

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WELLES DECLARATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Welles Declaration.

Issued on July 23, 1940, by United States Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, this declaration condemned the Soviet Union's aggression against, and annexation of, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

This strong statement was the first announcement of the historic policy of non-recognition that was pivotal to empowering the resistance by democratic movements behind the Iron Curtain.

Until the restoration of their independence, the United States maintained strong support for the freedom of these Baltic States and their people.

Mr. Speaker, at this particular moment in history, I believe this anniversary holds even more significance.

History has a way of repeating itself. Mr. Speaker, and as we see aggressive military campaigns seeking to illegally gain dominance over nations' sovereign territory, we must have the same courage of our predecessors to stand against tyranny and support those who yearn for democracy, freedom, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to remember the role our nation had 75 years ago supporting Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in their aspirations for freedom, and commend those nations today for their commitment to democratic governance, their contributions to NATO, and the critical role they each play in promoting democratic ideals worldwide.

HONORING BILL TOWNSEND

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Townsend, who will be ninety-nine years old on August 13, 2015, for his many years of service to Mendocino County.

Since 1947, Mr. Townsend has dedicated his time, talent, and energy to the health of our forests and rivers, and to the youth of Mendocino County. A lifelong sportsman, Mr. Townsend has demonstrated an enduring commitment to preserving our natural resources for future generations. For sixty years, he has volunteered his time, beginning with his work at the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in 1955. His contributions have included everything from fish ladders, Pike Minnow Derbies, stream restoration projects, and 43 years of

grilling fish at the "World's Largest Salmon Barbeque" in Fort Bragg, California, which raises funds for fisheries.

With his dedication to fish habitat restoration, it was fitting that in 1973 the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors appointed Bill to the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission where he served as chairman for 15 years until he retired in 1988. Throughout his tenure on the commission, Mr. Townsend worked tirelessly to support healthy fisheries and integrate youth education into the Commission's projects.

Mr. Townsend served as president of Salmon Unlimited for three years starting in 1991, where he played an instrumental role in the development of the hatchery on Rowdy Creek on the Smith River. Included in his legacy of accomplishments is his work to secure the fish hatchery at Coyote Dam, which was completed in 1996 and renamed the "Bill Townsend Fish Hatchery" in 2004. He also served his community on the Russian River Flood Control Board for five years from 2005–2010, "retiring" at the age of 97.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank Bill Townsend for his many years of dedicated service. I am privileged to express deep appreciation to Mr. Townsend for his profound impacts on our rivers and convey to him my best wishes on his ninety-ninth birthday.

TRIBUTE FOR CONNIE NEAL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader in the fight against drug abuse in Kentucky, Ms. Connie Neal, upon her upcoming retirement from the Administration Office of the Courts, as the Drug Court General Manager for Kentucky.

Connie Neal received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Morehead State University in 1985 and a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky in 1992. She has more than 22 years of experience in the field, ranging from working with court committed juvenile offenders, to the dually diagnosed mentally ill, to Child Protective Services, to Drug Courts. Since the inception of the Kentucky Drug Court Department in 1996, Connie has dedicated her career to this life-changing program, working her way up through the ranks and taking the helm as General Manager in 2012. Thanks in large part to her leadership, more than 7,000 participants have successfully completed the program, more than 1,000 babies have been born drug free, \$5.3 million in child support has been collected, and \$5.7 million court obligations have been paid. Today, Kentucky has more than 54 Adult Drug Courts, 5 Veteran Treatment Courts, one Mental Health Court, as well as one DUI Court. It is her sheer courage and conviction to provide individuals with a second chance in their dark-

est hour that has driven her efforts to expand services in the Commonwealth.

In addition to her tireless efforts for Kentucky Drug Courts, Connie has conducted workshops for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Kentucky School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Community Corrections and countless other partners and stakeholders impacted by the national drug abuse epidemic.

Connie's passion and drive to help addicts achieve long-term recovery has been instrumental to the growth and success of Drug Courts across the Commonwealth. In fact, she has developed an expertise in training judges, teams and staff in nearly every county, helping each leader confront the daily challenges of Drug Court with tremendous grace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible impact that Connie Neal has made in the efficiency and effectiveness of Drug Courts in Kentucky, evidenced by the thousands of individuals who have been reunited with loved ones and are now living as productive, drug-free citizens of the Commonwealth. May her years of retirement be richly blessed.

CELEBRATING SHAPIRO & COMPANY'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Samuel Shapiro & Company, Inc., a Customs brokerage and freight forwarding firm in Baltimore, on 100 years of service to the international trade community.

In 1915, Samuel Shapiro, a newly licensed Customs House broker, opened a one-room office at 29 S Gay Street with a \$5 roll top desk and two employees. He built his company on a foundation of integrity, respect and the ability to create change. During World War I, Samuel's young firm managed the U.S. government's grain exports to war-torn European countries out of the Port of Baltimore. As business expanded internationally, Shapiro & Co. earned a reputation as the most trustworthy shipping firm in Baltimore. Samuel became an influential leader in the expansion of the Port and advocated for an autonomous Maryland Port Authority. Samuel's son, Sigmund, strengthened the company's relationship with government officials at the local, state and national level, becoming a voice for the industry on regulation.

More than a family business, Shapiro & Co. is a family that cares for its own and its community. Samuel began the tradition of philanthropy early. At the close of his first full year of business, and having made a modest profit of \$50, he gave 20% to the American Jewish Relief Fund. That spirit of generosity has continued with the deep community involvement

• 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.

of Sig and Barbara Shapiro and the next generation leadership of Samuel's granddaughter, Marjorie. Shapiro & Co. sponsors a logistics class at the University of Baltimore Business School, consults with nonprofit organizations pro bono, matches its employees' charitable contributions and helps its employees' children pay for college. With annual retreats and crab feasts, birthday celebrations, and a company cookbook, the people at Shapiro & Co. enjoy the time they spend together. It is little wonder that Shapiro is consistently ranked one of the top places to work in Baltimore.

Over the last century, Shapiro & Co. has managed not only to adapt to new challenges but to flourish. Its offices now reach from New York to Georgia, but Shapiro continues to value the same old-fashioned customer service established at Sam's roll-top desk in 1915. I thank Shapiro & Co. for 100 years of dedication to its customers, care for its employees, and leadership in its community, and I look forward to the 100 years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3175, THE
ASSURING CONTRACTING EQUITY
ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 3175, the Assuring Contracting Equity Act.

This legislation promotes economic development for many of the small businesses and communities that were hit the hardest by our country's recession and are still struggling to recover.

As I tour small businesses in my district, I am constantly reminded of the critical contribution they make to our communities. But too often our small businesses can't access or are unable to take advantage of federal contracting opportunities. By raising the contracting goal, the government will need to be more proactive in its outreach to small businesses. More contracts will help small businesses grow and hire more workers, empowering them to continue to give back to our communities.

The Assuring Contracting Equity Act will expand opportunities for small businesses to secure contracts with the federal government; particularly businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. The bill also provides increased access to government contracts for small businesses located in economically distressed areas known as Historically Underutilized Business Zones, or HUBZones.

In addition, the ACE Act improves accountability and transparency by requiring the Small Business Administration to report the percentage of all federal contracting dollars that are awarded to small businesses as well as direct agencies to prioritize large contractors that maximize subcontracts to small businesses.

In my district and across the country, small business owners are striving to succeed. The Assuring Contracting Equity Act could redirect an additional \$10 billion in business every year to the nation's smallest companies, giving entrepreneurs the potential to expand their businesses and continue creating jobs and growing our economy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Assuring Contracting Equity Act to provide a greater opportunity for success to the small businesses that deserve it the most.

THE UNFOLDING CRISIS IN
BURUNDI

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I convened yesterday was extremely timely, as events are unfolding in real time in Burundi—a small nation that is often overlooked by the international community, including those of us here in Congress.

Many are familiar with the horrific genocidal violence that gripped Rwanda in the 1990s, as Hutu and Tutsi butchered each other in paroxysms of ethnic hatred.

Few know, however, that Burundi also went through a protracted Tutsi versus Hutu ethnic struggle that also amounted to genocide in the 1990s.

Few know that Burundi, without much fanfare and without the largess that the international community showered upon Rwanda, overcame its divisive civil war and, following a peace brokered by Nelson Mandela solemnized in the Arusha Accords of 2000, has sought to heal the wounds of the past and rebuild a nation.

Today, however, this peace is under the threat of unraveling. The sitting President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, in apparent defiance of the term limits set forth in the Arusha Accords and memorialized in the Constitution, is seeking a third term. While the constitutional issue is complex and unsettled, the rising political violence and tension—not to mention the roughly 160,000 people displaced and seeking refuge in neighboring countries—is easy to understand, and serves as a canary in the coal mine.

Now there is a window of opportunity for action, where immediate and sustained attention can prevent the situation from escalating out of control.

As in the case of the Central African Republic, over which we held two critical hearings in the last Congress, timely attention and targeted intervention can stop an incipient conflict from metastasizing. Burundi is now approaching a tipping point, though it has yet to topple over.

There is still time, and we in Congress have a role to play in sounding the alarm and prodding the administration to take action, followed by oversight. We also need to avoid the temptation to be penny wise and pound foolish. As several of our witnesses explain, by spending a small amount to further democracy and governance efforts in fragile states such as Burundi, we can avoid much greater cost down the road—and I mean not simply the dollar-and-cents expense of humanitarian interventions, but more importantly, in terms of blood lost and lives shattered.

