

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING DOUG WALKER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend Doug Walker, who passed away on December 31, 2015, on Granite Mountain near Snoqualmie Pass.

It is this wild, rugged landscape that lured Doug to Washington state and stoked his creativity, energy, and passions for more than four decades.

A gifted mathematician with an insatiable fondness for climbing, he established strong roots in the community. The impact he—along with his wife Maggie—had on our community and the many charitable causes to which he gave his time and wisdom is unparalleled.

A true champion for conservation, he cared deeply about protecting the North Cascades most treasured lands. But his greatest passion was broadening the constituency for conservation, and he worked tirelessly to ensure that all people—especially youth and those in underserved communities—could access the outdoors.

Doug will be remembered and missed by so many whose lives he touched, with his incredible spirit and generosity. His legacy of inspiring others to experience and protect the outdoors lives on.

I ask unanimous consent to submit for the RECORD a recent Seattle Times editorial commemorating Doug's life.

REMEMBERING A TECH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PHILANTHROPIC ROLE MODEL: DOUG WALKER

(The Seattle Times, January 5, 2016)

The loss of software pioneer and philanthropist Doug Walker, who died in a mountain accident, is a blow to the region.

But it's also an opportunity to remind people—especially the flood of tech workers moving to the Puget Sound region—about the character and values of those who built the local industry and became universal role models.

Walker, the co-founder and longtime chief executive of business-software company WRQ, created much more than technology, jobs and wealth.

WRQ was known for the quality of life it provided to employees as much as it was for software that increased productivity.

As a second act, he helped build a new vehicle for philanthropy, a giving platform, that continues to channel the expertise and compassion of others who have done well in the tech industry.

Long after WRQ was sold and merged with a local competitor, Attachmate, Walker continued to work on his third act, serving as a national leader in wilderness preservation and access.

Walker was a lifelong outdoorsman who chose the University of Washington for graduate school in the 1970s because of its nat-

ural surroundings. Between adventures, he learned programming and consulted on business computing systems.

At the start of the PC era in 1981, he and friends pooled \$500 to start WRQ, which became one of the nation's largest private software companies. It helped establish Seattle's leadership in enterprise software, which drew other entrepreneurs and companies to the area.

WRQ thrived in part because Walker, the longtime chief executive, made it a great place to work. Before Google's free food and Facebook's hot tubs, WRQ had perks like kayak parking on Lake Union.

Later, Walker and his wife, Maggie, co-founded Social Venture Partners, a global nonprofit that encouraged thousands to share wealth and expertise with worthy causes. SVP helped establish Seattle as a hotbed of highly engaged philanthropy.

Walker led by example with "a uniquely powerful style . . . simultaneously passionate, pointed, warm and sophisticated in supporting the causes that he felt were important," said Tony Mestres, who joined SVP while at Microsoft and now heads the Seattle Foundation.

That level of engagement and generosity has been a hallmark of Seattle's earliest and most successful tech entrepreneurs.

Walker is a great example of why that tradition should continue. He is remembered not for how much money he accumulated but by how broadly he shared his gifts, both financial and intellectual.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted against the previous question for H. Res. 579 (Roll Number 2), H. Res. 579 (Roll Number 3), the previous question for H. Res. 580 (Roll Number 4), and H. Res. 580 (Roll Number 5). I would have also voted against H.R. 3762 (Roll Number 6), which agreed to the Senate amendment.

HONORING THE EAST NICOLAUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, before the holiday break, I rose to congratulate the East Nicolaus High School Spartans from Sutter County for advancing to the CIF Division VI-AA Football Championship game. At that time, they were about to make a 500-mile road trip

to face Coronado, a school four times their size.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that the Spartans may have been underdogs in that game, but that didn't matter to them: on December 28, they won the championship game 16–6. Quarterback S.J. Brown threw for a touchdown and rushed for another. Donovan Switalski had 25 carries for 135 yards. And on defense, cornerback Eddie Herrera intercepted two passes.

