friends, colleagues, and community.

Mrs. McEvoy occupies, in particular, a special place in the hearts of Marin County residents. Along with serving as Chairwoman of the San Francisco Chronicle, a leader in several philanthropic causes, and a lifelong advocate for women's rights, Mrs. McEvoy also ran an olive farm near Petaluma. Originally intended as a getaway for her family to experience the beauty Northern California offers, McEvoy Ranch today produces high-quality oils and body care products for specialty stores across the nation.

While Mrs. McEvoy's time in Marin represents just a slice of her collective achievements, it's an apt metaphor for the remarkable life she led. When she first proposed the idea to grow olives, people told her that it wouldn't work—that she should use the land for cattle, perhaps. She ignored her critics, and moved forward with her original plan. Today, McEvoy Ranch now grows more than 18,000 trees and receives accolades from national media and local voices alike. In Mrs. McEvoy's way, though, her efforts have not just proven successful financially, but also for our community as a whole. The ranch uses certified organic farming practices, produces its own compost, and—as of 2009—meets half its electrical needs with an on-site windmill, the first privately-owned turbine of its size in the county.

Nan McEvoy was a leader in our community and a voice for the underserved. While her professional success was remarkable, it's her passion for life and compassion for others that will endure. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her son and grandchildren.

THE PASSING OF BARBARA LUMPKINS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, Barbara Lumpkins, a longtime champion for children with disabilities who spent many years as an activist for adoption for special needs children, passed away on May 24, 2015. In keeping with that deep commitment, she and her husband adopted four children into their family along with their two birth children. She was an active, consistent, positive, caring adult pres-

ence for children in the Irvington community since she and her family moved there in 1970. Her smile and her large heart will be greatly missed, but her presence will continue to be felt in the many people she supported and inspired over the years. Please join me in expressing sympathies and thanks to her family for this remarkable life.

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY COMMEMORATION

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate with Azerbaijanis around the world in the commemoration of Republic Day. On May 28, 1918, the people of Azerbaijan declared independence from Russia, becoming the first Muslim democratic secular country in the region. Although the country temporarily lost its independence due to Soviet aggression, it regained full independence in 1990.

Since regaining independence, Azerbaijan has been one of America's closest allies in the Middle East. Throughout Operation Enduring Freedom, Azerbaijan worked closely with our armed forces against radical Islamic terrorists in Afghanistan. Not only did Azerbaijani forces fight along-side our forces, but they also provided crucial refueling, landing, and airspace rights for our armed forces. Over a third of all non-lethal equipment for our troops in Afghanistan went through Azerbaijan. Our military co-operation with Azerbaijan was strengthened in 2011, and remains vital today.

Today we see the Middle East under attack. Terrorist groups with no regard for human life have torn the region apart. Now, more than ever, we see the tremendous importance for a close ally. We are extremely fortunate to have that ally in Azerbaijan.

I ask that my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Azerbaijan's independence and thanking them for their strong partnership.

HONORING OFFICER DAVID REED OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Officer David Reed of the Montgomery County Police Department for his heroic actions in saving the life of an infant.

Our police make it their job to protect our communities, a job that can require an officer to put their life on the line or to save somebody else's. On May 8, Officer Reed's work to protect and serve required split-second decision making, quick action, and extraordinary skill under pressure.

On duty in Silver Spring, Maryland, Officer Reed discovered a woman crying over her two-month old baby. The child had stopped breathing. Reed quickly assessed the situation and took action, giving the infant two-fingered CPR. After several chest compressions, the child began to breathe again.

Today, the baby is alive and back with her family, thanks to Officer Reed.

Reed is a hero in our state, and I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Officer Reed, not just for his work to save one life, but for his work to protect the lives of people in our state every day. Thank you, Officer Reed. Your service to our community will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S WASH- INGTON, D.C. VISIT

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge the two-day visit to the nation's capital by administrators, faculty and students of Northampton Community College (NCC), which has three campuses in northeastern Pennsylvania. Led by President Dr. Mark Erickson, the delegation toured the U.S. Capitol and other historical sites throughout the city, and incorporated lessons on the benefits of being involved in government and advocacy.

Just Born Quality Confections in Bethlehem—makers of the popular Peeps and other delicious candies that are made in my District—was the lead sponsor of their trip. Matt Pye, Vice President of Trade Relations & Corporate Affairs, hosted the group at the National Confectioners Association (NCA) to outline career opportunities and explain the association's advocacy agenda of NCA's member companies. Joining Dr. Erickson on the NCC trip were:

Students:
Andreola, Brandon—Liberal Arts, Political Science—Effort, PA
Barksdale, Khabira—Secondary Education—East Stroudsburg, PA
Berry, Stephen—Liberal Arts, Political Science—Kunkletown, PA
Cimera, Rachel—Secondary Education—Bethlehem, PA
Galarza, Jose—Biological Science—Easton, PA
Garcia-Caro, Elisabet—Liberal Arts, Political Science—Allentown, PA
Grifone, Patrick—Business Administration—Easton, PA
Joseph, Fitzgerald—Biological Science—Henryville, PA
Martinez, Brandy—Liberal Arts, Sociology—Blakeslee, PA
Maxwell, Emmanuel—Biological Science—Easton, PA

• 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.

Perez, Stephanie—Theatre—Bethlehem, PA
 Rahming, Rodney—Business Administration—East Stroudsburg, PA
 Reahl, Rachel—General Studies/Veterinary—Bethlehem, PA
 Rosengarten, Aaron—Liberal Arts, Political Science—Easton, PA
 Soltys, Adam—Web Development—Northampton, PA
 Staff:

Bohr, Deb—Director, Center for Civic and Community Engagement

Saturen, Myra—Writer/Editor
 Walz, Rebecca—Director, Alumni Engagement and Annual Fund

Whitaker, Helene—Vice President, Administrative Affairs

Alumni:
 Glick, Cindy—Northampton Community College Alumna 1992

I would like to commend schools at all levels that come to Washington, D.C. for a mix of education, history and advocacy. Civic education and citizen engagement are vital to our democracy, and I am delighted my staff and I were part of NCC's visit.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN ELIZARIO HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the San Elizario High School Eagles for their victory in the Texas Class 4A Boys State Soccer Championship. Hard work and dedication over the years led the Eagles to this victory and allowed them to finish out the season with eighteen wins, four losses and three ties. The journey started in 2009 and culminated on April 17, 2015, when the Eagles secured their win against the Liberty Hill Panthers with a 4 to 2 victory.

Eight years ago, the Eagles won sectional rounds, beating the state champs at Del Valle High School. The next year, they secured a district championship and Area title. Following a winning season, they earned three playoff trophies in 2013. With successes like these behind them, they went into this season with an unmatched drive to win. On that Friday in April, when the final score showed 4 to 2, the roar in the stands could be heard throughout the city. The wishes of good luck from citizens across San Elizario were received, and the Eagles delivered.

Our District expands from San Antonio to El Paso, and within its vast area lies San Elizario, home to 13,000. The city is beaming with pride for the team, the young men's family and friends, and their high school. For every member of the team, there were countless community members supporting them in the stands as they went on to win game after game in the playoffs, culminating with the raising of the trophy. In a city with a small population, the Eagles have created a lasting legacy that will not be forgotten.

The Eagles' level of excellence as a whole is a reflection of the individual players and their desire for success and dedication to hard work. Head Coach Max Sappenfield was able to lead the Eagles, and the young men dem-

onstrated to him and each other the kind of teamwork worthy of a state championship. This victory is a result not only from talent, but also from hours spent on the field, the strategic planning behind each game, and fine tuning the skills of each player. The Eagles' dedication and sacrifices have truly paid off, and is a source of pride for the entire city and the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. It is my honor to represent San Elizario High School, and I wish continued success to the team and each of its members in their future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTINA MILIAN

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and work of Christina Milian, a community activist and philanthropist from California's Inland Empire. As a local business owner, Christina Milian's dedication to her work and support of those around her in the San Bernardino and Rialto areas served as an inspiration to her friends, family, and neighbors.

While she was certainly an accomplished businesswoman, Christina Milian was most widely known for her selfless acts and devotion to local organizations. She was a philanthropist to the very core. Christina was an avid supporter and organizer for groups including Les Confrer Auxiliary, the Assistance League of San Bernardino, and the Inland Women Fighting Cancer.

While Christina is gone, her legacy and work will live on through the lives she touched. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. Christina will be dearly missed by her husband of thirty-five years, Arthur T. Milian; two sons Michael and Jonathan, grandchildren Isaiah, Ava and Caleb; her mother Juanita, her siblings Ray, Maryann, and Carol; as well as the entire San Bernardino County community.

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARSONS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 85th anniversary of Parsons & Associates, Inc. of Syracuse, New York. Established in 1930, Parsons & Associates, Inc. has grown to become a third generation family business, insuring Syracuse's businesses and families.

The company was founded by John C. Parsons upon his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. The business began as a life insurance agency and now offers a complete range of insurance options.

I'm proud to recognize Parsons & Associates, Inc. for the long standing success of their business in the 24th District. Parsons & Associates, Inc. epitomizes the strength and character of local, family-owned businesses across Central New York.

HONORING GLENN D. STEELE JR.,
 MD, PhD

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Glenn D. Steele Jr., MD, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Geisinger Health System, an integrated health services organization in central and northeastern Pennsylvania nationally recognized for its innovative use of the electronic health records and the development and implementation of innovative care models.

Geisinger Health System, founded in 1915 by Abigail Geisinger, has grown to be one of the nation's largest rural health services organizations serving more than 3 million residents throughout 48 counties in central, south-central and northeast Pennsylvania.

When Dr. Glenn Steele began his tenure in 2001 as Geisinger Health System's CEO, there were just over 7,000 employees, including 540 physicians. Under his leadership Geisinger has grown tremendously. It is now comprised of approximately 23,500 employees, including a 1,200-member multi-specialty group practice, nine hospital campuses, two research centers and a 467,000-member health plan, all of which leverage an estimated \$7.7 billion positive impact on the Pennsylvania economy.

The health system and the health plan have repeatedly garnered national accolades for integration, quality and service. In addition to fulfilling its patient care mission, Geisinger has a long-standing commitment to medical education, research and community service.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I am pleased to recognize Dr. Glenn Steele for improving the quality of life for citizens through his leadership and contributions to health care innovation.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MRS. SHIRLEY A. HALBEISEN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Mrs. Shirley A. Halbeisen. Mrs. Halbeisen was highly regarded in her community for her volunteerism at the Hayes Research Library, her dedication to her beauty salon, and most of all the love she possessed for her family and friends.

Mrs. Halbeisen was born in Riley Township in Sandusky County in 1928. She was a proud graduate of Clyde High School and attended Tiffin University in 1945, where she was trained in Civilian Employment for the Air Technical Service Command nearing the end of World War II. Following her training she worked for American Airlines in New York City until she returned to her home in Ohio. After successfully graduating from Fremont Beauty School, she opened her own business, Shirl-Lon Coiffures in Lindsay.