In Burundi, the administration must do more. While often-lonely voices such as that of Samantha Power have called attention to the need for atrocity prevention, too often the administration policy has been one of, if not malign neglect, then certainly non-benign neglect.

We saw this, for example, in the foot-dragging that accompanied the appointment of a Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. In January of this year, then-Special Envoy Russ Feingold announced that he was stepping down. I called on the administration to find a replacement as soon as possible, as the circle of violence was beginning to widen in Burundi.

In May, for example, I stated that a failure to do so signaled a “disengagement when lives are at stake.” I was afraid that we would see a repeat of the administration's inaction with respect to the Middle East, where to date it has yet to appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, despite Congress having created that position last August—almost one year ago.

At the beginning of this month, however, the administration finally appointed a Special Envoy.

In 2012, the administration, to much fanfare, created an Atrocities Prevention Board, following a Presidential Study directive which stated that “Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.” The APB is supposed to provide early warning of mass atrocities, and mobilize inter-agency resources to stop such atrocities.

In Burundi, we can still make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER OHIO
CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend, mentor and predecessor, former Congressman Louis Stokes. Earlier this week the world learned of his cancer diagnosis.

When the Congressman first told me about his condition, I didn't know quite what to say. He had still been out, attending events and doing things. He never stops. It is easy to think he is immortal. Because he is a fighter. For more than 30 years, he tirelessly fought for the people of Ohio, and he is still fighting today. The first African American elected to Congress from Ohio, Congressman Stokes is the epitome of a public servant.

While in Washington, he was a trailblazer. He was the first African American to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and was a founder of the CBC Health Braintrust. He constantly fought to combat pervasive health disparities plaguing the African-American community and served as a voice for people of color and all of our nation's most vulnerable.

Congressman Stokes once said, “I'm going to keep on denouncing the inequities of this system, but I'm going to work within it. To go outside the system would be to deny myself—to deny my own existence.” His work has affected thousands. There is no one in Washington that does not know the name Louis Stokes, and no one who was not touched in some way by his work and his kindness.

He is always a gentleman, someone who made you feel good about being represented by him or just being in his company. When he speaks, people listen. Congressman Stokes

exudes leadership, vision, and purpose. He's a giant of a man, an example for us all. It is a privilege to work with him and walk in his Congressional footsteps.

Thank you, Congressman Louis Stokes for everything you have done. The nation is indebted to you. We are grateful for your service. As you continue to battle this diagnosis, my thoughts and prayers are with you, your family and your doctors. Let us all continue to uplift and encourage the Stokes family.

HONORING LOU LENART

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lou Lenart, a hero to both the United States and Israel, who passed away July 20, 2015 at the age of 94. Today we remember Lou for his service in the Marines during World War II as well as in the Israel Air Force in 1948 when he was dubbed "The Man Who Saved Tel Aviv."

Lou Lenart was born in 1921 to Jewish farmers in a small village in Hungary. When Lenart was 10, his family moved to the United States to escape widespread anti-Semitism. Sadly, he and his family were subjected to anti-Semitic taunting in his new home of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. At 17, Lenart enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he fought in World War II and won the Gold Star flying in Okinawa. In 1948 Lenart became one of the first members of Israel's budding Air Force, which at that time had just four Czech-built German Messerschmitt fighter planes.

On May 29, 1948, Egyptian forces of about 500 vehicles were closing in on Tel Aviv, threatening the very existence of the two-week old state of Israel. Israeli commanders decided to risk all four planes to attack the advance.

As the most experienced pilot in the group (and in fact the only pilot with combat experience), Lenart led the attack, with future President Ezer Weizman as his wingman. Stunned by the sight of bona fide Israeli fighter planes, the Egyptians stopped their advance and were forced to retreat. Lenart's key role in this mission earned him the title, in many news reports, as "The Man Who Saved Tel Aviv." Lenart later told the IAF journal, "It was the most important event in my life . . . I survived World War II so I could lead this mission."

Following the war, Lenart helped in airlifting Iraqi Jews to Israel in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah. He also became a pilot for El Al Airlines and spent time living in Southern California, where he produced six feature films including *Iron Eagle* and *Iron Eagle II*.

Lou Lenart's legacy will live on in both Israel and the United States. He fought in our armed services to protect our freedom, and then risked his life again for Israel in its vulnerable and early stages. His life and story are an inspiration for those seeking hope and strength in the face of persecution. I send my sincerest condolences to his family.

HONORING THE "EASTLAND"
DISASTER

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the *Eastland* disaster—a shipwreck which resulted in the deaths of 844 passengers and crew—on the 100th anniversary of the tragedy.

One hundred years ago, thousands of employees of Western Electric were preparing for a rare day off of work, taking a boat ride across Lake Michigan to enjoy an annual picnic. Tragically, for 844 passengers and crew on the *Eastland*, their vessel listed and tipped over, and they soon drowned in the Chicago River. Many were immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe, living in Berwyn, Cicero, and the surrounding Chicagoland area, and their loss left an enduring mark on these communities—22 families were completely wiped out, and 19 families were left without parents. I will always remember my grandmother talking about the tragedy and the mark it left on her.

The *Eastland* shipwreck remains to this day the greatest loss of life in a single disaster in Illinois history. It is a shame that the victims and heroes of the *Eastland* disaster have been largely forgotten by the American people. That is why I have introduced a resolution commemorating the *Eastland*. I believe it is absolutely necessary that we here in Congress pay our respects to the working class families who lost their lives on that terrible summer day. Along with honoring the victims and survivors of the disaster, my resolution includes references to the historical significance of the sinking of the *Eastland* and recognizes the brave first responders who risked their own lives to save hundreds of passengers and crew.

I would like to thank my colleagues from Illinois for cosponsoring this measure. I think it is also important to commend the hard work that the *Eastland* Disaster Historical Society has done in researching, promoting, and educating the public about this important historical event, and its broader effect on Chicagoland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to remember the victims and heroes of the *Eastland* disaster, and to remain dedicated to avoiding such tragedies in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE DOWNTOWN
FLINT OPTIMIST CLUB ON
ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing The Downtown Flint Optimist Club on the occasion of their 80th anniversary.

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local Clubs whose members work each day to make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves.

The Optimist Club of Downtown Flint was chartered in 1934. It is believed to be the sec-

ond oldest Optimist Club in Michigan. Since its inception, the Optimist Club of Downtown Flint has organized several other Optimist Clubs in the Flint area. The Club currently meets at the Flint Golf Club, but historically has met in the Durant Hotel, Italia Gardens, and the Sarvis Center.

The Optimist Club of Downtown Flint's mission is to foster an optimistic way of life for the improvement of individuals and society through a network of Optimists dedicated to ever-expanding service to its members, the youth, the community and the world.

The Club's projects and service programs over the years are copious. To name only a few, the Optimist Club of Downtown Flint has been in partnership with Boys & Girls Club, Whaley Children's Center, The Salvation Army, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud The Downtown Flint Optimist Club and extend my deepest appreciation to them for their years of service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEROY JOSEPH
JONES, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Mr. LeRoy Joseph Jones, Sr., and the many contributions he made as a dedicated public servant in the State of New Jersey.

Born and raised in Orange, New Jersey, Mr. Jones had an extensive career in public service and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the residents in his community. After graduating from Orange Public Schools in 1953, Mr. Jones enlisted in the United States Navy in 1954 and served his country honorably for 12 years. Following his military service, Mr. Jones earned an Associate Degree in Urban Studies from Essex County College. In 1972, he attended the Community Action Training Institute at Rutgers University and later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As a trailblazer, he served as President of New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and Board 33 Referee Association, where he became the first African American President in the history of both organizations. He was appointed by Governor Brendan Byrne in 1980 to serve on the State of NJ Parole Board Juvenile Panel from 1980–1983. Mr. Jones achieved another first, when he served as senior hearing officer on the State of New Jersey Parole Board. Some of his other accomplishments included Director of the Fellowship Civic Center in East Orange, Assistant Director of Recreation for the City of Orange, Acting Director of the Orange Community Development Program, member of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trustee for the East Orange Neighborhood Development Corporation, Coach of the East Orange Tigers, and member of the management board for the YMCA of Orange.

His commitment to public service has changed many lives throughout the state. His contributions were recognized by numerous organizations such as the National Council of

Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National District Attorney's Association, NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association and the American Correctional Association.

He was a devoted man that showed his love for his family and his community through his actions. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. LeRoy Jones, Sr.'s family. He is survived by his beloved wife Rosan Jones, his four children LeRoy Joseph Jones, Jr., Leanne Jackson, Leisa Tynes-Merriweather and Lisa Jones, his 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Mr. LeRoy Joseph Jones, Sr. deserves to be recognized for a job well done and for his many years of service to the citizens of the State of New Jersey. This tribute recognizes his life's work, his stellar career and his personal commitment to improving the lives of his fellow man.