These were great individual efforts, but as a former lineman for the Cal Bears, I know that it takes a full team effort to pull off a win like this. I congratulate Coach Travis Barker and the entire East Nicolaus team for making Sutter County and the entire 3rd Congressional District proud.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WEST ORANGE-STARK MUSTANGS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Orange-Stark Mustangs for winning their third state title in school history on December 18, 2015 at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

This is no easy task, especially in Texas. It is a testament to the incredible resiliency, passion, commitment and hard work displayed by these young men. I would like to personally recognize each one of them and their coaches by entering their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I would also like to wish each one of them continued success on and off the football field.

Players: Keyshawn Holman, Jackson Dallas, Kentavious Miller, Dominic Tezeno, Justin Brown, Malick Phillips, Mandel Turner-King, Payton Robertson, Malacci Hodge, Jarron Morris, Kaleb Ramsey, Ronald Carter, Melech Edwards, Jeremiah Shaw, Quinton Chargois, Jay'len Mathews, Tokeba Hughey, Keion Hancock, Ja'Vonn Ross, Torrien Burnett, Aric Cormier, Demorris Thibodeaux, Tyshon Watkins, Jamarcus Joulevette, Ryan Baham-Heisser, Cory Skinner, Jr., Steven Tims, Ryan Ragsdale, Tristen Scott, Jalen Powdrill, Te'Ron Brown, Paul Ivory, Morris Joseph, Bobby Rash, Keddrick Gant, Rashaad Carter, Ja'Qualan Coleman, Ledarian Carter, Rufus Joseph, Jr., Thomas Wallace and Blake Robinson.

Athletic Director/Head Coach: Cornel Thompson; Defensive Coordinator: Mike Pierce; Offensive Coordinator: Ed Dyer; Assistant Coaches: Del Basinger, Terry Joe Ramsey, Joseph Viator, Jacoby Franks and Stephen Westbrook, Randy Ragsdale, Shea Landry; Athletic Trainer: Shannon Scott; Student Trainers: Cruz Hernandez, Chad Dallas, Cassidy Wright and Jared Dupree.

Go Mustangs.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 37TH ANNUAL
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. In his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, Dr. King embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District who will be recognized during the 37th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 16, 2016, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, William "Billy" Foster and Mozell Hayman will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award for 2016. Additionally, several individuals will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast, including Tammi Davis, Reverend Chet Johnson Sr., Danita Johnson Hughes, Ph.D., and Reverend Mathew Whittington. Finally, Reverend Curtis Whittaker, CPA, was selected as the 2015 Yokefellow of the Year.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, along with Clorius L. Lay, who has served as Breakfast Chairman for sixteen years, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 182ND
ANNIVERSARY OF CHERRY HILL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 182nd anniversary of Cherry Hill United Methodist Church.

When Cherry Hill United Methodist Church first began meeting in 1834, it consisted of only a few pioneer families in their log cabins on the circuit of an itinerant preacher. In 1848, members of the church raised \$600 to construct the beautiful gothic-style brick building that stands today. Since then, the building has been expanded to accommodate the growth in attendance and to support a full parsonage, but it retains its original structure and colorful stained glass windows.

In its 182 years of existence, the church has been a boon to the Cherry Hill community. Over the years, it has often been the setting for community dinners and social gatherings. Today, Cherry Hill United Methodist Church members serve the community through their dedication to providing low income children with school supplies and winter coats, their work with Habitat for Humanity, and their support for the "First Step" domestic violence shelter.

Thank you, Cherry Hill United Methodist Church for your service, and my sincere congratulations on your 182nd anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY ANN ROBERTS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, my District spans a large area of East Tennessee, including parts of the Smoky Mountains in the heart of Appalachia.

This region has a rich history of country music.

Recently, one of my constituents, Emily Ann Roberts, rose to stardom on the national stage after placing second on the NBC television show *The Voice*.

Emily wowed judges during her audition with a version of Lee Ann Womack's "I Hope You Dance," earning her the admiration of show host and singer Blake Shelton.

From there, she spent months competing each week with dozens of other contestants.