She married her dear husband, Bernard Henry Halbeisen, on September 27, 1947. In their fifty-five joyous years of marriage they

had five children. Mrs. Halbeisen frequently volunteered at the Hayes Research Library where she worked as a genealogist for many years. Her dedication and volunteerism were always commended by her neighbors and friends.

Shirley's love for her friends and family, dedication to her work and education, and commitment to the Hayes Research Library, all highlight a few of the qualities we all love and will miss most. She is survived by her five children Rynda, Veda, Renee, Brock, and Cana; her brother Tomas; her twelve grandchildren; and her ten great-grandchildren. Shirley was a beloved part of our community, and she will be deeply missed.

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTIAN R.
LONG

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Christian R. Long.

Unfortunately, but fittingly, Mr. Long passed away over the Memorial Day weekend, our solemn holiday for remembrance and recognition of the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Mr. Long saw front-line service in Europe with the 44th Infantry Division during World War II. Raised in Lebanon County, which is home to many people of Pennsylvania German (Dutch) ancestry, Mr. Long was also assigned as a German-language interpreter. What could be more Pennsylvanian?

After the war, he was determined to learn a trade. He worked as a carpenter for over 40 years building and renovating homes and other properties for Carlos Adams in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Long, who was known as "Christ" (pronounced "Krist"), was a lifetime member of The American Legion. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, and trapping. His carpentry skills and love of the outdoors enabled him and his sons to buy land and build a hunting cabin, primarily using recycled building materials, in Sullivan County, Pennsylvania. He also built his own home, as well as constructed and renovated residences, decks and boat docks for his children.

Born on March 12, 1924 in Harpers, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Christian Adam Long, Sr. and Mary Hoover Long. He grew up in Lawn, Pennsylvania. Mr. Long was a devoted father and husband; he and Pearl Weaver Long of Palmyra were married April 27, 1947 and she preceded him in death on January 14, 1995. They reared their family in Campbelltown, Pennsylvania. He is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and five great step grandchildren.

Ronald Reagan aptly recognized in his first inaugural address that, "Those who say that we're in a time when there are not heroes, they just don't know where to look." Mr. Long was one of those everyday heroes who made our country the great nation it is today.

STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 1, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1335) to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise today deeply disappointed that the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization before us does not follow in its long-held tradition of thoughtful bipartisanship.

The bill before us would roll back protections our citizens enjoy under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the Antiquities Act. This bill would remove requirements that prevent overfishing, thereby preventing us from enjoying the benefits of healthy fisheries. We cannot simply wish for more fish in the ocean, we must create the conditions that make it possible.

Magnuson should promote innovation and responsible flexibility, while ensuring we have the resources to obtain the best data possible to make informed decisions about one of our most precious economic and food resources—our fisheries.

This is the kind of flexibility my bill, the Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act, would provide. My bill would create two new spots for Rhode Island on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Rhode Island lands more Mid-Atlantic-regulated species than any other state in the Mid-Atlantic region besides New Jersey. Our circumstance parallels that of Florida and North Carolina, which each have voting membership on two different fishery management councils.

The decisions of the Mid-Atlantic Council directly affect the success of Rhode Island's fishing industry and the ability of our fishermen to maintain their businesses, and they deserve a say in how those resources are managed.

We all believe that Magnuson can be improved. The last Magnuson reauthorization was a bipartisan and widely supported bill. I am sorry to say that this bill does not follow the same path, and it is not a bill I can support.

I look forward to working with Mr. GRIJALVA and my Republican colleagues on a bipartisan product which includes provisions our fishermen need and support, like H.R. 2541, the Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act.

HONORING MSGT. JERIS DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor a public servant in the field of law enforcement, MSgt. Jeris Davis. Mr. Davis is from Shaw, MS.

There are many capacities in which one can be a public servant, each one requiring certain talent and passion for the position. Environment plays a big role in preparing people for their destiny. MSgt. Davis' family and home environment was that of a middle class working family. His father, Warren Davis, worked at Dixie Tobacco and Candy Company in Shaw for over 40 years. His mother, Ruth Davis had two jobs: she was employed with the Shaw Sewing Factory and Lewis Grocery Warehouse in Indianola for over 30 years.

MSgt. Davis had influence all around him: His grandmother, Mattie Davis; aunts: Judy Freeman and Mildred Johnson; and several of his uncles, all were important role models. Warren Davis, his father, and his uncle, Frank Freeman, were members of the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department. At the age of 12, while still in elementary school, they would take him to the fire department with them on weekends, which was his reward for good grades and good behavior. Those visits to the fire department, watching his dad and uncle, and community men work around the fire, created a desire in him to do the same.

MSgt. Davis continued this for years, volunteering to clean the equipment, listening to the firemen talk, learning how to operate the equipment, and developing the skills of a fireman. In fact, many people actually thought he was a fireman for the city, because he would be at all the fires (e.g., spraying water, pulling down equipment, always asking the firemen to let him go into the fire and rescue someone). Those opportunities fueled his desire, even more, to help and serve the public, especially in Shaw.

MSgt. Davis graduated from Shaw High School and went on to join many organizations and clubs that focused on some role of public service. Through this he was able to develop more skills and leadership ability, all the time preparing him for a career in public service.

MSgt. Davis held down two jobs, and eventually, became a member of the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department and a dispatcher for the Shaw Police Department. From there in 1992 he became an equipment operator for the Mississippi State Highway Department, while continuing his role as a member of the fire department. The year 1998 was the beginning of MSgt. Davis' career as a professional in law enforcement. His resume of experience and accomplishments include:

1998 Year: Completion of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy, 1998 Year: Police Officer, City of Shaw Police Department, 1992 Year: Highway Officer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), 2000 Year: MDOT Honor Guard Officer representing Fallen Law Enforcement Officers in Washington, DC, 2001 Year: Completion of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Training Academy, 2003 Year: Completion of the Mississippi Highway Patrol Cadet School, 2009 Year: US Marshal Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Taskforce, Oxford, MS, created by Congress, and 2013 Year: Completion of the Mississippi Certified Investigators Program, Pearl, MS.

MSgt. Davis has recently been promoted to Master Sergeant within the Mississippi Highway Patrol. In this capacity he is assigned to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation as an investigator. MSgt. Davis is often assigned to special assignments because of the various

trainings and acquired knowledge of expertise. Some of those assignments are: narcotic investigations, high level fugitive investigations and searches, and special homicide cases.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring MSgt. Jeris Davis for his dedication and service as a public servant in the field of law enforcement. I am proud to have him as a resident of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special occasion for the Borough of Chatham, New Jersey. Located in Morris County, the Borough is celebrating the 300th Anniversary of its establishment.

Prior to the first colonial settlers arriving in the area in 1680, the Lenni-Lenape Indians helped create trails that would eventually lead Europeans to the area in 1680. In 1715, a land transaction gave 1,200 acres to John Budd, a Philadelphia merchant who would farm the land. Just six years later, that same merchant owned all of the land of what today is the Borough of Chatham.

In 1773, the name Chatham was given to the village in honor of William Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham. During the Revolutionary War, Chatham played an instrumental role in the success of the Colonists. Not only did Chatham and surrounding towns help stop further westward British advancement, but it was also used to fool the enemy. General Washington constructed a full-scale base of operations including brick ovens large enough to appear to be able to bake 3,000 loaves of bread to feed the troops.

What is seen as the most important event in Chatham's history occurred on September 14, 1837. This is when the first steam train of the Morris & Essex Railroad Company arrived in the Borough. This event improved both commerce and travel time to all towns along the line.

On March 1, 1897, Chatham became the first New Jersey village to become incorporated as a borough. The improvements of electric lights, water and sewage plants, installation of gas lines, and even the beautification efforts can be attributed to the first council of the Borough and its first Mayor, Frederick H. Lum. The Borough has continued to grow and flourish.

In 2005, Chatham was named "One of the Top Ten Places to Live in the United States" by Money Magazine. Chatham's rich history and patriotic residents make Chatham Borough an extraordinary community in our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chatham for its 300 year Anniversary of its establishment, and wish the Borough and its residents many more years of continued success and celebration.

HONORING THE TEXAS COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Texas County Memorial Hospital in Houston, Missouri.

Texas County has reported 29 tornados since 1950, five in the last eight years. With this, the Texas County Memorial Hospital saw great need for a way to protect citizens during severe weather, and a great opportunity with their hospital. From there, in 2013, the idea of a community safe room was born. After securing state and federal grants, as well as donations from community members, and just over a year and a half of construction, the project is complete and ready for use.

The safe room has 4,000 square feet of climate-controlled space that is designed to withstand 250 mile per hour winds and provide shelter for up to 462 people. The safe room will be great for the Houston area in times of emergency. Additionally, the safe room can be utilized as a meeting space during non-threatening weather times, which provides an even greater asset to the Houston community.

For the many years of service to others and commitment to future safety, it is my pleasure to recognize the Texas County Memorial Hospital of Houston before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING CDR KERWIN E. MILLER, USN (RET.)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to a changing era in the District of Columbia. Tonight, at the Columbia Heights Education Campus, CDR Kerwin E. Miller, USNR, Ret., Chair of our District of Columbia Service Academy Selection Board, conducts his last Service Academy College ceremony as Chair for recognition of new appointees to the Service Academies and recruitment of District of Columbia high school students for future years. After 10 distinguished years of service as Chair, CDR Miller passes his baton to David P. Gragan, our current Vice Chair.

CDR Miller, a graduate of U.S. Naval Academy Class of '75, joined the Service Academy Selection Board under my predecessor, Walter Fauntroy, in 1986. He has served during my congressional service since 1991 as a board member, as Vice-Chair, and since 2005, as chairman.

In those 10 years, CDR Miller has directed his formidable energies toward District of Columbia students, encouraging them to join him on the road leading to the inestimable opportunities afforded by an appointment to one of the five Service Academies of United States.

During his service, CDR Miller has been an inspirational figure and a highly effective chair. Not long ago, for example, there were years in which few, if any, students from the D.C. public schools applied for the nominations. As always, we were pleased and proud to have our

private and parochial school students. Tonight, D.C. will feast on a more diverse harvest of CDR Miller's leadership as he and I present certificates of appointment to the U.S. Military, U.S. Naval, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Air Force academies to nine D.C. students. Four of our appointees attended D.C. public schools and one attended a D.C. public charter school.

When CDR Miller becomes Chairman Emeritus of our Selection Board, he will not "retire." In continued devotion to the Academies and to recruitment of the finest to serve, he will remain on our Service Academy Selection Board, and, in addition, he will work with the academies on an effort to increase Academy nominations from Congressional Black Caucus member districts. He will join with Academy graduates like Pat Locke, the first African-American woman to graduate from West Point, to help advise CBC members concerning recruitment of their constituents to take advantage of the educational and career opportunities offered by the Service Academies.