HONORING BEHAILU ASSEFA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, friends, colleagues, and the Ethiopian Community and Cultural Center wish to acknowledge a hard-working, beloved, and integral supporter of California's Ethiopian community;

Whereas, Behailu Assefa has been an active cultural and business leader on the local, state, and national level; and

Whereas, Behailu served as the President of the Ethiopian Community and Cultural Center since its founding in 2001, he has also served as the President of the Ethiopian Community in Minneapolis, was President of the Ethiopian Sports Federation of North America and was a member of the Oakland and City of Bahir Dar Sister City Program; and

Whereas, as the founder ASC Engineering Services, Behailu has provided professional certification of electrical products and served clients spanning over 4 continents and 40 states over the span of 20 years; and

Whereas, as founder of Terra Global Energy Developers, Behailu has utilized the experiences of Ethiopian American Diaspora and their ingenuity to introduce a new wind energy project to the Ethiopian government; and

Whereas, as the co-founder of Global Enterprise Engineering, Behailu has expanded the global presence of his company to Germany, Taiwan, China, Ethiopia, and Senegal; and therefore be it now

Resolved, that I, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, of California's 3rd District, do hereby recognize the exemplary service of Behailu Assefa, and encourage all to join me in celebrating him in his lifetime of achievements.

THANKING FIRST RESPONDERS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR SERVICE AFTER A DEVASTATING TORNADO

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the first responders and volunteers who have been working tirelessly in Cameron, Illinois after an EF2 tornado devastated this small town in my district. While the storm caused widespread property damage and several injuries, the good people from across the region who rushed to Cameron to help give me hope that this community will rebuild and become stronger than ever.

First responders and volunteers stepped in at a time of great need and continue to provide safety, material assistance and comfort to the good people of Cameron. They came from all over the region bringing bottled water, tarps and even homemade blueberry pies to help this town of 600 people get back on its feet after 125 mile per hour winds tore through it last week.

I spoke with many families who were affected by the tornado, and there was a recurring theme that resonated with me: Cameron was bent, not broken. With over 50 homes damaged, community members and other helpers have been working tirelessly to support these families and straighten out all the bends brought upon them by this disaster.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to all the families this terrible tornado impacted and I am grateful for the brave and generous first responders and volunteers who pour their time, energy, and love into helping Cameron recover.

CONGRATULATING THE WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BAY CITY ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bay City, Michigan, on the occasion of their 150th anniversary.

Westminster's sacred story began on August 23, 1865, when 15 members organized a new Presbyterian Church in the Village of Wenona. On the same day a cornerstone was laid for a house of worship on two lots donated by Henry W. Sage on Catherine St. The house of worship for "The First Presbyterian Society of the Township of Bangor" was completed and dedicated on December 3, 1865 under the leadership of Missionary Donald B Campbell.

His mission complete, Rev. Campbell left in 1868 and Rev. Elihu Turney Sanford became the first ordained minister of the new church. Westminster has been privileged to be led by

a number of very capable leaders over the past 150 years, to include our current minister Rev. Matthew Schramm, who had the honor of serving as a guest chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives in the summer of 2014.

In 1872, the name of the church was changed to the "First Presbyterian Church of Wenona", and finally in 1882 to "Westminster Presbyterian Church." Also in 1882 plans were drawn for a new worship facility. Once again Henry W. Sage came forward and donated four lots on Midland St where the church is presently located. On Christmas Day in 1883, the congregation worshipped in their new semi-gothic style church.

In 1958, ground was broken for a new Fellowship Hall, classrooms and a kitchen, and in 1969 the congregation endorsed a building program for the existing Sanctuary with formal dedication ceremonies in September 1970. In 2015, Westminster will begin its next 150 years with a campaign to update the facility for future generations.

The congregation has been active in ministry and service for 150 years. From working in USO activities, collecting metal for scrap drives, and sending care packages to servicemen during the war years, to hosting literacy programs for children and adults, serving free hot meals to those in need, and providing quality Christian education for all ages today, Westminster is well known in Bay City for its community focus. The church is proud to have been a charter organization for the Boy Scouts for over 50 years, and to open its doors for programs ranging from job training for special needs young adults to music and theatre rehearsal, and to provide meeting space for countless community organizations.

Westminster has been a proud partner with the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Bay City since its inception. Not only has the church been an annual supporter during each of the mission's ten years of operation, it was instrumental in the construction and opening of the men's wing of the mission in 2008. In 2015 Westminster helped sponsor the mission's annual Golf Challenge Fund Raiser, which earned a near record \$73,000 to provide a place of hope and care for the needy in and around Bay City.

Westminster actively supports missions in Niger, India, Zambia, Thailand, and the Middle East, while also supporting disaster relief efforts throughout the world. Both pastors and members of the congregation have assumed an active role in leading the Lake Huron Presbyterian and the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly.

Through partnering with quality programs and organizations, sharing fellowship and service, inspiring teaching and worship, and outwardly-focused and selfless mission, Westminster seeks to further its own legacy of hope and care in Bay City since 1865, and looks forward to the next 150 years serving God and humanity, sharing the love of Jesus through faith, hope and love, with an open and genuine spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bay City and thank them for the service they have provided to the community.

NATURAL GROCERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Natural Grocers efforts to promote healthy eating through their free educational outreach over the last 60 years. I'm happy to announce Governor Hickenlooper will proclaim August 13, 2015 as "Natural Grocers Day" in Colorado.

Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage was founded by Margaret and Phillip Isely and is based in Lakewood, Colorado. In 2015, they were recognized as the 11th fastest growing Colorado public company. Their mission is to provide shoppers with an affordable, healthy lifestyle as well as empower them to take control of their own wellbeing.

Not only does Natural Grocers supply Coloradans with healthy food options, they also provide customers personalized nutrition information to help them meet their nutritional goals. Since 1995, Natural Grocers has offered Coloradans free science-based nutrition education programs with the creation of their Nutritional Health Coach program. Their health coaches organize nutritional outreach programs to numerous schools and businesses, as well as hold in-store cooking demonstrations and nutrition classes. Additionally, I regularly hold my "Government in the Grocery" events at Natural Grocers stores around my district. These events give me the opportunity to visit with constituents in their communities on topics ranging from veterans issues, the economy and jobs to foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Natural Grocers for their accomplishment in promoting healthy eating through educational outreach and I commend them for their dedication to providing extraordinary services to Colorado customers. I wish Natural Grocers all the best in their next 60 years of operation.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF DODD-FRANK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member WATERS of the Financial Services Committee for leading today's important discussion on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Earlier this week, House Democrats recognized the 5th anniversary of Dodd-Frank—the most sweeping financial regulatory reform in the United States since the 1930s.

Signed into law by President Obama on July 21, 2010, Dodd-Frank has changed—for the better—the way consumers, investors, and other market participants interact with our financial system.

It has provided oversight to Wall Street, giving regulators the tools to end the era of "too big to fail" entities and outrageous taxpayer bailouts, and has eliminated loopholes that allowed risky and abusive practices to go unnoticed and unregulated.

But how did we get here?

Five years ago, Dodd-Frank was enacted in the wake of profound economic devastation as our nation was reeling from the impact of the 2008 financial crisis.

Millions of Americans suffered job loss, many small businesses closed down, foreclosures skyrocketed, the stock market suffered large drops, and a looming repeat of the Great Depression was feared.

Specifically, in the six months before President Obama took office in February 2009, our economy lost a total of nearly 4 million private sector jobs—an unimaginable average of 650,000 jobs per month.

Nearly \$13 trillion in economic growth and \$16 trillion in household wealth simply disappeared while close to 9 million individuals were displaced from their homes.

2008 was truly one of the lowest economic points in U.S. history.

Yet, the American people weathered this storm and Congressional Democrats took action by passing legislation to restore responsibility and accountability in our financial system, and to give Americans confidence that we were putting the tools in place to avoid another economic crisis.

In fact, since Dodd-Frank's passage in July 2010, the American economy has experienced vast improvement in private sector job growth with nearly 12 million jobs added; a lower unemployment rate, to 5.3 percent from the peak of 10.0 percent in October 2009, and a recovering housing market.

Indeed, because of Dodd-Frank, financial regulators are now empowered to identify and address risks to our financial system through increased monitoring and stricter rules for our nation's biggest banks in a timely way.

Dodd-Frank also provided new authority to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which, since 2011, has recovered more than \$9.3 billion in civil fines and penalties despite Republicans' repeated budget cuts to the agency.

Like all comprehensive reform bills, however, Dodd-Frank is not perfect.

There are a few areas that I believe can be improved.

Nonetheless, it is important that we do not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

I believe we also have a responsibility to build upon and improve this legislation when needed.

One area of concern for many stakeholders in my district, and across the country, is the manner in which Dodd-Frank requires the Federal Reserve to subject bank holding companies with more than \$50 billion in consolidated assets to enhanced regulatory supervision.

However, if we are to subject smaller, regional bank holding companies to the same or similar supervisory requirements, then we should do so in a way that balances our nation's financial stability without placing excessive burdens on non-systemically important institutions by using a more deliberative assets-and-activities-based test should be considered in determining the "systemic importance" of bank holding companies.

Earlier this month, Chair Yellen testified that she was open to raising a threshold for determining a bank's systemic importance.

I look forward to working with her on this issue and African-American job growth efforts.

This is at the top of my priority list for improving Dodd-Frank.

Another area of concern for me lies in the development of diversity assessment standards under Section 342 of Dodd-Frank, also known as OMWI.

Though Section 342 is not very long, it is a very significant step in the effort to improve the hiring of women and minorities in the financial services industry in which these groups remain woefully underrepresented.