During the show's run, Emily even made the iTunes Top 10 several times and climbed to 21 on the country Billboard chart for her rendition of The Judds' song "Why Not Me."

I have had the privilege over the years to get to know Dolly Parton. Emily was very excited when Dolly made an appearance on the show to help coach her.

It was certainly a favorite moment for me and East Tennessee viewers.

Emily told the Knoxville News Sentinel, "That's such a once in a lifetime thing. I've grown up surrounded by her influence . . . when she hugged me, she said 'I love my little hometown girl' and then she leaned back and she said 'I'm so proud of you.'"

During the show's finale, Emily stood live in front of millions of viewers and sang with Ricky Skaggs. She was a symbol of East Tennessee graciousness when she hugged her fellow competitor after the results were announced.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt we will hear Emily's beautiful voice for many years to come, and she will find continued success in music.

I call her inspirational journey to the attention of my colleagues and other readers in hopes that it inspires many more young people to reach for the stars.

K-9 ZERO CAMDEN COUNTY
POLICE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of K-9 Officer Zero of the Camden County Police Department for his achievements, contributions, and service to the people of New Jersey.

Zero, a Czech Shepherd, joined the Camden County Police Department in 2007. Zero was instrumental to keeping streets safe and sniffing out illegal drugs, but he became a local legend from his ability to find and rescue missing children. Soon he was a local celebrity, known throughout the community for his powerful sense of smell and his friendly demeanor around kids. His personable attitude made him the poster dog for the police force and an essential part of the force's public relations community outreach efforts.

Alongside his handler, Lieutenant Zsakhie James, Zero quickly shattered the K-9 record for most criminal apprehensions in New Jersey. By the end of his career, he apprehended 68 criminals. On December 29th, 2015, our local hero died of natural causes in the home of his friend and partner, Lieutenant James.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Zero will be remembered for the lives he saved and the unity he brought to the community. His service sets the bar for all K-9 units and I join Lieutenant James, the Camden County Police Department and the residents of Camden County in thanking Zero for his lifetime of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED EATON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Eaton for his twenty years of service with Comcast and his commitment to expanding access to media across Southeast Michigan.

A native of Chicago, Fred attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana where he majored in Radio and Television. After college, Fred went to work for southern Illinois' Mt. Vernon Register-News, writing articles by day and rewriting them for the evening news by night. It was during this time that Fred pioneered advances in the "Eyewitness News" format.

Fred moved to Michigan with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Virginia, taking up an editor post at the Adrian Daily Telegram. Always generous with his time and expertise, Fred consulted for the Lenawee County Democratic Party before going on to serve the public interest working with Congressman John Dingell. It was no surprise to any when Comcast asked Fred to be their man in Southeast Michigan. As the company has grown, so too has Fred's engagement in the community.

During his time with Comcast, Fred has been involved with numerous community organizations. He has served as a board member of The Guidance Center and the International Association for Organ Donation, as a founding member of Everybody Ready! and as chairman of the Great Start Collaborative for Wayne County. Fred has also served on the boards of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, and the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chambers of Commerce. Our communities have been truly enriched by Fred's commitment.

When there was a need some place, Fred was always the first to say "how do we help?" An event didn't feel complete if Fred wasn't there. Most striking was his outlook on life—always smiling, always positive and always seeing the glass half full. He is leaving our community, and his departure will create a hole in many hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Fred Eaton for his service to our community. I thank him for his leadership and wish him many years of happiness ahead of him.

COMMEMORATING THE INAUGURATION OF MR. HARVEY GODWIN JR. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL COUNCIL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inauguration of Mr. Harvey Godwin Jr. as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribal Council, which is being held at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Givens Performing Arts Center on January 7, 2016.

After his inauguration as Chairman of the Tribal Council, Chairman Godwin has the honor of leading the Lumbee Tribe, which is headquartered in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District. The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River with over 55,000 members, and is the ninth largest tribe in the United States.