The District of Columbia is very fortunate that CDR Miller has not worked alone. He achieved his success in collaboration with the hard work of the other members of our Selection Board, David P. Gragan, USAFA '77, Vice Chair, Timothy M. Ash, USAFA '00, Lewis D. Baker, USMA '91, Capt Holly D. Childs, USAFR, USAFA '06, Lt Col Patrick Clowney, USAF (Ret), USAFA '94, O.V. Johnson, Daniel J. Keenaghan, USMA '00, George R. Keys, USAFA '70, Past Chairman, Mr. Charles B. King, III, USMA '94, Riaz K. Latifullah USMMA '78, Laila Linares, USMMA '06, Merita Carter, Pierpont Mobley, Ofc. James N. Rimensnyder, DCMP, USMA '05, Prof. Barbara J. Smith, Joel C. Spangenberg, USNA '00, Michael B. Velasquez, USNA '89, and Harry Wingo, USNA '88.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service of CDR Kerwin E. Miller, in congratulating David Gragan on becoming Chair, and in thanking the members of our D.C. Service Academy Selection Board for their dedication and service to the District of Columbia, to the U.S. Service Academies and to the nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. EARL J. MORRIS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Earl J. Morris, of Owingsville, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Mr. Morris, a part of the greatest generation, served our nation in the United States Army.

Mr. Morris left the comforts of home and family on November 6, 1944 for Camp Shanks, New York. He then boarded a ship and left for the European Theater of Operations. He served in Belgium, France, Holland, and Germany. His unit first engaged the Germans on Christmas Eve of 1944 in Biren, Belgium. During the fighting in Europe, he and his fellow soldiers endured below zero temperatures, terrible snowstorms, hunger, fatigue, and heavy enemy fire. He fought in the Battle

of the Bulge in Belgium. In the Alsace Lorraine Sector of France, his unit fired across the Rhine into Germany and kicked the last Germans out of France. His 898th Division was awarded the French Coat of Arms for the Battle of the Colmar, one of the highest awards bestowed by France. After fighting in Holland, the 898th Division entered Germany, crossed the Rhine, and continued heavy fighting until the end of the war. His unit then began policing duty in Germany as the war ended in Europe.

The bravery of Mr. Morris and his fellow men and women of the United States Army is heroic. Because of the courage of individuals from Owingsville and from all across our great nation, our freedoms have been saved for our generation and for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a patriot, and a hero to us all.

HONORING REVEREND REGINALD BUCKLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Pastor Reginald Buckley, who says that faith is about more than just Sunday morning worship—it seeps into daily life, economics and education.

Pastor Reginald Buckley, was born and raised in Jackson, where his father pastored at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, which held its first worship service in 1880. “It has historically and continues to have an eye toward social empowerment,” he says.

Following his graduation from Lanier High School in 1990, he went to Tougaloo College and received a bachelor's degree in English. He attended graduate school at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and earned a master of arts degree in English literature in 1996.

For nine years, Buckley served as senior pastor of Second Baptist Church in Danville, Ill. While there, he also became president of the Illiana Christian Association and helped create relationships between congregations across Illinois and Indiana of different racial backgrounds.

In 2007, he brought all his experiences back home to Jackson and Cade Chapel, where he became executive pastor. And with those experiences, he brought a plan. “My vision is that we really begin to affirm the dignity of all humanity, that we value all of Jackson and that value is demonstrated in how we treat and provide for all,” Pastor Buckley says. “Class is not what colors us, and we are all bound together in this experience we call humanity.” His forward thinking afforded him the position of Dean of Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, and gave him opportunities to preach and teach across the nation.

Pastor Buckley, a Kellogg Foundation fellow, wants to help people in practical and tangible ways; the most recent product being Cade Courtyard, an apartment complex for seniors in the Virden Addition community. The church has more plans for development in the area that include single-family housing and mixed-retail developments.

Along with his wife, Lecretia Buckley, he has two children: Jonathan and Anna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Reginald Buckley for his dedication to serving others.

HONORING ROBERT OLIVIERI, PAST PRESIDENT OF PSAR

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Olivieri, the outgoing President of the Pacific Southwest Association of REALTORS, for his outstanding leadership in the South Bay region of San Diego County.

Robert Olivieri was born in Providence, Rhode Island and has been a resident of Chula Vista and Bonita for the past 30 years. Robert graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in Engineering and went on to earn an MBA in Finance from the University of Phoenix. Robert holds a California Real Estate Broker's License, a California Insurance Broker's License, a Series 7 Securities License, and has been in the real estate business for over 29 years.

Robert has been an active broker and manager for several real estate offices in South San Diego County. Robert served the Pacific Southwest Association of REALTORS (PSAR) as their 2014 President. During his tenure, he focused on membership recruitment and retention, while also providing useful resources for members' professional and personal growth. Robert has also served PSAR on their Board of Directors, as a California Association of REALTORS State Director, and as a member of the Community Involvement Committee and the Merger Steering Committee. Robert has been ranked by real estate tracking agencies as one of the top house selling agents and in the top 7% of agents who sell homes for top dollar.

Robert and his wife, Marcia, are very involved in their community and help support Bonita Vista High School and Corpus Christi Parish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Votes # 264, 265, 266 and 267, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call # 264. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call # 265. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call # 266. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call # 267. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT: HANDGUN TRIGGER SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce today with Sen. ED MARKEY the Handgun Trigger Safety Act—critical legislation to prevent accidental gun deaths. Based on legislation first proposed by my friend and former colleague Rep. John Tierney, I am humbled to continue this important effort to advance life-saving technology.

Personalized “smart gun” technology allows gun owners to designate authorized users who can operate the firearm while rendering it inoperable for all others. This technology prevents use by criminals who steal handguns as well as unintentional use by children.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 591 Americans died from a firearm accident in 2011, including 74 children under 15 years old. The Personalized Handgun Safety Act would promote the adoption of technology we know can prevent these tragedies.

The Handgun Trigger Safety Act would mandate that within five years all newly manufactured handguns use personalized technology and within ten years all handguns sold or transferred are retrofitted with personalized “smart gun” technology. In addition, the bill would also provide for grants through the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to continue to develop and improve handgun personalization technology to simultaneously increase efficacy and decrease cost.

These new measures will make great strides in preventing accidental gun deaths by helping keep guns out of the wrong hands.

I hope my colleagues will join me to support this important effort.

HONORING MR. ESSIE FROST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young leader in his school who has raised the bar for students coming behind him, Mr. Essie Frost from Charleston High School in Tallahatchie County.

Charleston High School operates under the authority of the East Tallahatchie School District. The school district is a small one like many throughout my district. Nonetheless, and somehow they are able to make acceptable things happen despite having limited resources, which brings me to the reason why I want to recognize this young man. Ms. Melissa Faulkner, his teacher, has mentored, taught, and watched him grow to the point where he always made good decisions throughout high school, but in his senior year, he rose to a new height. That's commendable as a young person.

We all have the ability to make a positive difference in life. Essie took the optimistic approach to helping his small school. He set

goals; he wanted the class of 2015 to leave a memorable existence. So, he became Class President to lead them to that goal. He was skilled in getting the students to follow his vision and set goals to be achieved as a whole. He often volunteered on community school projects, getting his fellow classmates to join. He told them that it's not only good for the school, but they will be known as the class who gave back, plus they can use it on their college application for community service. Essie led the charge to make their class prom what they envisioned and dreamed, saying they are responsible for making it happen, the school doesn't have a lot of money and prom is a privilege not a right. No one ever knew he had been raising the money for years on his own to go towards his prom. That is amazing for a young person to set a goal that far in advance, stick to it, and carry it out. I called that great resilience. According to his teacher, Ms. Faulkner and I quote, "This senior class has more than doubled what his previous class had managed to raise, all thanks to Essie's determination, dedication, and careful planning."

In addition to that, Essie crafted a plan to increase enrollment in the National Honor Society membership representation of the students at Charleston High School. His plan helped to increase enrollment from eighteen students, when he started, to now, thirty-six. The class goal was forty, they are almost there. Now that's setting the bar again for the next class. I am proud to have Mr. Essie Frost as a citizen of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Essie Frost, Class of 2015, Charleston High School, Charleston, MS, for his current active role as a student making a difference. Keep the faith. Keep progressing Essie.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINCOLN PARK EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SQUADRON

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lincoln Park Emergency Medical Services as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. I also want to thank all of the men and women who have given so much to their community through their work on the EMS Squad.

Since May of 1965, the EMS Squadron in The Borough of Lincoln Park, New Jersey, has served their community faithfully and has always answered the call to duty.

Their job is not an easy one in any sense of the word. They are at their best when situations are at their worst. Squad members are state-certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), and they help those who are most in need of medical attention, no matter how big or small the issue. Not only is the work they do remarkable, but what is even more astonishing is the fact that these heroes are all volunteers.

Their task is difficult enough having to take care of one patient at a time. But it becomes

especially daunting when considering Lincoln Park Borough's population is over 10,000, and continues to grow every year. It takes dedicated men and women to go above and beyond the call of duty to serve a community of that size, and there is nobody more capable than those individuals in the Lincoln Park EMS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing the amazing men and women of the Lincoln Park Emergency Medical Services Squadron.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the following votes on H.R. 1335 due to inclement weather: Roll Call 264: NAY, Roll Call 265: NAY, Roll Call 266: NAY, Roll Call 267: YEA.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL BLACK DATA PROCESSING ASSOCIATES (BDPA)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the National Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) on its 40th anniversary of service to the residents of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Founded in May 1975 by Earl Pace and the late David Wimberly, BDPA was formed out of a concern shared by both men that minorities were not adequately represented in the information technology industry. The first BDPA chapter was organized in Philadelphia, PA in 1977. A year later, the second chapter was organized in Washington, D.C., and shortly thereafter, the third chapter was organized in Cleveland, OH. In 1979, BDPA was restructured as a national organization, and has 45 active chapters across the United States.

As the oldest and largest African American information technology (IT) organization, comprised of over 2,000 African-American IT professionals, as well as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) college students, BDPA's vision is to be a powerful advocate for their interests within the global technology industry. Its mission is to be a global, member-focused technology organization that delivers programs and services for the professional wellbeing of its members.

BDPA continues to promote professional growth and technical development for young people and those entering into information and communication technology (ICT) in academia and corporate America. We also appreciate BDPA and its 45 chapters for continuing to provide ICT opportunities for STEM students and professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Black Data Processing

Associates, in congratulating BDPA for its outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the residents of the District of Columbia and around the country, and in welcoming those attending the BDPA Annual National Technology Conference and Career Fair, titled "Evolution of IT—Embracing the Digital Future," on August 18–22, 2015, at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

HONORING GREENHILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church Greenhill Missionary Baptist of Marks, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under, Rev. Alvis Pryor, Jr.

Greenhill M. B. Church was organized in 1909. The original building was a small one room wood frame building located across Highway #6 between the towns of Belen and Marks, MS in the county of Quitman. This building was destroyed by a storm.

A man by the name of Jessie D. Andrews heard about the loss of the church and sold them two (2) acres of land for the sum of One Dollar. The land was deeded to Sam Jones, Pleas Thomas and John Henry, who were Deacons and Trustees of the church. This land was sold with the understanding that it was to be used for church purposes or burial grounds or both and should it cease to be used for the before mentioned purposes, the land would be reverted to Jessie D. Andrews.