However, due to misinterpretations of congressional intent, I am concerned that after five years the federal financial regulators have not developed standards requiring the disclosure of diversity data, which would provide much needed transparency to this industry regarding the promotion of diversity in its workplace.

Like my congressional colleagues here today, I celebrate substantial achievements of Dodd-Frank and look forward to working together to find the appropriate tweaks to further facilitate its positive lasting effects on the financial markets and for consumers far beyond this five-year anniversary.

In order to continue being a successful nation, we must capitalize on our diversity and tackle the inequality in wage and job growth in African-American communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WANE A. HAILES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend an outstanding citizen and respected community leader, Mr. Wane A. Hailes, President and Publisher of the Courier/Eco Latino, Columbus, Georgia's premier African-American and Latino newspaper. The Courier/Eco Latino will be celebrating ten years of providing the Tri-City Area of Columbus, Georgia, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama with positive, high quality information. In celebration of this special milestone, the Courier/Eco Latino will be hosting the 2015 Community Service Awards on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Wane A. Hailes was born in Richmond, Virginia and grew up in Portsmouth, New Hampshire; New Brunswick, New Jersey; Clifton Forge, Virginia; and Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1979, Wane graduated from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas. He then served for fifteen years as Director of the YMCA in Missouri, Wisconsin, Florida, and North Carolina. In 1990, the Chattahoochee Valley gained a passionate and dedicated community leader when Wane A. Hailes arrived in Columbus, Georgia to serve as the CEO of the A.J. McClung YMCA.

With thirty-one years of radio and newspaper experience in cumulative sales, marketing, and public relations, Wane became a driving force in the Columbus media. He worked for the minority-owned radio station, Davis Broadcasting Inc., as an on-air personality and sales consultant. He then worked at the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer as the Real Estate, Employment and Automotive Sales Consultant, before working at the minority-owned Columbus Times as Vice President of Advertising and Sales.

In March 2005, Wane founded the *Courier/Eco Latino*, a bi-weekly publication with a circulation of 15,000 dedicated to acting as “the voice of the people.” It is published in English and Spanish and remains the only bilingual publication in the Tri-City area.

Wane’s goal in founding the *Courier/Eco Latino* was to provide his readers with real stories about the African-American and Latino experience in Columbus. He continued to tell those stories in his book, *A View from a Pew*, a thoughtful examination of African-American life and culture in the South.

As well as receiving local recognition for his work, Wane received the prestigious Georgia Minority Small Business Champion Award and the Region IV Minority Small Business Champion Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2007.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: “You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give.” Not only has Wane established a legacy of multicultural journalism in Columbus, Georgia, but he has also done a tremendous job of giving back to the city, and I am very grateful for his tireless advocacy to make the community stronger. A man of great integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise in his field are unparalleled.

There are not enough words to describe the impact that Wane A. Hailes has had on the African-American and Latino communities of Columbus. Not only does he care about each member of these communities, but he also works tirelessly to unite them through the *Courier/Eco Latino* newspaper. I am very grateful to Wane for his efforts to improve this diverse community.

No hay suficientes palabras para describir el impacto que Wane A. Hailes ha tenido sobre las comunidades afroamericanas y latinas de Columbus. No solo le importa la vida de cada uno de los miembros de estas comunidades, pero trabaja incansablemente para unirlos a través del periódico *Courier/Eco Latino*. Me siento muy agradecido a Wane por sus esfuerzos para mejorar esta comunidad diversa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia’s Second Congressional District in honoring Mr. Wane A. Hailes and thanking him for his meaningful contributions to the Tri-City community.

BOSTON GLOBE STORY ON THE NARROWS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for more than 10 years I had the pleasure of representing Fall River, a great city with great potential. One of the jewels of the city is The Narrows Center for the Arts.

Founded in 1995, it’s a vital part of the community that’s helping to promote the visual and performing arts. Patrick Norton, one of my former aides, is doing excellent work as the Executive Director of The Narrows, making it a one-of-a-kind destination.

I urge my colleagues to read this article in The Boston Globe about The Narrows. The

next time you visit New England, make sure you visit The Narrows to see all that it’s doing to showcase artists throughout the community.

[From The Boston Globe, July 22, 2015]

THE NARROWS IS A CLUB TO CALL HOME

(By Robert Kerr)

Tom Rush has taken his music to a lot of places in 50 years, but no place quite like The Narrows.

“Those old, creaky floorboards—you can almost imagine the ghosts of the people who used to work there,” says Rush, who has sold out the old mill music venue a record 11 times.

There is something in those floorboards and in the slightly slanted ceiling and in the big windows that provide a striking view of the Braga Bridge and Mount Hope Bay. There is history, reminders of a time when people did indeed work hard in Fall River mills and, among other things, produced more cotton cloth than any other place on earth.

And now there is music in this wonderfully unlikely top floor place. There is music that draws more and more people to listen in an easy and intimate way. The musicians are close and the audience has climbed those stairs or ridden that elevator to listen and savor and maybe chat up a favorite singer or guitarist.

“In 14 years, we’ve never had idiots,” says Kathleen Duffy, referring to the clear absence of boozy hustle at The Narrows Center for the Arts.

She is a retired speech therapist who bakes the brownies that have become a part of music nights at The Narrows. She is one of the dozens of volunteers who keep this mill town miracle going.

“We couldn’t do it without volunteers,” says Patrick Norton. “They help load in shows, load out, sell refreshments. Many have been here eight to 10 years. They’re a hard core, grizzled bunch.”

Norton, a former aide to Congressman Jim McGovern, is the executive director of The Narrows.

“I’ve been a music junkie my whole life. I’ve been in bands. I wanted to be a rock star.”

Instead, he resides at the soundboard and books the performers and does what has to be done. He is one of the two people primarily responsible for making it all happen.

It began humbly, very humbly, about 20 years ago in Bert Harlow’s carpentry shop in a mill on the bank of South Watuppa Pond. It was in that part of Fall River known as The Narrows that is between the North and South Watuppa.

Harlow is a carpenter, a skilled woodworker who has worked in, among other places, Trump Tower in New York City. He even remembers sharing an elevator with Trump, who didn’t say hello.

He is also a Marine veteran of Vietnam whose combat memories play a part in shaping what is an enduring sense of community obligation. With his skilled hands, he created an art gallery in the front of the mill where his shop was. He had a vision of restoring the mill and creating a park.

“I want to be involved in doing something good,” says Harlow. “For me, it’s a way to heal.”

He thought a coffeehouse would be a good idea. So there was a coffeehouse. It was created in the mid-’90s by a small group of friends, including Norton, who moved some of Harlow’s equipment to one side, cleared a small performance space, put some coffee on, and invited musicians to perform in a different kind of place.

It was the beginning. Audiences were small at first, but there was something about

music in that mill setting on the pond that drew people. A move to an adjacent room, where the brick walls were sandblasted and some couches and chairs put in, broadened the appeal.

Then a developer bought the mill.

“He wanted four times the rent,” says Norton.

They couldn’t afford it. Norton and Harlow went looking. At one point, the mayor of New Bedford offered them free downtown space.

“But we’re Fall River guys,” says Norton.

They met Sam Shapiro, who owned a mill on the waterfront that needed tenants.

“He liked what we were doing,” says Norton. “From day one, he wanted to make this work.”

They moved in in July 2001. And it has worked, but it hasn’t been easy. There was the building inspector who showed up after their first show to point out the need for a few improvements, such as enclosing the stairways.

“When things look a little dicey, something seems to happen to pull us through,” says Norton.

There was also the time early on when Harlow said to Norton, “Let’s book Richie Havens.”

Norton thought it was too big a reach. Havens, the man who kicked off Woodstock, was going to cost four or five times what they had ever paid anyone.

They gambled. They booked Havens.

“The energy that came off that man was incredible,” says Harlow. “That was our first sellout.”

And it was a message to people that there is music in Fall River worth driving for. Maybe settle in for some excellent Portuguese chow at a nearby restaurant, then take in the kind of music people take personally. Tom Rush, Richard Thompson, Los Lobos, Dr. John—all have come to The Narrows and claimed a unique stop on the musical road.

“The audience there is special,” says Rush, who returns in November. “They come for the music. And they come for a good time, and they’re not going to let me stop them.”

Perhaps the one downside to the story of The Narrows is that it has succeeded almost in spite of the city it’s located in. Fall River, a city too well known for squandering opportunity, has not been a big factor in The Narrows’ success. And when, on show nights, someone asks for a show of hands from Fall River residents, there are sometimes three or four, sometimes none.

“We’re attracting the Providence-Barrington crowd,” says Norton. “Maybe it’s shabby chic.”

Still, there is a local connection at The Narrows that Norton and Harlow have insisted on and which extends their reach beyond the stage. It is the “community piece.”

“I feel lucky to be involved here,” says Norton. “Being around Bert all these years, he’s like a big brother. And we want to give back to the community. We believe in Fall River.”

There are five artists’ studios at The Narrows and a gallery designed by Harlow. There is a lot to look at before and after the music. And kids come to learn about art and music. The Narrows even provides buses. Norton’s especially proud of the connection with People Inc., the organization that does such good work with the developmentally disabled.