Prior to his election as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribal Council, Chairman Godwin has been an active member of the Moss Neck community as a business leader and public servant. Chairman Godwin started his own business in the community, Two Hawk Employment Services, and currently serves on the Robeson Community College Foundation Board of Directors and the Lumber River Workforce Development Board. He also has previously served as the President of the Lumberton Rotary Club and was a past member of the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors.

This is an exciting moment for Chairman Godwin and the entire Lumbee Tribe as they celebrate the beginning of a new era in the Tribe's already proud history. Since coming to Congress in 2013, I have taken great pride in representing the Lumbee Tribe and I look forward to continuing this close relationship under Chairman Godwin.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mr. Godwin on his election as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribal Council and wishing him well as he begins this new role.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, America is in the middle of a bikeshare revolution: 13 new bikeshare systems launched in 2014 and 11 more launched in 2015, bringing the national total to approximately 80. More than 10 million people rode a bikeshare bicycle last year. Systems are opening in large metropolitan regions like Washington, DC and New York, as well as smaller communities like Dayton and Boise. The increased commercial investment around bikeshare stations and networks drives economic development in these communities.

Some of these existing bikeshare programs received federal monies to get off the ground, but the lack of an established funding source has proved an impediment to other projects across the country. Since the term "bikeshare" is not defined in U.S. Code or described by law as a form of transit, bikeshare systems and transportation officials alike now operate in a gray area. Congress needs to act to clarify that bikeshare projects are eligible for federal funding, providing certainty to investors, business owners, and commuters.

That is why today I am introducing the Bikeshare Transit Act. This legislation will eliminate this gray area by defining bikeshare in statute and making bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. They will also be listed as an eligible project under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.

Additionally, the Bikeshare Transit Act will allow federal funding to be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare related equipment and the construction of bikeshare facilities.

The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new bikeshare projects as well as those existing bikeshare programs applying for federal funding. This legislation underscores that bikeshare programs drive economic development and are an important part of America's transportation system.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER A.J. RIVERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal

congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional public servant and outstanding citizen, Commissioner A.J. Rivers, on the occasion of his retirement as City Commissioner of Cordele, Georgia.

When Mr. Rivers was elected City Commissioner in 1972, he became the first African American elected to city-wide office in Cordele. Since that time, he has served his community zealously and with unparalleled commitment.

Commissioner Rivers served our nation with honor and distinction in World War II from 1943 to 1946. He graduated from the Holsey-Cobb Institute in Cordele in 1947. He worked for North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company for 53 years—35 of those years in management and 18 years in agency. He was certified as an Instructor for Insurance Courses by the State Insurance Commissioner's Office in 1983.

Beyond his duties and responsibilities as a public servant, Commissioner Rivers has also dedicated his personal life to serving his community. He has served as a Scout Master; Westside Chairperson of the American Cancer Society; Westside Chairperson of the American Red Cross; President of the 8th District of the Georgia Municipal Association in 2006; President and Corporate Board Member of Big/Brother Big Sister of South Georgia in 2006; and President of the Gillespie Development and Day Care Center for 17 years. He is a member of the American Legion; NAACP; Cordele Community Advancement Council; Crisp County Chamber Executive Committee; and Board of Directors for River Valley Regional Commission, among many other community and professional organizations. Notably, Commissioner Rivers is the Founder and President of the Historical Awards Committee. Always a mentor to those who worked and lived around him, Commissioner Rivers possesses the rare quality of humble leadership.

Throughout his career, Commissioner Rivers has been recognized for his commitment and leadership in the community. His awards and accolades include the 8th District Community Award from the Georgia Municipal Association in 1994; the USDA Rural Development Steadfast Award in 2002; and the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Cordele Lions Club in 2014.

Commissioner Rivers' Christian faith has always instilled within him a desire to positively shape the community in which he lives. As a lifetime member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, he regularly incorporates his faith into his commitment to public service.

After retirement, Commissioner Rivers will enjoy spending time with his wife, Vera, and their four children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Commissioner Rivers has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would be possible without the love and support of the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Commissioner A.J. Rivers upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career spanning 44 years as City Commissioner of Cordele, Georgia.