After acquiring the new land (present site) with only a few members remaining, another single room wood frame building was constructed. The new church was built by Alexander Gates, George James, David M. Gates, Epsie Morgan, Sr. and other men within the community. The church was built through donations made by church members and others under the leadership of the first pastor, Rev. M. O. Jude.

During the 106 years of Greenhill's history there have been a total of 11 pastors; some with short tenures and some with long tenures. Some made a great impact on the church and community and others kept the church moving forward.

Under the leadership of Rev. C. J. Carson, (5th) pastor an annex was added which included, pastor's study, kitchen/dining room, deacon's/secretary room and bathrooms.

Rev. Luster C. Tyler served as the (8th) pastor. During his tenure the church was again remodeled. He served a total of 25 years the longest serving pastor so far. He was often referred to as "the Mississippi Hooper".

In 2007, Rev. Curlye Relliford was elected as (10th) pastor. Even though his tenure was less than two years the annex was torn down and rebuilt into a beautiful modern structure.

Greenhill has always served as a beaconing light in its rural community setting. The church takes pride in ministering to the whole person. Special attention is given to the needs of the youth, aged, and underprivileged. Considering the fact that Greenhill is a small church we are proud of the fact that traditionally many of its

members have gone to college and became public school teachers. Presently about 50% of the members are less than 21 years old. So with God the future of Greenhill is bright.

Rev. Alvis Pryor, Jr. was elected as eleventh pastor of Greenhill M. B. Church in May 2009. Under his leadership, the church has continued to grow spiritually due to the continuation of weekly prayer meetings, Bible Study, Sunday School and the visitation of the sick and shut-in. Pastor Pryor has been very instrumental in the growth of this church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and some of his most notable accomplishments are: Instituting a plan to liquidate the mortgage on the church, the beautiful church sign (which was purchased by the first family), additional Sunday school teachers and assistants have been added, he is responsible for instituting an Annual Youth and Youth Coordinators Retreat in July, annual fellowship dinners sponsored by first family, fifteen passenger van and hired a full time musician.

Unfortunately, when there's life; death too will come. Throughout the past 106 years, as you can imagine, there's been many warriors to make the transition of life. As history reveals, Greenhill has steered through an array of obstacles. Whether great or mediocre, God's word continues to prevail. So today, they are humbly thankful for 106 years of existence and service unto the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Greenhill Missionary Baptist Church for its dedication for serving our great people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of the death of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call #264—NO, Roll Call #265—NO, Roll Call #266—NAY, Roll Call #267—AYE.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF D&L FLORIST

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of D&L Florist in Houston, Missouri.

Since opening its doors in 1990, D&L Florist has been serving the Houston, Plato, and Licking communities, bringing smiles to the faces of area residents in times of sadness and in times of celebration.

As a family owned and operated business for 25 years, D&L Florist appreciates the importance of customer service and connection to the community. The service, products, and community spirit of Sheri and her team make D&L Florist such a special part of our area.

For the many years of service and commitment to serving others, it is my pleasure to recognize D&L Florist of Houston before the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 267, 266, 265, and 264, I missed votes due to severe weather in Washington, DC, causing my flight to be diverted to Norfolk, Virginia.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on 267 and no on 266, 265, and 264.

CELEBRATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Pequannock as it celebrates its 275th Anniversary.

On March 24, 1740, Pequannock was proclaimed one of three townships in colonial Pequannock County. At this time, Pequannock was one of the largest municipalities in the region. Though it is celebrating 275 years of existence, Pequannock's history extends as far back as the 1600s when European settlers first arrived to the region. Deriving its name from the Lenni Lenape word 'Paquettahhuake,' meaning "cleared land ready or being readied for cultivation," Pequannock Township has embraced the notion of growth and prosperity. The township is home to more than 15,000 people and was ranked among the top fifteen places to live in New Jersey in 2013.

Pequannock boasts a rich history and played a key role during the Revolutionary War. Both Comte de Rochambeau and George Washington utilized the town to house troops during the war. Pequannock is also home to the Mandeville Inn, which was built in 1788 and owned by former Vice President Garret Hobart. Even after the Revolutionary War, the township played an important role in American history. During the Civil War, Pequannock functioned as a stop along the Underground Railroad. Many runaway slaves stopped at the Giles Mandeville House in their pursuit of freedom.

Today, Pequannock Township is an ideal place to raise a family. Home to three elementary schools, one middle school, and its own high school, the township understands the importance of education for all of its students. Students living in Pequannock learn from wonderful educators and have the ability to take advantage of many extracurricular activities. For example, students attending the Pequannock Valley School presented 'Mulan Jr.,' a play based on the Disney-hit Mulan.

In addition to its superb educational programs, Pequannock Township offers many recreational facilities that people of all ages may enjoy. Boasting three parks, including a dog park, members of the Pequannock community have the opportunity to enjoy a leisure stroll or bike-ride. One can also enjoy Woodland Lake, where boating and fishing is commonplace. Pequannock further takes pride in the Pequannock Township Women's Golf

League, where over 150 women participate in golf outings throughout the year.

To celebrate 275 years of prosperity and cultivation, Pequannock Township plans on hosting several different events. On May 25th, Pequannock will hold a parade commending and honoring American veterans and their contributions to America's success. This parade will feature an additional float devoted to the township's anniversary, and a presentation created by the Pequannock Township Historic Commission honoring American veterans. In addition to the parade, Pequannock will host a street fair, "hoe-down" and an open house at Pequannock Valley Park. These events will occur throughout the summer season and will assuredly make the 275th Anniversary one to remember.

I commend the people of Pequannock Township for their dedication to ensuring that their township remains a wonderful home. Pequannock continues to serve as a model community and will undoubtedly continue to flourish for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Township of Pequannock as it celebrates its 275th Anniversary.

HONORING ST. MATTHEW M. B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Matthew M. B. Church of Jackson, Mississippi.

In 1900, Rev. Jack Hill called a group of people together for the purpose of worshipping God. It was in a brush harbor located at Trips Crossing (the intersection of Northside Drive and North State Street) there a band of baptized believers decided to follow Rev. Jack Hill. This was the beginning of St. Matthew M. B. Church.

Rev. Hill led some spiritual followers that had been responsible for the survival and progression of St. Matthew. History is not clear of the number of years that early leaders were with the growing Christian followers.

The church was later moved to Terry's Place (the present location of Watkin's Elementary School) under the leadership of Rev. Johnnie Harris. At this site, Rev. W. L. Jordon took the reign of leadership and completed the construction of the newly relocated building.

Terry's place was on 16th section school land and had to move. The congregation was faced with finding a new location for church service. With God's blessings and determination the congregation began searching again.

Approximately in 1927 or 1928, Rev. J. D. Hayden became pastor of St. Matthew and purchased deeds for the present location. It was the hope of the members that this would be a permanent place. Rev. Hayden accepted a calling from another church and was succeeded by Rev. W. M. Creshon. Under Rev. Creshon's sixteen years of service the Church was rebuilt and rapidly became one of the most progressive black churches in the City of Jackson.

During the late 1940's, St. Matthew M. B. Church served as part of the New Hope Public

School. This elementary school gave many children an opportunity to get an education. Rev. Creshon was proud of the church and school's progress. In 1947, Rev. Creshon's health failed and he resigned his position as a pastor.

Rev. Sylvester Thomas, a young and inspiring minister, was asked to lead the flock. Under his strong hand guided by God, the church was remodeled and a blueprint was drawn to rebuild the present structure. Rev. Thomas served for sixteen years and the congregation grew spiritually. Then Rev. Thomas went to his heavenly home.

Rev. Wroten McQuirter, the assistant minister, accepted the position as a full-time pastor. St. Matthew continued to grow and Rev. McQuirter worked with the members to erect the present facility we now worship in each Sunday. St. Matthew M. B. Church stands as a beacon in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing St. Matthew M. B. Church.

COMMEMORATING CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Caribbean American Heritage Month, which celebrates and recognizes the significant contributions made by Caribbean Americans that have strengthened our country and made it better.

This month also marks the 53rd anniversaries of independence for the Caribbean nations of Jamaica and of Trinidad and Tobago.

Although a half century has passed since they gained their independence, the struggle they waged to win their freedom still stands as a testament to the ideals of our own great nation.

I am privileged to represent a large segment of Houston, Texas, which is home to more than 300,000 Americans of Caribbean heritage, making it one of the largest, most diverse, and vibrant Caribbean-American communities in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Americans of Caribbean heritage have made a positive impact on virtually every aspect of American life, including the arts, science, business, education, athletics, military, and government.

For example, in the area of government and public affairs America has benefitted from the contributions of Colin Powell, a former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice; former Members of Congress Mervyn Dymally of California, and Shirley Chisholm of New York, and current Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE of New York; and Kamala Harris, the Attorney General of California.

Caribbean Americans have enriched American art and culture with the legendary performances of Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Cicely Tyson, Nia Long, and Cuba Gooding, Jr.; the writings of authors W.E.B. DuBois and Malcolm Gladwell; the music of Beyonce Knowles, Lenny Kravitz, Rihanna, and Wyclef Jean; and the prowess of great athletes like Carl Lewis, Tim Duncan, Patrick Ewing, Sandra Richards-Ross, and Ndamukong Suh.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that this Saturday, June 6, the city of Houston will be hosting the 5th annual Caribbean American Heritage Month Festival, which celebrates the rich culture of the Caribbean with a showcase of beautiful costumes, music, food, and enjoyment for all.

I also wish to recognize the leadership of the Caribbean American Heritage Foundation of Texas, which works to assist Texas Caribbean Organizations achieve their goals and to advocate on behalf of the peoples of Caribbean descent.

I congratulate the Caribbean American Heritage Foundation of Texas, the Caribbean Heritage Organization in my home city of Houston, and the many community organizations and volunteers across the nation for their efforts in making Caribbean American Heritage Month the success that it is.

During this month I hope all Americans will join with me in celebrating the remarkable history, culture, and contributions of Caribbean Americans to our nation's past and future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 1, 2015, I was absent from the House to attend my daughter Kaila's 6th grade graduation from Waimalu Elementary School in Hawaii. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 264, Roll Call 265, and Roll Call 266. On Roll Call 267, and final passage of H.R. 1335, I would have voted "no".

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MO-SCI CORPORATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th anniversary of Mo-Sci Corporation headquartered in Rolla, Missouri. Since 1985, Mo-Sci has been at the forefront of innovation in the glass and ceramic products industry. They are also celebrating the grand opening of their new 22,000 sq. ft. facility, Mo-Sci Precision Materials.

Mo-Sci was founded by Dr. Delbert Day in order to supply glass and ceramic products for niche market applications. Their founding product was TheraSphere, a glass microsphere component that no other company would manufacture and is used to treat inoperable liver cancer. Starting with only one engineer at a rented desk in a university lab, Mo-Sci has since grown into one of the most successful small glass businesses in existence today and serves more than 2,000 customers with exports to over 50 countries.