On a spring morning, musician Mark Cutler was onstage with some of the clients of People Inc. He had been writing songs with them—songs that include “Do You Hate Mondays Too?” and “Mind Your Own Business.” Cutler played his guitar and his young friends picked up microphones and sang in

ways that amazed the people who work with them every day. It was a wonderful show.

A few weeks later, Cutler was back on stage, this time leading the Schemers, the iconic Rhode Island rock band. It was a CD release party.

Cutler is positive The Narrows is the only place he could have played those two gigs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 22, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #450, #451, and #458. Additionally, I would have voted "NAY" on #452, #453, #454, #455, #456, and #457.

RECOGNIZING NYA BARTON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to welcome Nya Sole Barton on her visit to the Capitol. Nya will attend Lemon Road Elementary School in Falls Church, Virginia this fall.

Often named to the Honor Roll, Nya has demonstrated superior academic achievement, and is active in martial arts and dance. I congratulate her parents, Darlene and Jacob Barton, on raising an impressive young lady, and I am confident in her future success.

HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY TO LOGOS PREP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logos Preparatory Academy on its 10 year anniversary.

Logos Prep opened their doors on August 6, 2005 and ever since, they have provided a high quality, Christ-centered education to our future leaders. Logos Prep began when four families in Southwest Houston joined together to create a Christ centered educational institute. In its first year, Logos offered 3rd–10th grades with an initial enrollment of 232 students. Now, 10 years later, over 500 students are enrolled in its K–12 college preparatory program. The school's superior academic record speaks for itself—students are thriving. Thank you to the teachers and staff at Logos Prep for their dedication to seeing their students succeed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Logos Preparatory Academy for 10 successful years educating our leaders of tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MATAWAN ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Matawan Italian American Association as its members celebrate its 50th anniversary this year.

Currently under the leadership of President Frank Giammarino, the Matawan Italian American Association executive office consists of a 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Sergeant at Arms. It is also advised by a Board of Trustees. Its membership is comprised of residents of Italian descent and their spouses who meet monthly in fellowship and community service.

For 50 years, the Matawan Italian American Club has worked to preserve and promote Italian heritage and improve the community through charitable donations, scholarships and activities. It supports various local and national non-profits, humanitarian and community organizations, including the National MS Society, Ronald McDonald House, and the Bayshore Senior Center, among many others. Its efforts to support the local community and to offer an association of Italian culture are truly admirable and I am honored to be one of the past recipients of the Man of the Year Award.

Once again, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Matawan Italian American Association on its 50th anniversary and recognizing its numerous contributions to the community.

TELEMUNDO 47's 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Telemundo 47. Telemundo 47 began operation on July 30, 1965 as a television station to serve Spanish-language viewers in the New York Tri-State area. Since then, it has been the main source of information and entertainment for the Spanish-speaking community across the Tri-State area, including New Jersey.

Telemundo 47 has evolved with its audience over the past 50 years, and recently experienced a boost in its local news operations. Today, the station broadcasts more than 20 hours of local news and programming each week and provides viewers with local newscasts seven days a week. To support this boost in demand, Telemundo 47 has hired additional journalists and launched a new weekday newscast aired at 5:30 p.m.

A particular program worth noting is Telemundo Responde, a new consumer investigative unit that is charged with fighting for and helping consumers who have been wronged. The unit has already recovered more than \$1.4 million for consumers, suc-

cessfully combining informative broadcasting with consumer protection.

For the past 50 years, Telemundo 47 has done an outstanding job of broadcasting both entertaining and informative programs to many viewers in my district. I am confident that Telemundo 47's success will continue for decades to come, and I congratulate them on this important milestone.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH HAMILTON

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished accomplishment of a constituent in my district, Joseph Hamilton, on the occasion of his 2015 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award.

Mr. Hamilton from Lancaster, New York started "Charlie and Checkers" to provide live, unique entertainment for people of all ages. Joseph created the business alongside his brother and they now perform a blend of comedy, magic, juggling, and music. The brothers have also performed for the homeless, disabled, and elderly as a way to give back to their community.

As a 2015 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award winner, Mr. Hamilton has earned a financial scholarship and will be attending Canisius College next year.

I want to wish him nothing but the best for his future entrepreneurial and educational endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

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

Today, it is \$18,151,821,652,004.79. We've added \$7,524,944,603,091.71 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE (LIFE) ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, as we approach July 25, and the 6th annual National Dance Day, I rise to reintroduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise (LIFE) Act, authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight

and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group, and threaten the health of Americans like no other single disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is not only to reduce overweight and obesity but also to encourage exercise of all kinds. On National Dance Day across the nation, Americans will be dancing, one of the most enjoyable and popular forms of exercise.

This bill would provide \$25 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a coordinated national effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

We see rising consciousness of the need to get moving, from the First Lady's "Let's Move" campaign for children and the television shows "So You Think You Can Dance," "The Biggest Loser," and "Extreme Weight Loss". Yet, the United States continues to have startling rates of obesity among adults and children. In 2010, estimates from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics showed that since 1980, the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and the percentage of adolescents who are overweight has tripled. Today, the 13 million overweight children have an 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. The CDC reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The rising cost of the health care system, including insurance premiums, reflects the epidemic. The consequences for kids will follow them throughout their lives if we do not act quickly and decisively. If we are serious about controlling health care costs, we must start where the most serious health conditions begin: overweight and obesity.

This bill seeks to provide the first national strategy to combat the epidemic by directing the CDC to do three things: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and to educate people concerning healthy lifestyles, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life, such as in the workplace and in community settings. This legislation is the minimum necessary to address our most important health crisis. Today, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight and obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., and 60 percent of U.S. medical care costs. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the U.S. was more than \$117 billion in 2000. The CDC has highlighted a study that estimates the annual cost to be \$147 billion. It is estimated that between 300,000 and 400,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative would provide guidance to the states to engage in similar programs, as mayors of some cities have done. National focus could lead to full participation in high school physical education classes, participation in which has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume

too much fat, a factor in the doubling of the percentage of overweight youth. Data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity.

According to a recent study conducted by the American College of Sports Medicine, the District of Columbia is the fittest city in the United States, and yet, obesity continues to be a severe problem even here. Most of the obesity epidemic is exercise-food-related. One-fifth of the District of Columbia is considered to be obese, and if the number is this high in the nation's capital, one shudders to think how high it is for other areas of the nation. We need to act now.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, which often begin in childhood, overwhelm the nation's health care system.

HONORING THE THOMPSON-
CLEMONS POST #200

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi was the first African American Post established in the State of Mississippi and came about due to the perseverance of eighteen determined Black Veterans of World War I and World War II in the Mississippi Delta.

These veterans attempted to join Keesler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 which refused them membership. Given that this was the 1940s and Mississippi being a segregationist state, Post #29 could not get a majority vote of its members to allow black veterans to join their post.

The eighteen black veterans filed a petition to start a new post and presented it to the Mississippi Department of the American Legion. Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson, a black veteran, postal worker and co-worker of Mr. Author H. Ritcher, the Adjutant of post #29, worked to get the petition through the District. It was due to their vigorous and persistent correspondence to the District and the Mississippi Department of the American Legion that they were allowed to form a separate post if they could find a sponsor.

Keesler-Hamrick-Gillespie Post #29 agreed to serve as a sponsor to assist Thompson-Clemons Post #200 in getting the temporary charter, paving the way for other charters to be granted to other black veteran's groups throughout the state of Mississippi.

Originally, the post was called the Mississippi Delta Post #200. Mr. L.H. Threadgill, principal of Stone Street High School, a veteran of World War II, proposed that the post be named after two former students of Stone Street High School, that were killed in action during WWII. The motion carried and the name was adopted. Thompson-Clemons Post #200 was granted a permanent charter on July 28, 1949, becoming the first Black post in the State of Mississippi. The first Post Commander was Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson.

Mr. L.H. Threadgill and others in the community were instrumental in purchasing the property, obtaining a deed, and getting a building to establish a post headquarters where it is still located today.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi has a distinct track record of encouragement to veterans with issues, be they from serving abroad; in combat situations or statewide service. Issues range from transportation to Regional Office and VA Hospital for medical disability claims, educational and skill training, housing and other activities including establishing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to provide emergency services such as utilities, homes for the homeless, counseling and assistance in understanding the myriad of services provided by the VA.

The VA community activities include sponsorship of little league baseball teams, voter education classes, veterans day celebration, adopt a school program, donations to needy families, Boys State Program and the National American Legion Oratorical Contest, where candidates sponsored by Post #200, have won the Mississippi State Championship four times, and three out of the past four years.

Leadership activities include a weekly live call in radio talk program aired on WGNL 104.3 FM in Greenwood, Mississippi where veterans can actually dial up and talk about issues that affect them and their community. Partnering with organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Greenwood Voters League, Mississippi Valley State University and other community based groups that advocate for social justice.

Thompson-Clemons Post #200 is well integrated into the fabric and culture of the Mississippi Delta and should be recognized as a Post that has the interest of our service men, their families and community at heart.

The American Legion Post #200 is moving forward to continue the legacy of those early veterans who honorably served their country and had the vision that through the American Legion and its core principles, they could continue to protect and build an America and Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable organization, The Thompson-Clemons Post #200, for its dedication to serving our veterans and giving back to the African American community.

CONGRATULATING DR. JAMES
COFER ON HIS FULBRIGHT
SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. James Cofer on receiving a renowned Fulbright Scholar award.