TROOPER ELI MCCARSON, NEW
JERSEY STATE POLICE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of fallen New Jersey State Police Trooper Eli McCarson for his extraordinary sacrifice and exemplary service to the citizens of New Jersey and the United States.

Trooper McCarson's dream was to serve his community as a member of the New Jersey State Police. His perseverance was finally rewarded in February 2015 when he graduated from the State Police Academy at the top of his class with honors. Unfortunately on December 17th, after just ten months on the force, Trooper McCarson was killed in a tragic car accident in the line of duty. His untimely death left behind his loving family—including his wife Jordan McCarson—and a grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, Trooper Eli McCarson's life reminds us that the men and women who serve and protect our communities put their lives on the line every day to protect us. I join with my community and all of New Jersey in honoring the achievements and selfless service of this truly exceptional young man.

HONORING MR. ROBERT JOHNSON,
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST FROM
GRENADA, MS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Robert Johnson of Grenada, MS, a beloved civil rights activist and renowned public servant. He has been remembered by many as a fighter for justice, freedom and equality for all and a pillar of his community.

Johnson was born to the late Finley and Catherine Johnson on June 17, 1948, in Grenada, MS. The sixth of seven children, Robert learned the value of hard work and sacrifice. He attended Grenada High School where he played football and attended Alcorn State University on a full athletic scholarship.

In 1966, the Meredith March against fear would change the path in which Robert Johnson would take his life. Robert came back to Grenada to join the Civil Rights Movement and worked to establish and protect voting rights in Mississippi. He was the local youth leader of the Grenada County Freedom Movement. Through his work with the Grenada County Freedom Movement, he helped make the nation aware of the threats, intimidation, and lawlessness being inflicted upon Black people in the town.

He joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as a Field Project Director and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dr. Ralph David Abernathy to continue SCLC programs in Grenada. His work with SCLC led him on organizing efforts across the country and even in Africa.

In 1971, he was jailed for refusing to be drafted into the military and was sentenced to

five years but was released on a full pardon in 1972 by President Gerald Ford after serving eighteen months of the sentence.

Johnson continued his activism with the SCLC which led him to Covington, GA, where he met his wife Mary. They were married in November of 1974 and were later blessed with two sons, Cleon and Marcus.

Robert began working for the Metro Atlanta Transit Authority as a bus operator and in 1985 began attending Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church. He and his family joined Mt. Ephraim soon after. Robert Johnson served as a trustee on the Official Board for a number of years. In 2002, he was ordained as a deacon. Around this time, Robert was honored along with Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, and other grassroots workers of the Civil Rights Movement with a trip to Durban, South Africa where they met South African activist and president, Nelson Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a special individual, Mr. Robert Johnson—a devoted servant of his community, a fighter for justice and equality for all people, a founder of the Grenada County Freedom Movement, and consummate family man. He will be missed by all those who know and love him.

HONORING UNC PRESIDENT TOM
ROSS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and a devoted public servant, Tom Ross, who retired this month as President of the University of North Carolina system.

My wife Lisa and have known Tom and his wife Susan for many years. His son Tommy served in my office, making a major contribution to the development of the House Democracy Partnership. I have long admired Tom's dedication to the university, and I am very grateful for his service to our state.

A graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill law school, Tom answered the call to serve as the UNC system's President in 2011, in the midst of some of the greatest financial challenges that the university has faced in its history. UNC not only overcame these challenges; it has thrived thanks to Tom's perseverance and strategic vision.

During his time at UNC, Tom made it easier to transfer from North Carolina community colleges to the four-year UNC institutions, expanding nontraditional students' access to higher education. He has focused effectively on the access of active-duty military and veterans to the system and on enhancing their chances to succeed. He has carefully overseen the selection of 11 new university chancellors, guaranteeing another generation of exceptional leadership for the system's 16 constituent universities.

Perhaps most importantly, Tom has led the university through economic adversity, protecting its mission and securing its financial footing. Compared to the beginning of Tom's tenure, UNC system graduation rates have risen 18 percent while spending per degree has dropped 15 percent—remarkable achievements that reflect Tom's leadership.