For their continuous development of new and innovative products, as well as their recent expansion, it is my pleasure to recognize

the 30th anniversary of Mo-Sci and their achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. CLARENCE EWELL MAZE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero, a part of the greatest generation, Mr. Clarence Ewell Maze, of Owingsville, Kentucky. He is to be commended for his distinguished military service during World War II. Mr. Maze served our nation in the United States Army.

Mr. Maze, like many other brave young Americans, left the comforts of home and family and answered the call for duty with the United States military. His service took him to the European Theater of Operations. He fought the German Army in Belgium, France, and Germany. He and his fellow soldiers endured harsh weather conditions, fatigue, hunger, and dangerous enemy fire as they ultimately defeated the Germans. He spent time at the end of the war in Munich, Germany.

Following his service in World War II, Mr. Maze returned home to Bath County. He started his own business, a garage and body shop. For Mr. Maze, this was a fulfillment of the American dream. He has been married to Bernice since 1946. He has a daughter Regina and a late son Ricky. Mr. Maze has been a faithful attendee at Polkville First Church of God ever since returning from the war.

Mr. Maze is a true patriot, a good family man, and a servant of the Lord. Because of his courage and the courage of other brave young people from Owingsville and from all across our great nation, our freedoms have been saved for our generation and for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a brave patriot, and a hero to us all.

HONORING OLD ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical house of worship, Old Antioch Baptist Church in Sumner, Mississippi.

Old Antioch Baptist Church has been in existence since 1904 in Sumner, Mississippi. The congregation today still consists of many of the founder's children and grandchildren. In earlier years church services were held only on the second Sunday of each month and had a large congregation, primarily because of the vast Black population around the Sumner community. It was one of the only places they had to worship. Today the membership consists of 60 members, three deacons and two trustees. In 1979 a part of the Old West District School building was added to the Old Antioch Church which added five Sunday school classrooms, a baptismal pool, a kitchen and three bathrooms. In 1991, the Old Antioch

church was bricked under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Hawkins.

The church activities consist of: Sunday School, Annual Men & Women's Day Programs every second Sunday in October, Family & Friends Day and Mother's Day Programs in May, Black History Observance in February, Church Anniversary in July, Sunrise services on Easter Sunday, Christmas concert and Thanksgiving programs. All services are held to benefit members of the congregation who may have a need as well as the surrounding communities.

Worship service has changed to every second and fourth Sunday. Old Antioch Baptist Church has had 21 ministers to serve as pastors. Currently Rev. Lorenzo K. Robinson, who is a native of Bolivar County is pastor, ministry of music and Sunday school teacher and trainer of future Sunday school teachers. He has been the pastor for the last 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing house of Worship, which has been instrumental in meeting spiritual needs.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF GARRETT FITZGERALD

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important and respected member of the Chicago community.

Mr. Garrett FitzGerald passed away May 9th 2015 at the all too young age of 49 after his battle with brain cancer.

Since 2006, Garrett FitzGerald was the Executive Director of the North Center Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, he increased membership from 23 to nearly 400. He loved his neighborhood and set out to make it better for its residents and all of its visitors. He was the driving force expanding the chamber's programming such as the concert series and movies in the square. Thanks to his hard work and passion, what was once a simple street festival, Ribfest has become the second biggest festival in Chicago.

He was known for his ability to connect with others. His selflessness was the source of his boundless energy. It was not uncommon to see him making food to give away to concert goers at festivals.

Garrett's top priority was always his family, and the love and support they provided him was the most important thing in his life. He will be missed most by his wonderful wife, Alicia; his daughter, Bridget; his parents, Kathleen and Thomas FitzGerald; his sister, Meghan Wiegold; and his many aunts and uncles.

Mr. Speaker, May God bless the FitzGerald family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his friends, his community, and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding my absence from votes which occurred on June 1, 2015. My flight was delayed for three hours at Charlotte due to inclement weather at Reagan National Airport causing me to miss votes.

Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Dingell Amendment to H.R. 1335—No
Lowenthal Amendment H.R. 1335—No
Democrat Motion to Recommit H.R. 1335—No

Passage of H.R. 1335—Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act—Aye

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 2015, I was unavoidably detained during a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on the following Roll Call votes: #264, on passage of the Dingell Amendment, #265, on passage of the Lowenthal Amendment, and #266, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions. I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call #267 for final passage of H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act.

HONORING THOMAS SURDYKE

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

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

In order to receive this award, Thomas completed several steps and a service project exemplifying patriotism and his commitment to serve others. Thomas erected a new flag pole by the football field at St. Pius X High School where he played as a student. In addition to earning his Eagle Scout award, Thomas achieved Order of the Arrow Brotherhood, and received the Parvuli Dei and Ad Altere Dei religious emblems. He was senior patrol leader and librarian during his time in Troop 484. He also served as chaplain's aide on a ten day trek at Philmont Scout Ranch Adventure Base.

As a scout, he has learned about service and leadership which were influential in his decision to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to prepare for a career serving as an officer in the United States Army. Thomas is a role model for young and old alike, and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING CYNTHIA T. LEE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and ambitious citizen with a desire to pursue justice for others, Cynthia T. Lee.

Cynthia T. Lee is a native of Raymond, MS. Her parent, Ms. Sonja Wilson Lee and the late grandparents, Annie Mae and Sam Wilson are very proud of her accomplishments. After graduating from Raymond High School in 2006, she attended Jackson State University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

While in college, Cynthia developed a passion for social justice-oriented work and decided to further her education at the University of Alabama, where she received a Masters of Social Work degree in May 2012. In the fall of 2012 Cynthia began her matriculation at the University of Mississippi School of Law. Currently, as a third-year law student she has demonstrated her capacity and competence as a leader by serving as the student coordinator for the Pro Bono Initiative and the President of the Public Interest.

Ms. Lee's Law Foundation is admirable. She was the recipient of the University of Mississippi's Pro Bono Initiative Service Award, as well as the Adams and Reese Pro Bono Award. In addition, she also serves as a dedicated member of the Trial Advocacy Board, the Law Association for Women, and Black Law Students Association. As a proud member of BLSA, she has served as the 2013–2014 Community Service Committee co-chair and currently serves as the 2014–2015 Black History and Social Action Committee co-chair. Her dedication to service and academics has resulted in her receiving the BLSA Member of the year and the BLSA 2 L Scholarship award. Cynthia is truly thankful to God, her mom, aunts, uncles, family and friends for their continued support of her academic advancement and services to others.

After law school, Cynthia plans to sit for the Mississippi Bar, and pursue a career dedicated to Social Justice with a specific emphasis in Criminal Justice Reform.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 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 \$18,152,851,678,150.27. We've added \$7,525,974,629,237.19 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.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PASSAIC COUNTY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mental Health Association in Passaic County as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

The beginnings of the Association go back to 1909, when Clifford Beers founded the Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene, which would later become the National Mental Health Association.

In 1976, the Passaic County Community Companion Program was started by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey. This program was dedicated to helping individuals returning to their communities from state mental health hospitals. Volunteers were trained to work with individuals with mental illness one-on-one to ensure a successful return home.

Three years later, the plans to create a Mental Health Association Chapter in Passaic County began. By this time, the Passaic County Community Companion Program had helped 75 Passaic County residents.

At its annual meeting, the Mental Health Association in New Jersey voted full chapter status to the Mental Health Association in Passaic County. The Association offered the Community Companions and Family Companions programs, a self-esteem program for former patients and families of those with mental illness; a self-esteem program for grade-school children; the Mental Health Players; services to the homeless with mental illness, and a referral and information service. All of these services were and still are free of charge, thanks to over 100 Passaic County residents who volunteer their time to the MHAPC so they can help their neighbors in need.

As time went on, the Program's services continued to grow. In 1987, the Crossover Program began, helping young adults with mental illness. In 1997 the Peer Outreach Support Team (POST) was created to help consumers with mental illness provide support to those living in supportive housing. Most recently, the Arab-American Community Services Partnership was created in 2005, with a goal of forging cooperative efforts to address mental health services that are needed and to increase cultural understanding.

Through all of the Association's fantastic work, it is no surprise that in 2003 the Consumer Parent Support Network program received the honor of Best Practice Program for the Prevention of Neglect and Abuse for the Northern Region of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mental Health Association in Passaic County as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

THE ACCURACY IN MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Accuracy in Medicare Physician Payment Act, legislation that will provide the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with important tools that will strengthen primary care in this country.

For too long, Medicare has relied upon a flawed process to set payment rates for services on the physician fee schedule. Since 1991, CMS has outsourced the process of valuing physician services to the Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC), a secretive 31-member panel of doctors. The RUC's composition is shaped by the American Medical Association, and specialty societies are grossly overrepresented in its membership. As a private entity, the RUC is exempt from transparency laws, and the justifications for the committee's recommendations are opaque.

The RUC is extremely influential. From 1994 to 2010, CMS accepted approximately 90 percent of the committee's recommendations, and—although that rate has declined in recent years—the RUC continues to exert tremendous power over Medicare. This has far reaching implications for the entire American healthcare system, as Medicare's rates strongly influence the reimbursement rates of private insurers.

Meanwhile, our country faces a growing crisis in its primary care workforce. The Health Resources and Services Administration estimates that there will be a nationwide shortage of over 20,000 primary care doctors by 2020. Primary care providers—particularly those who practice in low-income and rural areas—are compensated at much lower rates than specialists. Recent medical graduates, who on average are saddled with about \$170,000 in educational debt, are steered away from lower-paying work in primary care toward lucrative specialties. This leaves millions of Americans without access to the care they need, threatening their health security and ultimately driving up healthcare costs for the entire country.

By distorting payment rates in favor of specialty services, the RUC has had a direct role in creating this crisis. Calls to reform its processes are growing. A recent report by the Government Accountability Office has called into question the accuracy of the RUC's recommendations due to weaknesses in its data collection methods and conflicts of interest by its members.

The Accuracy in Medicare Physician Payment Act will reform this flawed system. It will give CMS the tools it needs to ensure that payment rates serve the needs of the American people, not the needs of highly-compensated specialists. This legislation will establish an independent panel of experts within CMS that will identify distortions in payment rates and help Medicare develop evidenced-based updates to the fee schedule. Its processes will be highly transparent and it will be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires advisory bodies to hold open meetings and publish minutes. If necessary, CMS may still seek input from the

RUC, but all recommendations would be carefully scrutinized by the expert panel.

This legislation will ensure that the process of setting physician payment rates is subject to rigorous oversight, independent analysis by experts, and meaningful transparency. It will put an end to a flawed process that has contributed to a healthcare system that drives thousands of young doctors away from where they are needed most.

HONORING JOE DOWLING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GUTHRIE THEATER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Joe Dowling, who is retiring in June from the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota after serving 20 distinguished years as Artistic Director. During Mr. Dowling's impressive tenure, he has directed more than 50 shows and reinforced the foundation for this world-class Minnesota cultural cornerstone.