Dr. Cofer, a Springfield resident and former Missouri State University president, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and perform research at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. As a Missouri State University marketing professor, Dr. Cofer devoted his research efforts while in Brazil to studying college and university administration and developing models for the Brazilian higher education community.

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program provides teaching and research grants to distinguished U.S. faculty and experienced professionals. Dr. Cofer has no doubt played a major role in spreading American ideas and contributions in Brazil.

The Missouri State University community and Ozarks community at-large should be proud to have a scholar like Dr. James Cofer representing them abroad. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Cofer for his dedication to such significant research and for receiving this esteemed award.

HONORING MARIA HARRISON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Maria Harrison, an outstanding public servant who retired after over 41 years of dedicated service to the federal government.

On Monday, June 18, 1973, Maria Harrison began her career in government with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). She was one of many who benefited from Mayor Marion Barry's jobs program he so famously created. On January 3, 2015 Maria retired from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) after 41 years and 6 months of service to our country as a federal employee. Except for 10 months at the Small Business Administration, her career was spent in the transportation field. Her exact sequence of service follows:

Department of Transportation/FAA 06/18/1973–07/30/1977.

Small Business Administration 07/31/1977–05/20/1978.

Department of Transportation/Office of the Secretary (OST) 05/21/1978–04/03/1982.

Department of Transportation/MARAD (Maritime) 04/04/1982–12/24/1983.

Department of Transportation/FAA 12/25/1983–06/04/1988.

Department of Transportation/Federal Railroad Administration 6/05/1988–11/03/2001.

Department of Transportation/OST 11/04/2001–Present.

Maria retired from the Office of Governmental Affairs at USDOT where she has been of assistance to my office and constituents numerous times. I can say with certainty that every office in the U.S. Senate and countless offices in the U.S. House of Representatives have benefited directly from her good work. As much as her colleagues at USDOT will miss her, she has earned the right to spend more time with her friends and family, especially her granddaughter whose pictures adorn the desk of her office. Maria has also earned the deepest gratitude from those of us in the U.S. Congress. Above all else she has earned the thanks of the country she has so unselfishly served for over 41 years. Thank you, Ms. Harrison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Maria Harrison for her more than four decades of service to the federal government in the transportation field.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, since its enactment on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has helped remove barriers to education, employment, and technology for people with disabilities.

For a quarter-century, this landmark legislation has enabled people with disabilities to have the same civil rights and public use enjoyed by other citizens in all areas of public life.

The signing of the ADA was a pivotal moment in history, not just for people with disabilities, but for all Americans.

The ADA protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination and allows them to participate fully in the workforce and in their communities.

Today, there are over 55 million people living with a disability in the United States.

In my home state of Ohio, the Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities serves more than 90,000 children and adults in all 88 Ohio counties and many more receive services from nonprofit partners and organizations.

In the third congressional district of Ohio, we have outstanding centers, such as the Helping Hands Center for Special Needs, which strives to meet the educational and therapeutic needs of children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

As it did twenty-five years ago in 1990, the ADA continues to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals, realize their dreams, and give back to their communities.

Today, I celebrate the strides we have made since the ADA's enactment and honor its goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, and high quality of life for Americans with disabilities.

TRIBUTE TO JILL SWANSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jill Swanson, from Adair County Health System in Greenfield, Iowa. Ms. Swanson was awarded the 2015 DAISY Award Friday, June 12, 2015.

Jill Swanson was recognized for her accomplishments during the Fourth Annual DAISY Award Ceremony at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa. The award is given to a nurse from each of their network's facilities to recognize their excellent work.

Jill is frequently requested by patients and families when they visit because of her attentiveness and willingness to go above and beyond what is expected for each of her patients. Throughout her 27 years of service, she has always been a team player who puts others before herself. Her genuine care for patients and hard work ethic make Adair County Health Systems proud to have her as a member of their team.

I applaud and congratulate Jill for receiving this award and for providing excellent patient care in Iowa's 3rd Congressional district. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her and wish her nothing but continued success.

HONORING JERUSALEM OUTREACH CHILD & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jerusalem Outreach Child & Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS. It is locally referred to as JOCI (Jerusalem Outreach Center Incorporated).

JOCI was established as a nonprofit organization in the year 2000. JOCI was one of the partners in a countywide effort to provide service to citizens living in hard and underserved communities in Tallahatchie County like Paynes and Glendora. JOCI's goal is to meet the educational and health and social welfare needs of both children and adults regardless of race. Their partner Glendora Economic and Community Development Corporation (GECDCo) focuses on the development needs of the communities like housing, recreation, jobs, and more.

In order to achieve the above goals JOCI hosts health fairs and provides a long list of services. The services include, but are not limited to: personal counseling, referrals to outside resources, depending on the issue; social therapy for special needs clients; child care; after school care and services; educational classes; tutoring; and more. Since 2000, JOCI's record of achievement has attracted new partners to their effort: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute, Quality Stars, the Department of Human Services, and the Tallahatchie Early Learning Alliance (TELA).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jerusalem Outreach Child & Adult Learning Center in Charleston, MS for their work in those hard to reach communities in Tallahatchie County, MS.

STOP WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN ITS TRACKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, The Wildlife Conservation Society is doing great work to save wildlife and wild places.

The public knows more about wildlife today than they have at any other point in history.

New technology like Go-Pro cameras can be put on top of birds to track their migration patterns and see how they deal with their young in the nest.

Scientists can dive deeper into the oceans than ever before and are discovering new species that have not been identified.

But with all this knowledge and fancy technology, in 2015 animals are still becoming extinct.

The situation for elephants and rhinos is bad.

The elephant population in Tanzania has dropped by 60 percent in just the last 5 years.

A total of only five northern white rhinos are left in the world today.

A big reason why is money. The black-market price of ivory in Africa is over \$1,000 per pound.

Rhino horn is now worth about \$27,000 per pound. That's twice the value of gold and platinum and more than cocaine or diamonds.

When a person lives on less than \$2 a day like many of the poachers do, that's a lot of money.

Poachers are willing to risk getting caught or even shot because the payday is just too big.

One rhino horn is enough for them to support their whole family for a year.

That might be why some locals in the community refer to "rhinos" simply as "billions".

In all, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated as a \$10–20 billion per year business.

It is not just low level poachers getting most of the profits.

Transnational criminal organizations and terrorist groups are getting billions of dollars a year from this business. Al-Shabab [al-Shah-Bob] and Joseph Kony's the LRA are two examples.

The same groups that traffick elephant ivory and rhino horn also traffick drugs and weapons. So this isn't just a wildlife problem. It is a national security problem.

Currently, I have been working with my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs committee to make sure the U.S. government is doing everything we can to stop wildlife trafficking.

Part of the solution is understanding the problem.

Ranking Member on my Terrorism Subcommittee, Mr. KEATING and I have amended the Intelligence Authorization bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to produce a report on wildlife trafficking, how terrorist organizations are involved, and its impact on U.S. national security.

In addition to this a GAO study is being conducted to evaluate the job being done so far at trying to stop wildlife trafficking. Both of these should help us understand the problem better.

I'm happy to be an original cosponsor of Chairman ROYCE's bill to encourage countries to work together on this problem and elevate wildlife trafficking as a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes.

It is a strong bipartisan bill that I hope is passed into law soon.

Working together will stop wildlife trafficking in its tracks.

In the 1950s there were only a few hundred white rhino left in the world. Thanks to the work of people like Ian Player, today there are over 15,000.

The threat has been beaten back before and it can be done again.

And that's just the way it is.

THE IRAN DEAL: A DANGEROUS GAMBLE FOR THE U.S. AND OUR ALLIES

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the administration's nuclear deal with Iran.

Earlier this year, over 350 Members of Congress—myself included—wrote the president with objectives that a deal must reach before we'd consider sanctions relief. We said there must be anytime, anywhere site inspections. Above all, it must stop Iran's march toward a nuclear weapon.

The deal before us does not meet these objectives. Yet, it gives Iran upwards of 100 billion dollars in sanctions relief almost immediately. Money it can use to finance the spread of terrorism and violence.

This agreement is a dangerous gamble. The security of America and our allies is on the line, and the deck is stacked in favor of a sworn adversary to the United States.

I will be voting to reject this bad deal. I encourage all my colleagues to do the same.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF BRIAN SILAS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brilliant career of Brian Silas, a renowned pianist from India. Mr. Silas is beloved by many, not only for his music but for his dedication to humanitarianism.

Mr. Silas' passion for the piano began early in his life. He was raised in Kanpur, where he was immersed in music and tradition, leading him to his affection for the piano. His instinct and desire to perform drives his musical proficiency. Mr. Silas' talent has led him to some of the world's largest stages and venues, without any formal training.

Mr. Silas' desire to share his gift of music has allowed him to perform his life's work at various venues across the globe. During his career he has packed auditoriums, theatres and runways from the United States to Mauritius. No matter the venue, Mr. Silas' performances are met with the highest of praise. One of his highest honors was in 1998, when Mr. Silas was invited to perform at the United Nations to celebrate India's 51st year of independence.