Tom's life has been dedicated to public service. He came to UNC from Davidson College, his alma mater and one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges, where he served as President from 2007 to 2011. At Davidson, he implemented the Davidson Trust, a new initiative designed to fully eliminate student debt through grants and student employment. This innovative program has helped ensure that Davidson graduates do not face a financial burden as they begin their careers. He also oversaw a period of exceptional growth at Davidson, in part inspired by the on-campus career of Stephen Curry, who has gone on to become the NBA MVP and a global superstar. I suppose it's true that success begets success.

Before his tenure at Davidson, Tom was President of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, which provides tens of millions of dollars annually in grants to organizations devoted to economic empowerment. Tom also spent 17 years as a judge on North Carolina's Superior Court, directed the state Administrative Office of the Courts, and led the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Committee, where he oversaw the development and implementation of new sentencing guidelines for non-violent offenders.

I cannot fail to note that Tom is leaving the presidency of UNC prematurely. The Board of Governors last year made an unexpected, unexplained decision to request his resignation, while acknowledging that his stewardship had been exemplary. This leaves little doubt that the decision was based on the fact that Tom does not share the Board's partisan loyalties. This was not only shabby treatment of an outstanding public servant; it also set a dangerous precedent for a university system that for most of its history has been free of this sort of political manipulation.

Tom has handled this difficult situation with characteristic dignity and grace. His final contribution as president may be one of his most important: to help us move beyond this episode in a way that avoids recrimination, protects the university's integrity, and builds on the many achievements of the past five years.

Lisa and I wish Tom well as he transitions to teaching and prepares for future endeavors. With Susan's unfailing support, he has made lasting contributions to our state's judicial system, nonprofit sector, and private and public higher education. He leaves our University stronger in important ways, despite the difficult economic and political environment in which he was called to lead. And he still has much to give. I am pleased to join thousands of North Carolinians in thanking him for his tireless service and in anticipating his contributions yet to come.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL EX-
TENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR NA-
TIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROGRAMS TO CITIZENS OF THE
FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would enable citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, collectively referred to as the

Freely Associated States (FAS), who reside in the United States to participate in National Community Service (CNS) programs, including AmeriCorps. This bill provides parity for citizens of the FAS who are able to join our military, receive federal student aid to further their education, and eligible to participate in other federal social programs.

The inability for FAS citizens to participate in CNS programs has had a direct impact on individuals residing in my home district of Guam. Last year, several FAS citizens who are studying at the University of Guam and enrolled in the AmeriCorps program were removed from the program because they were found to be ineligible under the citizenship guidelines. Despite having already begun working with their assigned service organizations, these individuals were forced to find alternate accommodations through the local Guam Legislature, which appropriated local funds to cover expenses that would have otherwise been provided through the Centers for National and Community Service. I believe that this was a great injustice to these individuals, who wanted to help the people of Guam and who serve as role models for others in our community.

I believe that FAS citizens who reside in the U.S. should be allowed to participate in national service programs, just as they are able to serve our nation in military service or obtain federal student aid to further their education. My bill would specifically amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to include citizens of the FAS who are residing in the U.S. in the list of qualified individuals, in addition to U.S. citizens or nationals, or lawful permanent residents of the United States. The bill will ensure that any FAS citizen in the U.S. who wants to participate is not denied the opportunity to make our community better. If we can allow FAS citizens to serve in our military and protect our way of life it is only fair that we allow them to serve our local communities through community service. As we work to make the Compacts more sustainable for the affected jurisdiction, I believe that this is a good way to continue our commitment to improving our relationships with these nations.

I thank my colleagues, Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD and Congressman KILLI SABLAN for their support of this bill. I look forward to working with them to move this bill through the legislative process and having it enacted into law.

TRIBUTE TO STUART O. WITT

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who dedicated his life to the continued advancement of American aerospace.