Mr. Dowling joined the Guthrie as Artistic Director in 1995, bringing his ceaseless creativity and tireless dedication to the arts after leading other theater companies in his native Ireland. Among Mr. Dowling's many achievements is the development of training programs like the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program and A Guthrie Experience for Actors in Training. He also solidified a partnership with The Acting Company of New York and created the WorldStage Series, two programs that allow local talent to tour the U.S. and in turn welcomes internationally renowned theater programs to Minnesota. He has also shared his vision and talents on Broadway and at other prominent venues throughout the United States and Europe.

Perhaps Mr. Dowling's deepest legacy is the success of a \$125 million capital campaign and construction of a new theater home which was completed in 2006. Designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, the theater is an architectural gem. At 285,000 square feet, the new Guthrie includes public gathering spaces and restaurants, and a 178-foot "endless bridge" that highlights a spectacular, soaring view of the mighty Mississippi River. The heart of the new Guthrie are three unique theaters offering special performance spaces and viewing perspectives. The Dowling Studio in particular is an intimate 200 person black box theater that has welcomed 33 local acting companies and stands as a testament to its namesake's commitment to developing and showcasing the Twin Cities arts community.

In a metropolitan area that boasts more theater seats per capita than anywhere else in the U.S. outside of New York, Minnesotans take great pride in our thriving, high quality performing arts community. Experiencing a performance at the Guthrie is a particular joy, and I attend shows there whenever I can. I am clearly not alone, because under Dowling's leadership, the Guthrie entertains, enriches and enlightens 400,000 patrons each year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise to honor Mr. Dowling and his many contributions to the rich cultural landscape in Minnesota as the

Guthrie Theater as Artistic Director as well and his lifetime of commitment to the arts.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR AND SUSSEX COUNTY FARM AND HORSE SHOW

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in the recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Fair and Sussex County Farm & Horse Show. Drawing in roughly under a quarter million attendees annually in recent years, this event reflects upon a rich heritage and culture of which we should all be very proud.

From what began over 75 years ago as a small town horse and farm show, the fair has blossomed into the famous state event we appreciate and enjoy today across the entire Tri-State area. Since 1999, the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show has been incorporated into the New Jersey State Fair, and it remains an integral piece of its history.

Since their inclusion into the New Jersey State Fair, these Fairgrounds have provided a welcome home for a wide variety of events as well as a place for learning and tourism. This year's fair will extend over a period of 10 days and include a multitude of enjoyable attractions, expositions, and performances, including a carnival, circus, and even a demolition derby. Aside from these attractions, the fair serves as a promotion for the importance of local agriculture and showcases some of the beauty that characterizes the Garden State. In an effort to do this, a vegetable show, the Flower & Garden Expo, and livestock shows have all been included in the fair's itinerary. Always looking to provide an opportunity for local vendors, the fair will also allocate showcases for the best produce and livestock from our local farmers. Learning and culture will also be major aspects of the event, and attractions such as an Art expo, talent completion, and a robotics display shall offer attendees an exciting and informative perspective on some of the best New Jersey has to offer.

Held annually in Augusta, New Jersey, the New Jersey State Fair has grown to include a permanent complex of 15 buildings stretching over an impressive 165 acres. The fair's popularity has increased steadily since its inception and this is a testament to its continued success. It will have been 75 years since the local Sussex horse and farm shows merged to form the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show in an effort to increase public appreciation for agriculture in New Jersey. Since then, the once tiny event has surpassed all expectations; becoming the premier agricultural fair in the Garden State. Today, we honor that achievement and all the experiences yet to be had today and in years to come.

I commend the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show Association for their continued commitment to providing such a rich educational and enjoyable experience for the people of New Jersey and the wider Tri-State area. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New

Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary.

HONORING CADET COL GREGORY WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Cadet COL Gregory Wilson, a senior at Murrah High School, is the Jackson Public Schools JROTC Cadet of the Year for 2015.

While maintaining a 3.8 grade point average, Cadet Wilson has held several key leadership positions in the Battalion throughout his high school tenure. Cadet Wilson is a proud member of the National Honor Society and National Junior Classical League. He recently attended the American Legion Boys State where he was elected state treasurer.

Cadet Wilson has also been actively involved in a variety of community service projects including Stewpot Summer Enrichment and Stop Hunger Now. Currently, he serves as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the "Mustang" Battalion. Cadet Wilson has been accepted to several colleges including the prestigious University of Mississippi Honors College. After graduating from Murrah with honors, Cadet Wilson will attend the University of Mississippi. He plans to attend medical school at an Army residency program. His vision is to become a pathologist for the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet COL Gregory Wilson.

IN SUPPORT OF "LGBT PRIDE MONTH AND HOUSTON PRIDE WEEK"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBT Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 17 years since the cruel murder of Matthew Shepherd, a college student from Laramie, Wyoming.

As a country, America has made and continues to make great progress in the area of social equality, as evidenced most dramatically by the seismic shift in public support for marriage equality over the past decade.

Today, supporters of marriage equality dramatically outnumber opponents by 61%–35%; a near total reversal from 2004, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58–39 percent.

Our country made progress in bringing our LGBT brothers and sisters, mother and fathers out of the shadows with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support.

Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better.

In April 2015, President Obama issued a landmark Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against LGBT persons in the workplace.

This civil rights victory ensures the tax dollars used to pay government contractors support contractors that are committed to equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of sexual orientation.

This legislation marks a major shift from a time when the U.S. Civil Service Commission prohibited the hiring of LGBT persons to a time when the Secretary of Defense has selected an openly gay man as his chief of staff.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 46th anniversary of the LGBT Civil Rights Movement, where activists such as Frank Kameny led the struggle for the voices of the LGBT community to be heard.

Frank Kameny's courageous demonstrations inspired others to resist mistreatment and we witnessed in 1969 what happens when a community says enough is enough.

Our country has made progress since the Stonewall uprising of 1969, and with the support of equal rights for all communities by leaders such as President Barack Obama, more and more voices are being heard.

Mr. Speaker, although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law, it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week later this month, from June 21–28, 2015.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBT community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent.

The Houston LGBT community is culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 36 years, since 1979, and promotes the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBT community.

The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly recognized and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Texas natives such as Sheryl Swoopes, a 3-time WNBA Most Valuable Player and champion for the Houston Comets, Houston Mayor Annise Parker.

These leaders have set an example of what can happen when we lift the limits of inequality and support our fellow Americans in their pursuits of their inalienable rights.

Other members of the LGBT community whose contributions have enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Mandy Carter, 2008 national co-chair of Obama Pride

and lifelong activist; Billy Strayhorn, the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; Tom Waddell, army medical doctor and Olympic athlete; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination to make America a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

HONORING BRIGETTA K. TURNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Brigetta K. Turner, who is a 1982 graduate of Tougaloo College and obtained her Doctorate of Dental Surgery Degree from Meharry Medical College. She presently practices dentistry on Tougaloo's campus in the Owens Health and Wellness Center and has been in private practice for over 25 years.

She loves playing the piano and shares her gift at Mt. Nebo M. B. Church. She loves Tougaloo and is ready to help bring Tougaloo to the world. Dr. Turner is a life member of TCNAA, a 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee. She is also the Secretary of the Mississippi Dental Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Brigetta K. Turner for her dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF REVEREND GUY S. MCKENZIE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Reverend Guy S. McKenzie of Owingsville, Kentucky, for his distinguished military service during World War II. Reverend McKenzie served our nation in uniform from 1943 to 1946.

Reverend McKenzie spent his early years in farming. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Shortly after enlisting, he began a three year tour in the South Pacific.

Not long after his deployment, Reverend McKenzie was assigned to the USS *Houston*. While the ship was traveling from Pearl Harbor to Formosa, now known as Taiwan, the ship came under heavy fire from the Japanese. It was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, cutting an immense gash in the side of her hull. As the ship was sinking, Reverend McKenzie thought about his life and wondered if these were his final moments on earth. He jumped in the water, began to pray, and promised the Lord that he would serve him for the rest of his life if he would be spared. After floating for some time in the ocean, the USS *Lofberg* came along and rescued McKenzie and the remaining survivors.

Reverend McKenzie spent the rest of his tour of duty aboard the USS *Lofberg*. He was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1946 with the rank of First Seaman and returned home to his family. Two years after his return, he kept his promise and gave his life to the Lord.

Ten years later, he began preaching. Reverend McKenzie retired after 26 years of pastoring. Because of his love, compassion, and caring service, he impacted many lives. Reverend McKenzie has been married to Joyce for 70 years. They have six children, eleven grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, and two great, great grandchildren. Reverend McKenzie is to be commended for his brave service to his country, his strong passion for the Lord, and his loyal life as a family man.

Reverend McKenzie's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform secured our freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wal-Mart Distribution Center located in St. James, Missouri, for being named the Wal-Mart Distribution Center of the Year for 2014. This prestigious award is not easily attained as it recognizes just one out of all the Wal-Mart distribution centers in the United States.

In order to receive this award, the employees of the distribution center in St. James distinguished themselves through their hard work, dedication, and by setting an example for others to follow. I am very proud of their service to the community of Phelps County and the surrounding area.

Their work ethic is truly admirable and it is my pleasure to recognize their achievements before the House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT: GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to reintroduce legislation to finally permit the use of federal funds for long overdue research on firearm safety and gun violence.

For too long, Congress has failed to address the public health crisis caused by gun violence. On average, there are 32,000 deaths and 76,000 injuries from gun violence each year in the United States. Gun deaths now outpace traffic fatalities in our country. It is time to address the epidemic of gun violence and prevent future incidents. Public health research will help identify effective solutions we can implement in order to save lives.

The bill I introduce today, with companion legislation introduced by Sen. ED MARKEY,

would authorize \$10 million in annual funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through Fiscal Year 2021. This funding will allow the CDC to implement the research agenda outlined in a 2013 report issued by the Institutes of Medicine that identified areas in need of study to better understand the underlying causes of gun violence and develop strategies for prevention.

Federal funding for gun violence research halted in the mid-1990s. As a result, policymakers and community leaders lack the authoritative public health research they need to address the horrifying persistence of gun violence. We have more gun-related deaths than any other developed country, yet we lack comprehensive, scientific information about the causes and characteristics of gun violence.

This public health crisis cannot be ignored any longer, and I'm proud to introduce this legislation that addresses the epidemic of gun violence and identifies the best strategies to prevent future incidents.

HONORING SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER D. BOOKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran, Sergeant Christopher Dewayne Booker. Christopher has shown what can be done through ambition, tenacity and a desire to serve others.

Sergeant Christopher D. Booker a resident of Cary, MS was born April 23, 1971, to Gloria and Willie Booker. He graduated in 1990 from Rolling Fork High School.

In September 1989 Christopher enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He was mobilized for Desert Storm in December 1990 until May 1991. In November of 2005 to February of 2006 Sergeant Booker's unit was activated to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He retired from the MS National Guard in September 2015 after serving over twenty-five years.

Christopher worked for Sharkey County as a machine operator for 10 years. Currently, he works for the Town of Cary, MS as a Water and Sewer Operator.