Mr. Silas' gift to the world does not stop behind the piano. He donates his time to multiple charitable organizations, who aid the underprivileged, sick and neglected. Mr. Silas is deeply involved with the "Artists of Empowerment" who provide gender bias rehabilitation for victimized women. He has striven to help those affected by HIV by endorsing organizations such as "CORE" who strive to educate police personnel on the virus. Mr. Silas also frequently fundraises for organizations such as "Prayaas" who provide homes for the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to honor Mr. Brian Silas. I ask my colleagues to

join me in extending the highest regards and wishes for continued success. Mr. Silas' passion for music and humanitarianism will surely continue to touch lives for years to come.

2015 NATIONAL SEAPERCH CHALLENGE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the accomplishment of the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League's SeaPerch Challenge Middle School Team. The Submersibles placed first in both the obstacle challenge and the finesse course of the 2015 National SeaPerch Middle School Championship.

This is a remarkable accomplishment stemming from months of hard work and determination and one in which these bright young men can feel proud. Their accomplishments this year, as well as their first place finish in the 2014 championship, are certainly deserving of this special recognition.

On April 24, 2015 the team won the Philadelphia SeaPerch Regional competition at Drexel University giving them the opportunity to compete at The University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth on May 29th and 30th. At the national championship, the team defeated 71 other teams nationwide to secure their second national SeaPerch title in 2 years.

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The program provides students the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, math, teamwork, leadership, and public speaking while competing against their peers at a national level.

The National Championship team includes: Jhadyn Seward (Egg Harbor Township), Aidan Himley (Egg Harbor Township), James Massey (Egg Harbor Township), Brandon Kusnirik (Hamilton Township), Anakin Leatherwood (Egg Harbor Township), Luke Williams (Northfield), and coaches Mike and Denise Massey.

Again, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the Submersibles and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHANDRA McCANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Chandra McCann, from Greenfield, Iowa for her retirement from the Adair County Courthouse after 35 years of service.

Through her countless years of dedication to the citizens of Adair County she was able to provide valuable services to those who passed through the Adair County Courthouse. She always came to work with a smile on her face and a willingness to serve.

I applaud and congratulate Chandra for her accomplishments and for providing excellent customer service to Adair County and its citizens. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Chandra and wish her nothing but the best in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to celebrate Northwest New Jersey Community Action Partnership, otherwise known as NORWESCAP, located in Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary.

In 1965, NORWESCAP was incorporated by a group of concerned citizens from Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren counties, whose mission was to eliminate poverty in the area. NORWESCAP is one of twenty-three Community Action Agencies in the State of New Jersey. The agency actively supports low-income households, as these citizens develop their abilities to become self-reliant and build relationships within the community.

Over the past fifty years, the agency has expanded its reach into Morris, Somerset, and Passaic Counties. NORWESCAP assists more than 35,000 individuals each year, with a portfolio of emergency, preventative and self-sufficiency services. With 270 full and part-time employees and 1,400 volunteers operating 15 unique programs, the agency has been working to improve the lives of low income individuals and families by "Creating Opportunities" and "Changing Lives." An example of one of their programs is the Family Success Center, which brings together residents and leaders in the community to address the struggles that poverty-ridden families deal with every day.

Another significant program that NORWESCAP provides is the Child and Family Resource Services. With twenty-five years of enhancing the accessibility and quality of early care and education, the agency has proven its dedication to strengthening families and communities in the area. The Child and Family Resource Service staff is committed to the belief that all children deserve access to quality affordable child care. Furthermore, by providing information, referrals, various child care subsidies, education and collaboration of efforts among all those involved in child care, this team has had a positive effect on the community. CFRS has been cited for "a number of best practices regarding the management of the programs they implement." They became Child Care Aware Quality Assured in 2005; this identifies the agency as one that strives for excellence.

It is apparent that NORWESCAP's value to the public is priceless, and I express great admiration for their service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating NORWESCAP, its Board of Directors, administration and employees, as it celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This landmark legislation was critical to ensuring all Americans living with disabilities were guaranteed equal access to opportunities to live a full and meaningful life without being discriminated against. With over 55 million people living in our nation with disabilities, it is sometimes hard to realize that before 1990, so many barriers stood in their way to leading happy, successful lives.

My own godson lives with significant disabilities and if this law had not been enacted before he was born, his life would have turned out very differently—it would have been difficult to access transportation, public and private spaces, and receive an education. It is so important that we continue building upon the successes of the ADA and that we do everything within our power for those who need us to fight just a little bit extra for them, and that is why we must remember this anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB "JAY" BOJORQUEZ

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jacob "Jay" Bojorquez. A resident of Temple, Texas, Jay became an angel on July 13, 2015. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

Jay was a native son of Monticello, New Mexico. His was a life of service and devotion to causes bigger than himself. Growing up in the rugged Land of Enchantment instilled in Jay a desire to protect our environment and, as a young man, he volunteered to fight forest fires in the scenic Black Range Mountains. As a Korean War veteran, Jay experienced firsthand the sacrifices our men and women of the armed forces make for the cause of freedom.

Blessed with a fierce intellect and aptitude with numbers, Jay graduated from Western New Mexico University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He applied his talents as a financial auditor for El Paso's Thomason General Hospital.

Committed to public service, Jay played an active part in making any community he resided in a great place to live and work. Jay served as an elected member of the Horizon Regional Municipal Utilities District Board of Directors, Commander of the American Legion Post, President of the Lion's Club, President of the Horizon Communities Improvement Association, Treasurer of the Horizon Volunteer Fire Department, and a member of the Troop Committee for Boy Scout Troop 55 (Yucca Council). He also served on the City of Temple's Tax Increment Finance Reinvestment Zone Board.

Jay was married to Betty, the love of his life, 47 years. During their joyous life together, they lived, loved, and prospered as one. Proud parents of seven children, grandparents of eighteen, and great-grandparents of fourteen, Jay and Betty kept family at the center of their lives.

While we mourn Jay Bojorquez's passing, his presence was a blessing for all who knew him. The positive impacts he had on the lives of others will live on and remain in our hearts forever.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL STEVEN L. LEVY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of fallen officer Corporal Steven Levy of the Washington Township Police Department in Gloucester County, New Jersey, for his extraordinary sacrifice and exemplary service to the citizens of New Jersey and the United States.

Corporal Levy was a decorated officer of the Washington Township Police and a volunteer member on the Gloucester County Critical Incident Team. Serving as a police officer is an admirable quality in itself, but answering the call of CIT duty requires a superior level of dedication.

On October 21, 1999, Corporal Levy was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call about a domestic standoff in Woodbury, NJ. His untimely death left behind his beloved wife, Mrs. Janeen Levy and two children, Kevin and Jessica.

I have the pleasure of knowing his son, Kevin, who is following his father's example of public service and interning in my office this summer. It is because of Kevin, and the families of fallen public safety officers like him, that I decided to cosponsor The Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act, which makes the children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS workers, and fire police who died in the line of duty eligible for the maximum available Pell Grant.

Mr. Speaker, public safety workers like Corporal Steven Levy dedicate their careers to serving their communities, putting their lives on the line every day to protect us. The loss of these selfless men and women is a devastating loss for our communities, but no one suffers more than their families. Although nothing can replace the loss of a loved one, we owe it to local heroes, like Corporal Levy, to honor their memory by taking positive action on behalf of their families.

TRIBUTE TO MARY O'RILEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Mary O'Riley, of Creston, Iowa for being selected as Union County's 2015 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Mary will be inducted during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair on August 23, 2015. She was chosen because of her long-standing devotion to 4-H and her commitment to helping each child develop to their full potential. She also is being recognized for 30 years of service as show ring announcer at the Union County Fair. Mary's additional contributions to 4-H include 13 years as a club leader, working with 4-H as an extension employee, judging 4-H project work, and serving as a member and officer of the Union County Friends of 4-H Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Mary demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her, and Iowans like her, in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Mary for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on Wednesday, July 22, I unfortunately missed three roll call votes as I was attending a classified briefing at the White House Situation Room on the recently announced Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran. Had I been present I would have voted:

1. NO—Ordering the Previous Question (Roll #450). I would have voted no in order to allow a vote on H.R. 3064, the GROW AMERICA Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this robust six-year expansion of funding for our America's transportation and infrastructure, which would provide much needed certainty for those projects and the jobs that rely on them.

2. NO—Approving H. Res. 369 (Roll #451). I would have voted no on H. Res. 369, which prevented the House from considering either H.R. 1599 or H.R. 1734 with the appropriate deliberation and open debate such important matters deserve.

3. AYE—Approving the Journal (Roll #452). I would have voted AYE on approving the Journal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on July 16, 2015, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 2898 and several amendments to that bill. On that day, I was in New Jersey to attend my daughter's wedding and, therefore, could not vote on that legislation.

HONORING DEBORAH KALCEVIC ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative KLINE, Representative VAN HOLLEN, and Representative SCOTT of Virginia wish to pay tribute to Deborah Kalcevic, who is retiring this month after 40 years of distinguished service to the Congress at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). She is the longest serving employee in the history of CBO. Since joining CBO in 1975 she has spent most of her time in the Income Security and Education Cost Estimates Unit. Ms. Kalcevic has worked closely with the Budget Committee and the authorizing committees on issues related to student loans and higher education. As one of the foremost experts on student loans, Ms. Kalcevic has been invaluable in helping the Budget Committee fulfill our responsibilities under the Congressional Budget Act and in assisting the Education and the Workforce Committee with countless reforms to the Higher Education Act.