Witt was born in Bakersfield, California and raised on the Scodie Ranch in the Kern River Valley. He graduated from Cal State Northridge in 1974, from the Naval Aviation Schools Command in 1976 and from the Naval Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN training) in 1980. He is also a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland's Center for Creative Leadership.

Upon graduating college, Witt embarked on a storied military career in the Navy, where he spent time as an F-14 Tomcat pilot based on the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* and as an FA-18A Hornet project pilot at the Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake, CA. After the Navy, Witt continued to fly professionally for nearly nine years as an engineering test pilot on the B-1B, F-16C and F-23. In 1993 he joined Computer Technology Associates, where he managed a \$100-million contract as Executive Vice President.

Since 2002, Witt was CEO and General Manager of the Mojave Air & Space Port, which lies just outside of my district, where he was the defining factor in making that Port the crucial institution that it is today. In addition to his efforts at Mojave, Witt also served as the Chairman of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation (CSF) from 2012-2014 where he worked tirelessly to promote the development of commercial human spaceflight and to bring about a 21st century space age for America.

I have worked with Stu on multiple occasions to develop legislation that would allow the commercial space industry to innovate and expand in the state of California, and can attest to his skills as a pioneer and leader. His legacy will be felt by space lovers, entrepreneurs, and explorers for generations.

IN DEFENSE OF SECOND AMENDMENT FREEDOMS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, throughout this president's time in office, he has worked to undermine the 2nd Amendment freedoms of law-abiding Americans. It's no surprise that he would begin his final year exactly the same way.

The new unilateral actions announced by the president will do little to make our communities safer. But they could infringe on the rights of Americans to protect themselves and their families.

These unilateral actions are only an attempt to distract from the career failings of an ineffective president. In fact, most of them are about strictly enforcing our existing laws—something this president has repeatedly failed to do.

The Second Amendment is a founding principle of our Republic. I assure my constituents that I will continue to stand strong against any infringement.

SHERIFF CHARLES BILLINGHAM, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Charles H. Billingham of Camden County, New Jersey for his achievements, contributions, and service to the people of New Jersey and the United States of America.

Sheriff Billingham started his 34-year career as a patrolman in Gloucester City, New Jer-

sey. Recognized for his talent and positive demeanor, he quickly rose through the ranks from patrolman to sergeant where he supervised and managed the daily activities of a patrol platoon. He moved to the Washington Township Police Department, which put him back on patrol again. His dedication earned him the respect from his fellow officers and he soon rose to the rank of chief of police. During his time as chief of police in Washington Township he focused many of his efforts on community outreach through educational programs including crime prevention, issues concerning youths, domestic violence, and drug awareness such as "project aware" and D.A.R.E.

In 2007, after serving as a councilman and Mayor of Gloucester City for nearly 4 years, he was elected Sheriff of Camden County. He brought with him the same "can do attitude" he had displayed throughout his career. As sheriff, he continued to focus on educating and incorporating the police into the community. In fact, his tenure saw a tremendous rise in community engagement and a plummeting crime rate. Moreover, his work ethic never wavered, even as he approached retirement he continued to energetically and enthusiastically protect our community. During his final days as sheriff while out on patrol during a routine traffic stop, he personally arrested three fugitives, and confiscated illegal weapons and a substantial amount of illegal drugs. A lifelong family man, he is now retiring to spend more time with his wife Marion and their two sons, Chuckie and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Billingham is a great American who exemplifies the selfless dedication of law enforcement officers throughout the country. I join Camden County and all of New Jersey in wishing him a happy retirement and thanking him for his outstanding service.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and support of our close ally Taiwan as it prepares to conduct free, fair and democratic presidential elections. On January 16, 2016, the Taiwanese people will go to the polls in a tremendous display of the core democratic principle of self-determination.

This year, we celebrated the 41st anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, a law that has helped foster a deep bond between the U.S. and our ally in the Pacific. As the only Member of Congress born in Taiwan and as a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am encouraged by our strong bilateral relations and the broad bipartisan support for Taiwan that exists in Congress today, and I look forward to expanding that relationship even further with the newly-elected president.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Taiwan a successful democratic and independent election.