Sergeant Booker is a member of E. P. Baptist Church in Rolling Fork, Mississippi since 1985. He is thoroughly involved in the community. He organized the Annual Community Clean-up for Maiden Addition, a small community in Cary, MS; serves as a volunteer coach for both the Cary Little League Softball and Baseball teams and is a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Cary. Christopher is an avid hunter and is the President of the New Fittler Hunting Club, a third degree freemason and a member of the Faith Outreach Men Bible Study at Mt. Zion M. B. Church.

Christopher has earned several certifications. He received his certification for Army Traffic Safety, Combat Lifesaver, Water Treatment Specialist Phase I, Homeland Security Training and Parent Applicant Training.

He is the proud father of three children, Herman D. Scott, Christopher D. Booker and Gloria K. Booker. He has one grandson, Brayden Adams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Christopher D. Booker

for his passion and dedication to serving our great Country, his community and desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

**ERIC LI NAMED PRUDENTIAL
NATIONAL HONOREE**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eric Li for being named one of ten national honorees for the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Eric's dedication to community service started at a young age when he spearheaded a school-wide relief effort following a deadly earthquake in Sichuan, China. He and his sisters also founded a nonprofit organization called We Care Act. The organization helps children around the world recover from major natural disasters. Currently, he is teaching his peers at Pearland Junior High West to refurbish computers that will be sent to orphanages in third world countries.

At such a young age, Eric has already impacted so many children around the world. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District, thank you for your commitment to philanthropy and congratulations on this remarkable achievement.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH
ALEXANDER SCOTT, JR.**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Joseph Alexander Scott, Jr. The City of San Antonio and the Great State of Texas lost a community leader, civic activist, job creator, and friend with the passing of this great man.

Born on January 31, 1928 in Dallas, Joe Scott spent his life in service to those around him. From his service as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in the Korean War to his fourteen years as a teacher in Edgewood ISD and his unmatched record as a leader in his Eastside community, Joe Scott truly embodied the concept of service above self.

Mr. Scott earned a bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University, a Master's degree from Our Lady of the Lake University, and attended St. Mary's University Law School.

Mr. Scott was first and foremost a family man. He was the first African-American licensed insurance agent in San Antonio and founded World Technical Services, Inc. (WTS) to provide jobs for people with severe disabilities and those who are unable to find employment due to past substance abuse or incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the legacy of Joseph Alexander Scott, Jr. He was my dear friend. I will miss his friendship and the City of San Antonio will miss his leadership, but his legacy will live on and he will be forever remembered.

**LUTHERAN SOUTH ACADEMY
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the baseball and softball teams at Lutheran South Academy for winning the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 4A state championships.

The road to success was not easy, but both teams persevered and brought home two state trophies. Lutheran South Pioneer baseball team finished the season with an 8-game winning streak that was capped off with a victory at the TAPPS 4A state tournament. The Lady Pioneer softball team completed their successful season with a shutout victory at the state championship. Each of these young athletes and their coaches has put in the time and the effort to become state champions. I am excited to see what these young athletes achieve throughout their time on the diamond. It's time for Lutheran South to expand their trophy case.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations on this outstanding victory. Thank you for bringing the gold back home.

**IN HONOR OF CHRIS NORTON, LU-
THER COLLEGE CLASS OF 2015
AND SPINAL CORD INJURY AD-
VOCATE**

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Norton, an advocate for those recovering from spinal cord injuries and a graduate of Luther College, Class of 2015 in Decorah, Iowa.

During his freshman football season, Chris sustained a serious injury that left him paralyzed from the neck down. In the aftermath of his injury, doctors informed Chris he had a 3% chance of ever walking again. This exceptional young man, after years of physical therapy and rehabilitation, overcame those odds and walked across the stage at his graduation this past weekend.

Moved to action by people with similar injuries he met during his rehabilitation, Chris, his family, and his friends started the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) CAN Foundation. This foundation is committed to increasing access to quality therapy options for those with spinal cord injuries. Recently, SCI CAN donated \$60,000 to Des Moines University, bringing the total donations of the Foundation to nearly \$375,000 to assist in spinal cord injury recovery.

I applaud Chris' important work with SCI CAN, his message of hope and healing, and wish him well as he continues to recover from his injury. I firmly believe Chris is both an inspirational figure and asset to his community. I wish Chris and his family the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

I encourage everyone to learn more about the SCI CAN Foundation by visiting their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheSciCanProject.

STAFFORD TRACK AND FIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Stafford Track and Field Team for earning the Class 4A second-place team state championship trophy.

Despite immense adversity during the final moments of the competition, the Stafford Team competed and brought home the silver. This win reflects the entire team's dedication to the sport, including outstanding efforts by Lynette Amaran and the young men of the 400 meter relay who both brought home gold medals. We are extremely proud of each individual on the team and the coaching efforts of Mr. Sergio Hinojosa.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the entire team in representing Stafford High School in the State Track and Field Championship.

**HOW TO PREVENT THE FALL OF
BAGHDAD**

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, Islamic State (ISIS) is a massive threat to America's national interests and to human decency. Each day brings more news of ISIS advances, terrorist attacks, military gains and horrible atrocities. And each day the Administration continues to deny its policies are failing.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that ISIS can indeed be stopped if it heeds the thoughtful recommendations which Kevin Carroll detailed in his May 27, 2015 Wall Street Journal OP/ED ("How to Prevent the Fall of Baghdad").

Mr. Carroll speaks with authority and first-hand knowledge. He served as a U.S. Army officer in Iraq and Afghanistan and as a CIA case officer in a Middle East war zone. Also, I had the benefit of having Kevin Carroll serve as Senior Counsel when I chaired the House Homeland Security Committee in 2011–2012. I found his advice to be invaluable. I urge the Administration to follow his advice today. I am proud to submit Kevin Carroll's article and urge all members to read and give thoughtful consideration to his proposals.

ISLAMIC STATE IS LIKELY TO USE THE TACTICS THAT WORKED IN RAMADI. THE U.S. CAN DO MUCH TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME

Islamic State, also known as ISIS, has seized control of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province just 70 highway miles from Baghdad. Fallujah, located between, is already a terror stronghold.

There is little doubt that ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi plans to capture the city whose name he bears. A man who declared himself a caliph, Baghdadi knows his home was the seat of the Abbasid caliphate, founded in the eighth century to which ISIS would like to return.

It would be a mistake for the Obama administration to continue to underestimate ISIS as the junior varsity. ISIS demonstrated operational capability recently, attacking in opposite directions to occupy both Ramadi and Palmyra, deep inside Syria.

Its Ramadi assault mixed terrorism with conventional tactics. At least 30 huge truck bombs, some reportedly as large as the one used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, obliterated the city's defenses, and ISIS forces poured through the breach. A similar attack could be in store for Baghdad. It is assumed that ISIS operatives are in the capital's Sunni enclaves, with more en route disguised as refugees.

The fall of Baghdad to ISIS would harm American strategic interests as the fall of Saigon did in 1975. The blow to U.S. credibility and the enhancement of ISIS's prestige, of its black flag rising over an evacuated U.S. Embassy, would be incalculable. To prevent this outcome, President Obama should consider taking the following actions.

Use strategic air power. America's unrivaled air forces can hit ISIS from anywhere: neighboring countries, the sea and the continental U.S. Yet the sorties flown so far have been minimal, and damage inflicted still less, even as ISIS held a parade in broad daylight in Rutba, Iraq, last week.

That is the kind of target our aviators dream of. Rules of engagement need to be loosened, U.S. air controllers sent to the front to call in strikes, and more combat aircraft put into the fight.

Launch ruthless special operations. Recent raids into Syria were daring and skillful. But a handful of missions do not resemble the operations led by U.S. Army Gens. Stanley McChrystal and Michael Flynn in 2006-07 that eventually broke the back of ISIS's predecessor, al Qaeda in Iraq, and drove it abroad.

At that campaign's height, commandos conducted multiple missions every night. They analyzed intelligence collected on one "objective" to find and fix targets they finished on successive raids. The rhythm, persistence and sheer number of those operations crushed the enemy. Emulate them now, starting near Baghdad.

Capture and interrogate ISIS leaders. Much of the intelligence exploited on those missions came from documents and electronics found in terrorist safe houses. But the best came from interrogations, some conducted on the battlefield as the smoke cleared.

Interrogators acted within the bounds of decency against evil men who deserved no quarter. Yet neither were military and CIA personnel constrained by the rules of evidence and criminal procedure, because their goal wasn't a courtroom conviction, but the location of the next high-value target. A robust program of capturing and roughly interrogating terrorists abroad should resume, first focused on the whereabouts of ISIS operatives in and around Baghdad.

There is also a role for police work. ISIS has devotees in all 50 U.S. states; hundreds of Americans traveled abroad to fight for them, and some number have returned. The FBI and state and local law enforcement should make aggressive use of antiterror statutes to question—and perhaps flip into informants—suspects who may be in contact with terror leaders with details of ISIS plans regarding Baghdad. Congress should reauthorize the National Security Agency's signals intelligence programs identifying such communications between Americans and known terrorists abroad.

Send ground combat forces. Despite U.S. efforts to restrain them, the Iraqi army is now unable or unwilling to stand and fight ISIS alone. Its commanders have shamefully thrown down their weapons, discarded their uniforms, and abandoned their men and posts when ISIS threatens. The Iraqi army needs a backbone transplant.

U.S. airborne units can arrive quickly to secure Baghdad's airport and the long and

vital road from the city to that airfield. More Marines can better defend the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Americans can stiffen Iraqi lines around the city, and provide artillery and engineer units needed in urban combat. U.S. cavalry units can launch what imperial Britain called "punitive expeditions" to destroy ISIS lairs further afield.

The arrival of thousands more American fighting men will improve the Iraqi army's performance. It was no accident that the Sunni Awakening and U.S. surge succeeded at the same time in 2006-07. As U.S. troops poured in, Sunni sheiks cast their lot with what Bing West memorialized as the "The Strongest Tribe" in his book of the same name.

There are natural advantages to defending Baghdad, which the Iraqis can exploit if steered by U.S. troops. To seize the capital, ISIS's lines of communication would expand, a logistical challenge that would leave them more vulnerable to counterattack. The Iraqi army's lines of communication would helpfully contract.

The Tigris River is a significant obstacle, and a defensible one. Urban combat favors prepared defenders. And Baghdad is a dense city, its population having swelled to more than seven million, crammed into a place the size of Baltimore or Boston.

Most important, the predominantly Shiite Iraqi army would be fighting to protect its brethren, unlike previous battles in mostly Sunni cities where they broke and ran.

This fight is winnable. But if the administration whistles past the graveyard and insists its policy is working even as ISIS nears Baghdad and our diplomats there, the White House may face a debacle that makes Benghazi seem minor in comparison.

KECHI OKWUCHI'S ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Kechi Okwuchi, for her recent graduation from St. Thomas University in Houston.