Ms. Kalcevic is held in high esteem by both Republicans and Democrats for her tireless and diligent work. Her knowledge of student loan programs is legendary, as is her ability and willingness to help people more fully understand the important aspects and nuances of those programs. The work she did was incredibly important, and we are grateful to Ms. Kalcevic for her assistance, expertise, and dedication over the last four decades.

In short, Ms. Kalcevic exemplifies CBO's high standard of professionalism, objectivity, and nonpartisanship. In fact, she twice has received the CBO Director's award, the agency's highest recognition for outstanding performance. As the Chairmen and Ranking Members, we greatly appreciate the commitment that Ms. Kalcevic has shown in assisting the Budget and Education and the Workforce Committees and the Congress. We wish her well in her future endeavors, including her desire to spend more time with her family and close friends.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE LOISELLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stephanie Loisel of Clive, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Stephanie is a recent graduate of the Monterey Institute of International Studies with a Master's degree in Teaching Foreign Languages and International Education Management. She will travel to Colombia in August 2015 and begin working in an English teaching assistantship.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by

making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Stephanie today. It is the young people like her who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Stephanie on this outstanding achievement and wish her nothing but continued success moving forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify my vote on H.R. 3009, Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act (ROLL CALL 466). I was on the floor and inserted my voting card to record a "YES" vote for H.R. 3009. Unfortunately my vote failed to register. On the recorded final total tally, I am listed as having "NOT VOTED" even though I intended and attempted to vote in favor of the bill. Immediately prior to vote on final passage, my vote against the Democratic Motion to Recommit is recorded. I also spoke in favor of H.R. 3009 on the House Floor.

STUDENT TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Tax Relief Act of 2015. This bill is meant to help the students who attended Corinthian Colleges, Inc.

The legislation is designed to help students affected by the sale of 53 Corinthian College Inc., campuses to Zenith Education Group, a subsidiary of Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC). It will also help students who get debt relief as a result of a successful in asserting in defense against repayments.

My bill, at the time of introduction, has 23 original cosponsors and has the support of nine outside organizations—American Federation of Teachers (AFT), AFL–CIO, Campaign for America's Future, Consumers Union, National Education Association (NEA), New York Students Rising (NYSR), One Wisconsin Now (OWN), Young Invincibles, Student Debt Crisis.

Corinthian Colleges, Inc. was the parent of several private, for-profit institutions of higher education, the Everest Institute, Everest Colleges, Heald Colleges, and Wyotech Technical Schools.

The Zenith formed for the purpose of buying 53 campuses from Corinthian Colleges, Inc. and completed the purchase in 2015. As part

of the final agreement Zenith agreed to provide \$480 million in debt relief on Genesis loans advanced by Corinthian Colleges, Inc. As part of the agreement Zenith forgave 40% of the principal balance on the Genesis loans.

The servicers who are servicing these loans will write down the loans without a borrower needing to take any action.

As many as 170,000 individuals may qualify for this reduction. Under the tax code, generally, discharged income becomes taxable income to the taxpayer. Therefore, the amount that is discharged from the Genesis loans will result in the borrowers having to pay increased taxes.

However, this bill specifically prevents the amount discharged under the agreement between the Education Department and the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau from being included in gross income.

According to the Congressional Research Service, "Borrowers who attended a Corinthian Colleges, Inc. school that was purchased by Zenith and borrowers who attended a Corinthian Colleges, Inc. school that closed but who are ineligible for closed school loan discharge may seek debt relief on their Federal Family Education Loan or Direct Loan program loans by asserting certain defenses against repayment. In certain circumstances, borrowers of Direct Loan program loans may be able to assert as a defense against repayment of their loan 'acts or omissions of an institution of higher education,' as specified in regulation. ED has determined in regulation that such acts and omissions are those that would 'give rise to a cause of action against the school under applicable State law.'"

"If the borrower's defense is successful, Education Department will determine the amount of debt relief to which the borrower is entitled, which can include relief from repaying all or part of the outstanding loan balance and reimbursement for previous amounts paid toward the loan."

It is unknown how many individuals will ultimately end up using the Defense to Repayment provision, but the bill will provide tax relief for taxpayers who get their loans discharged under the Defense to Repayment provision. The bill will ensure that amounts discharged due to Defense to Repayment claims will not be considered gross income to the taxpayer.

It is important that the students who attended Corinthian College Inc. schools and have suffered already not have to suffer anymore by paying extra taxes on loans that get discharged.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS J.J. CHESTNUT AND JOHN GIBSON

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and John Gibson, who lost their lives on July 24, 1998, protecting the Members of this Chamber and the public while rendering honorable service as members of the U.S. Capitol Police Department.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked: "A man does what he must in spite of per-

sonal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human morality."

On July 24, 1998 this idea was given tangible expression when Officers Chestnut and Gibson lost their lives while serving others in the line of duty.

As the assailant opened fire in the hall of the Capitol, Officers Chestnut and Gibson reacted by putting themselves between the gunman and the innocent persons and representatives present in the Capitol that day.

Who knows what carnage would have unfolded had Officer Gibson not brought an end to this violence by neutralizing the assailants.

I vividly remember being here in this very chamber when the shootout started in 1998, and I know that their heroic actions saved many lives.

Officer Chestnut was on his second tour of public service, previously serving in the Vietnam War as an officer.

His military leadership skills translated seamlessly into his Capitol Police Officer role and were recognized when he was named Capitol Police Officer of the Year.

Even though Officer Chestnut was close to retirement his tireless effort to fulfill his role as protector saved many lives on that tragic day.

Officer Gibson not only was active and respected by his colleagues here on Capitol Hill, his commitment to his local community was exemplary.

An eighteen year veteran of the department, Officer Gibson was described as a model officer who always followed the golden rule and treated others with respect whether in uniform or not.

I would also like to thank all of the Capitol Hill Police Officers who protect me and my colleagues in Congress as well as the thousands of Americans who visit their national Capitol every day.

These guardians protect more than the innocent people around them that day.

They serve as examples of the oath all of our men and women in uniform take when volunteering to serve their nation as Capitol Police Officers:

We protect the legislative process, the symbol of our democracy, the people who carry out the process, and the millions of visitors who travel here to see democracy in action;

Every American who visits the Capitol, as well as those visitors from around the world, is a member of our protected community and sees first-hand how we are the best of America's spirit and diversity;

As an agency, we are a microcosm of America, representational of many races, colors, religions, political affiliations, sexual orientations, and ages. Our workforce derives from almost all 50 states and territories, with some representation from other countries. We embrace and celebrate a diverse workforce, where we believe inclusion makes our workplace stronger and respecting each individual as a person and as a professional is essential; and;

We represent the best in American policing. We act on the world stage every day of the year, as a model in security, urban crime prevention, dignitary protection, specialty response capabilities, and homeland security. We are often the first face that visitors and employees encounter, and we leave a lasting impression that is reflective of the Legislative Branch and its role in America's democracy.

Officers Chestnut and Gibson exemplified what the incredible sacrifice is that police officers make every day when they head out into the community to protect and serve their family, friends, and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I am proud to remember the heroic actions of the Capitol Police Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson on this day in 1998.

The Scriptures teach that no great love hath any but that he lay down his life for another.

Officers Chestnut and Gibson showed great love for their fellow men and women on July 24, 1998, and for their heroism, they will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF PAT EPSTEIN

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, a dear friend, Patricia (Tananbaum) Epstein, passed away quietly on July 22, 2015, after a long and wonderful life filled with extended family and friends. She leaves her devoted husband of more than 66 years, Jerry. Together, and as individuals, they have been a very special and unforgettable couple who have had a meaningful impact on the lives of so many.

That is also true of the lives of my parents, former Congressman Edward R. Roybal and my mother Lucille Beserra Roybal. And it is most certainly true of the joy and friendship Pat and Jerry brought into my life and that of my husband Ed. We loved having dinner with them and hearing Pat's laughter and the jokes she loved to tell. And we loved seeing the examples of her talent in her beautiful works of art.

Pat was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 28, 1924, the only child of Leo and Hannah Tananbaum. She met Jerry, the love of her life, when he was a student at Emory University after the end of World War II. They married on December 26, 1948, in a beautiful ceremony at the Mayfair Club in Atlanta, attended by family and friends, many of whom had traveled on a private train from New York City for the event. Their wedding would be only the first of many spectacular parties Pat and Jerry would plan and host over the ensuing decades, as Pat became the consummate gracious and lively hostess.

Pat and Jerry settled permanently in Los Angeles in December 1949. For decades, including up to the last months of her life, Pat was a sculptress, working primarily in alabaster and later in papier-mâché. Her work can be found at St. John's Hospital, the Jewish Home for the Aging, and in many private homes around the country.

Pat enjoyed her involvement with the Advisory Board of the Fashion Institute of Design and Management (FIDM).

Pat was also active in Hadassah and the Irene Dunne Guild of Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica. The doctors, nurses, and staff at St. John's Hospital were not just caregivers, but many became close friends for over four decades, and their compassion and attention were particularly meaningful during the last months of Pat's life.

Pat and Jerry's generosity and dedication to their many friends and family is legendary,

and they leave a legacy of “adopted” children to benefit from their loving advice and assist-
and grandchildren who have and will continue ance.

Ed and I will miss Pat greatly, but feel
blessed that we had the good fortune to have
known such a great lady.