H.R. 712 AND H.R. 1155

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House considered H.R. 712, the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, and H.R. 1155, the SCRUB Act, pieces of legislation with the primary purpose of dismantling and undermining the federal rulemaking and regulatory process. I voted against both of these bills.

Throughout my career, as an administrator and policymaker at the local, state, and federal levels, I have often seen the value of common-sense regulations that save lives. I have also seen the challenges associated with cumbersome regulations that are difficult to comply with.

There are ways to make some regulations more efficient and easier to navigate, but we must do so in a way that protects public health, maintains our environmental protections, and ensures fair market interactions. These bills, however, are far from the mark.

They both would implement a “cut-go” approach that would require every new rule to come with the removal of another, even in cases of emergency or imminent harm to public health. This approach is absurd. Regulations often build on each other, evolving and sometimes rapidly responding to emerging challenges, and this type of restriction will only threaten the process and undermine the ability of agencies to effectively protect public health, public safety, the environment and more.

The Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, through its barriers to consent decrees, through its imposition of a moratorium on implementation until a rule is available online for six months, and through its requirement that all rules be summarized in 100 words online, regardless of how complex, only

adds additional, unnecessary burdens on the rulemaking process, without actually improving it.

The underlying assumption behind these bills is that regulations are unwelcome and burdensome on communities and the economy. I frequently, however, hear from industry in my community and around the country about the importance of many government regulations, in equalizing the playing field and setting important guidelines based on science that allow them to be good actors in their communities.

There are certainly outdated regulations, and there is always room for greater efficiencies, and the creation of more performance based, flexible regulatory processes. These bills however, will not get us closer to that goal, and are dangerous to public safety, to health and the environment.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
DALLAS THEODORE YATES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a godly and enterprising soul from Florida: my uncle, the Honorable Dallas Theodore Yates.

Mr. Yates, affectionately known as “Uncle Dallas,” was born in Caryville, Florida on September 22, 1919. From a young age, he was a person of deep and abiding faith, giving his life to Christ at the age of eight while attending Saint Mary’s African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. In 1951, Uncle Dallas would go on to help establish the Gregg Chapel A.M.E. Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Later, he moved to south Florida with his wife, Jane Eva Davis Yates, where they reared their children: Phyllis Rose Bryant Gilley, Raymond Lawrence Bryant, Sr., Harold Dwight Yates,

Dallasteen Joy Yates and Jeffrey Arles Yates. There, in 1957, he entered into Christian fellowship with New Bethel A.M.E. Church. Over the course of his tenure at the church, he held the positions of Trustee Board Chairman Pro Tempore, Steward Board Chairman Pro Tempore, District Steward, as well as Annual Conference Delegate, all while giving generously to support the church’s maintenance and services. In 1998, after many years of faithfully serving the Lord, he became a “licensed Exhorter of the word of God.”

Throughout his life, he was known for his entrepreneurial spirit and industrious nature. While living in Fort Walton Beach, Florida as a young man, he owned and operated the “Chicken in the Basket Restaurant” and was the co-owner of the “Silver Cab Company” with his brother Charlie Yates. He also owned and developed residential properties in the city. In 1962, he moved to Indian River County, Florida and became the first black law enforcement officer and Deputy Sheriff in the county. He is said to have been known for his professionalism and ability to deescalate situations. In the 1970s, after honorably serving Indian River County, he and his wife established D & J Citrus Inc., a fruit harvesting and packing company. He also established the Yates Supermarket, which was family-owned and operated into the 1980s.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of an exceptional man: my uncle, the Honorable Dallas Theodore Yates, who, despite facing what many would describe as insurmountable obstacles, accomplished his dreams of becoming a businessman and a trailblazer in law enforcement, while remaining a man of faith until his passing on December 30, 2015 at the age of 96.

Mr. Speaker, I shall remember Uncle Dallas as a devoted husband, a dedicated father, and a mentor who provided me with a sense of direction, which has led me to the Congress of the United States of America.