Over the past ten years, Kechi has had to overcome many hardships. On December 10, 2005 Kechi was the only survivor of a horrific plane crash at Port Harcourt International Airport in Nigeria where her plane made a crash landing nearly 70 meters off of the runway. The crash claimed the lives of all of the other passengers on board including 108 of Kechi's classmates and friends. After receiving medical treatment in South Africa, Kechi moved to Pearland to receive medical treatment at Shriners' Hospital for Children in Galveston. At her May 16th Commencement Ceremony, Kechi was selected to give a speech before crossing the stage and receiving her degree. She has met and conquered many obstacles on her way to receiving her diploma. Her positive outlook throughout it all is truly an inspiration.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kechi for graduating from St. Thomas University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, and 260. If present, I would have voted "no" on roll call 253, "yea" on roll call 254, "yea" on roll call 255, "yea" on roll call 256, "yea" on roll call 257, "no" on roll call 258, and "no" on roll call 260.

SABLATURA MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sablatura Middle School Student Council on receiving the National Association of Elementary School Principals' Student Council Excellence Award for the 2014-2015 school year.

This prestigious award recognizes the outstanding efforts and hard work of students striving towards leadership, citizenship, community service, and campus spirit. This is the fourth year that the Association has awarded Sablatura's student council excellence. We appreciate the dedication that the faculty sponsors make to developing young leaders in Pearland, Texas and look forward to seeing what these students achieve in the future.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Sablatura Middle School Student Council for this remarkable achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, June 1, 2015.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 264, "yea" on roll call vote 265, and "yea" on roll call vote 266.

Finally, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 267 in opposition to H.R. 1335, the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act.

JAELYNN WALLS GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jaelynn Walls, for earning the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award, the most prestigious Girl Scout honor.

Jaelynn is a tenth-grader at Carnegie Vanguard High School. She earned the award for her diligent work and dedication to spread her "No Texts, No Wrecks" campaign. Jaelynn recruited more than 15 volunteers to accompany her to driving schools in her community to stress the importance of not texting and driving. She also collected more than 400 pledges from young drivers who promised to not text and drive. Jaelynn has been a member of the San Jacinto Council for 13 years and previously earned the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards. What an accomplished young woman.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jaelynn Walls for receiving the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award.

IN HONOR OF BRYAN KECK,
SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING
BEE PARTICIPANT FROM DU-
BUQUE, IOWA

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent from my district, Bryan Keck from Dubuque, Iowa, on his participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Bryan, a seventh grader at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School in Dubuque, Iowa, won the Telegraph Herald Media Regional Spelling Bee last March to earn a spot in the national bee. Last week, he and his family traveled to National Harbor, Maryland where 285 spellers from across the United States competed during Bee Week 2015 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

In the preliminary round, Bryan correctly spelled "omnivorous"—an adjective meaning "of an animal or person feeding on food of both plant and animal origin." He also correctly spelled "rhizophorid"—a noun that classifies certain types of beetles.

In his free time, Bryan enjoys, giving back to his community through the Boy Scouts, going bowling, playing Minecraft, and reading crime novels. He hopes to one day become a federal prosecutor.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations, c-o-n-g-r-a-t-u-l-a-t-i-o-n-s, congratulations to Bryan on his participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW MURRAY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Murray for winning Top Male Individual at the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

Matthew, a junior at Dawson High School in Pearland, was among almost 250 competitors from around Texas. Each competitor was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike and 3 mile run. Matthew's win speaks to his dedication to the sport and im-

mense athletic ability. This was his second year in a row to win Top Male Individual. He has made his family, coaches and community proud. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Matthew for his back-to-back wins of Top Male Individual at this year's Triathlon Championships.

HONORING WHEELING PUBLIC
WORKS DIRECTOR ANTHONY
STAVROS

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions of Wheeling Public Works Director Anthony Stavros. Mr. Stavros is retiring next month and leaves behind a reputation of strong dedication and commitment to the people of Wheeling, Illinois.

Throughout his career, Mr. Stavros served the Village of Wheeling in various roles and capacities in the Public Works Department. As Director, he oversaw multiple divisions managing parks, infrastructure, and flood and snow operations, all of which are vital to the well-being and safety of the community. A number of his successful projects were recognized by the American Public Works Association including his work on the Cornell Avenue Dam Rehabilitation.

Mr. Stavros leaves a lasting legacy through his integrity, leadership, and commitment to the improvement and maintenance of the Wheeling community. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to express my gratitude to Mr. Anthony Stavros for his forty-five years of exemplary service.

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL MIXED
RELAY TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christy Lee, Yaobin Chen, Mia Craven for earning the Top Mixed Relay Award during the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

These Clements High School athletes were among almost 250 competitors from Texas competing in this race. Each relay team was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. This win speaks to the team's dedication to the sport and immense athletic ability. We wish the team luck throughout their academic and athletic careers.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Christy, Yaobin, and Mia for winning the Top Mixed Relay award in this year's Triathlon Championships.

97TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC DAY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Azerbaijanis around the world, in celebration of Republic Day on May 28. Republic Day commemorates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the first Muslim democratic secular republic in the region. Although only lasting two years, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan achieved considerable success in state-building and creating educational foundations for future generations. The Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted suffrage to women shortly after its creation, ahead of most Western democracies.

Despite all of its successes, the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was not in a position to weather the occupational forces of the then newly formed Soviet Russia. Consequently, Azerbaijan temporarily lost its independence in 1920 and later was brought into the U.S.S.R. In 1990, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the U.S.S.R., ending 70 years of Soviet rule. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the independence was approved by the adoption of a Constitutional Act.

Since its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been an ally and is among the first nations who offered unconditional support to the United States in the global War on Terrorism, providing its airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijan continues to be a strategic partner with the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their valuable partnership and congratulate Azerbaijanis around the world on the 97th anniversary of Republic Day.

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL ALL-
MALE TRIATHLON RELAY TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aaron Pan, Brian Yuen, and Abraham Mckarkin, for earning Top All-Male Relay during the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

The Clements High School sophomores were among almost 250 competitors from around Texas competing in this race. Each relay team was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. Their win recognizes extreme athletic ability as well as a strong dedication to the sport. We wish each of these young men luck throughout their academic and athletic careers.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Aaron, Brian, and Abraham for earning the Top All-Male Relay team at this year's Triathlon Championships.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 264, 265, 266, and 267. If present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call 264, "yea" on roll call 265, "yea" on roll call 266, and "no" on roll call 267.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 2015 I was absent for recorded votes #264 through 267 due to a weather-related flight delay.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here:

On Roll Call #264 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call #265 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call #266 I would have voted yes.

On Roll Call #267 I would have voted no.

CINCO RANCH ALL-FEMALE
TRIATHLON RELAY TEAM**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Katie Rinderknecht, Ava Rinderknecht and Sydney Rinderknecht, for winning the Top All-Female Relay during the 16th Annual Texas State High School Triathlon Championships.

Ava and Sydney are sophomores at Cinco Ranch High School, and Katie is a freshman. These young women were among almost 250 competitors at the Triathlon Championships. Each relay team was required to compete in a 500 meter lake swim, 14 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. Their accomplishment recognizes extreme athletic ability, as well as a strong dedication to the sport. We wish each of these young women luck throughout their academic and athletic careers.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Katie, Ava, and Sydney for winning Top All-Female Relay team at this year's Triathlon Championships.

IN HONOR OF HARLEM
HELLFIGHTER SERGEANT HENRY
JOHNSON RECEIVING A POST-
HUMOUS MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Henry Johnson. Sergeant Henry Johnson epitomizes what it means to be a great American hero and patriot. I thank President Barack Obama for posthumously awarding the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Johnson, a New York native and distinguished member of the 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the 'Harlem Hellfighters.' With our nation's highest honor of valor bestowed upon Sgt. Johnson, his legacy will be enduring and highlighted in the annals of history.

As a black soldier living in the first decades of the 20th Century, Sgt. Johnson never saw the accolades he so rightly deserved during his lifetime. He enlisted in the military soon after Congress declared war on Germany in June 1917, and was assigned to Company C, 15th New York (Colored) Infantry Regiment—an all-black National Guard unit, which would later become the 369th Infantry Regiment of the 93rd Division, American Expeditionary Forces. The following year, the 369th deployed to France where Sgt. Johnson fought off advancing German soldiers who were trying to raid his French and American camp. Even as he was wounded 21 times, Sgt. Johnson risked his own life to save a fellow soldier from being captured or killed. Indeed, Sgt. Johnson valiantly held back the enemy force until they retreated.

In addition to earning respect from his fellow American and French soldiers, Sgt. Johnson's remarkable deed of courage inspired other black soldiers like me to salute the flag and serve our country with pride and distinction. As a Korean War Veteran, I learned from Sgt. Johnson and other heroes of the 369th Infantry Regiment who fought in World War I and World War II the true meaning of service and sacrifice for the nation.

Since its inception, the 'Harlem Hellfighters' of the 369th Infantry Regiment have participated in every conflict since World War I, including the battles we fight today. I am honored to belong to the 369th Harlem Hellfighter Veterans' Association based in Harlem of my congressional district. Along with my dear friend Percy Ellis Sutton, Major General Nathaniel James, the first African American Commander of the New York State Guard, Korean War Veteran Donald H. Eaton, Civil Rights Attorney Paul Zuber and William K. Defosset, who served in the U.S. State Department and the New York Police Department were all active members who helped pass my bill in Congress to secure the Federal Charter for the Association. In 2003 when Sgt. Johnson was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, we said we would not stop fighting until Sgt. Johnson was awarded the Medal of Honor. The late Filmmaker William Miles who was also a member and documented the history of the Harlem Hellfighters

in the film, "Men of Bronze" played a huge role in raising the awareness of Sgt. Johnson's heroism. Today is a victorious day for all of us, the people of Harlem, African Americans, our comrades in arms, friends in Congress and the community, as it marks a significant milestone in American history. We are exceedingly proud to see that Sgt. Henry Johnson has finally received the proper recognition he has duly earned.

RECOGNIZING JUDSON HIGH
SCHOOL WOMEN'S TRACK AND
FIELD TEAM**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Judson High School women's track and field team for their second state championship win under the leadership of Coach Renee Gerbich.

On Saturday, May 16th, the Judson Rockets earned their spot as champions when Darionne Gibson, Dominique Allen, Zantori Dickerson, and Mariah Kuykendall won the gold medal in the final event of the UIL 6A state championship in Austin, the 1,600-meter relay. In the last eleven seasons, the team has won nine regional titles and two state championships. Last year, the Judson Rockets became the first women's track and field team in the Greater San Antonio area to win a state title in the UIL's 6A classification.

As well as their triumph in the final event, the team broke the area record for the 200 with senior Kiana Horton's gold medal-winning performance. Kiana Horton, Talajah Murrell, Konstance James, and Kiara Pickens broke the city and school records for the 400-meter relay, winning the silver medal. They were joined at the championship by junior Maia Campbell, who competed in shot put.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for Judson High School and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Judson Rockets for their record-setting victory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 1, 2015, I was unavoidably detained traveling from Wisconsin due to a weather related flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

1.) On roll call no. 264 (Dingell Amendment to H.R. 1335)—No

2.) On roll call no. 265 (Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 1335)—No

3.) On roll call no. 266 (Democrat motion to recommit to H.R. 1335)—No

4.) On roll call no. 267 (Passage of H.R. 1335)—Aye