

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED MU XI OMEGA CHAPTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Mu Xi Omega Chapter. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Mu Xi Omega Chapter has served the Warren County community through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

Known throughout the world for its programs of service, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated chartered the Mu Xi Omega Chapter as a beacon of service to the Vicksburg community on December 17, 1978 at Bethel A.M.E. Church. The Chapter has remained an active part of the community through its membership. Members can be found working on every level in the church, community, and other civic and professional arenas.

Since 1988, the Chapter's signature program has hosted reading workshops and book distributions through a partnership with Reading is Fundamental. Additionally, the Mu Xi Omega Chapter hosts other community service projects on health and wellness. The members sponsor the Mu Xi Omega Pearls Girl's Club as well as the Biennial Beautillion Presentation for young men. They also partner with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association in addressing the needs of Warren County and supporting the Launching New Dimensions of Service platform. Mu Xi Omega supports the sorority's national program through its many collaborative efforts with organizations in fulfillment of AKA Global Impact Days.

On August 1, 2015 the Mu Xi Omega Chapter along with International President, Ms. Dorothy Buchanan Wilson and South Eastern Regional Direction, Mrs. Mary B. Conner paid tribute to the only two national presidents that hailed from the State of Mississippi by unveiling a Marker in their honor. Both Bobbie Beatrix Scott and Ida L. Jackson hometown was the River City of Vicksburg. While serving in the capacity of National President they helped to expand AKA's current national program while establishing new programs to continue to effect social change on a national level. Jackson and Scott courageously led Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. during a time when women were considered inferior to men and certainly not intellectually equipped or sufficiently astute in business to run a major corporation. But these women defied the odds and helped to catapult the organization into even greater national prominence, allowing the voices of thousands of African American women to be heard on the national stage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mu Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for its dedication to remaining a vital entity of public service in the Vicksburg Warren community.

TRIBUTE TO PETER COWNIE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Peter Cownie for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As Executive Director of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation, Peter continues to work hard to improve the offerings and support for one of our state's main attractions, the Iowa State Fair. His dedication to improving and growing the state fair is a true testament to his passion for Iowa. Not only is Peter dedicated to his role with the State Fair but he also advocates on the behalf of his constituents as a state representative. He works tirelessly to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, and to move the state forward for an even better, more prosperous future for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Peter in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Peter on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING ANDY CREWS FOR BEING NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Andy Crews for being named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Andy's impact on the Queen City is immeasurable. During his time with the AutoFair Automotive Group he has personally lent public and financial support to numerous organizations such as New Horizons, the Manchester Boys & Girls Club, the Manchester Animal Shelter, Veterans Count and of course the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. This involvement, in addition to the time he spends working with both high school and college students teaching valuable life lessons, exemplifies his commitment to education and generous spirit.

Andy's input has always been greatly valued. His service to his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and his service to his community serves as a great example for others to get involved and stay engaged in assisting those in need of a helping hand.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize Andy for all that he's done to improve the lives of people throughout the Granite State, and wish him the best on all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of The Ukrainian American Youth Association, located in Whippany, Morris County, New Jersey.

In 1925, in Kyiv, Ukraine, the Ukrainian Youth Association was formed. At the time, Ukraine was under Russian Communist oppression. The goal of the organization was to continue Ukrainian national and cultural identity and start a struggle against the Russian Communist effort to carry out a genocide of the people of the Ukrainian nation. From 1929-1930, the majority of the organization's members were repressed, their commanders were arrested, confined in Soviet Gulags and in the end, murdered.

By the end of World War II, many Ukrainians were living in displaced person camps in

● 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.

Germany. The people noticed the need to start the organization again, so that the displaced Ukrainian youth army might benefit from its programs. Once again, they wanted to continue to promote the national and cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people living outside Ukraine and to protest against Russian Communism. In 1946, in Augsburg, Germany, the first branch of a revived Ukrainian Youth Association was officially formed.

In 1991, Ukraine gained its independence and branches of the Youth Association were formed across the territory of the new democratic and independent Ukraine. After the first branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association was formed, other branches formed in Europe, North and South America and Australia. In 1991, one branch, located in Whippany, New Jersey was formed.

Today, the Ukrainian Youth Association is filled with energetic youth trying to learn more about the principles of democracy and emphasizing the importance of the rights of individuals and the rights of nations in order to develop and continue their individual and national spirituality.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the members of the Ukrainian Youth Association of Whippany, New Jersey for all of their service to the community.

HONORING MS. LAURA JOSIEPHINE TOWNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this month and all this month I rise to give honor to a member of my district whom most people don't know but need to know. So today, I rise to honor Ms. Laura Josiephine Towner of Pace, MS.

Ms. Towner was born on July 2, 1923 to Willie and Ada Towner. She was born south of Pace, MS as the third child of three children born out of that union. She was affectionately called "Nina" by her father but the love between mother and daughter was unparalleled. Ms. Towner was educated in the colored school in Pace, MS. She later furthered her education through Coahoma Junior College and Jackson State College.

Life shrinks and expands according to one's drive and ambition. Ms. Towner taught school for a few years; however, knowing that her sister and brother were running a club and earning more money than she was at the time, \$50.00 per month, she widened her scope to include a club of her own. Life was great and her place earned the reputation as the place to be in Pace. Her move to open a club proved to be prosperous and opened up many doors to growth.

A woman is like a full circle because within her is the power to create, nurture, transform, and re-adjust when necessary. Ms. Towner was married three times and divorced just as many. She is the mother of four children: Auwilda, Herby, Sonya, and Monroe. She never broke stride in her pursuit of life and prosperity. To her, family meant everything, it was her mother, sister and brother who stepped in and helped her with her children while she pressed forward as a night club

owner, a beautician, and a farmer. Those professions were more than adequate income, thus allowing her to provide for her children. When she became a grandmother, Ms. Towner remembered the help she had and therefore it was her turn to help. She stepped in and helped her children with their children when necessary. Her grandchildren include: Carin and Myrick (Auwilda); Kevin, Chanay, and Barry (Herbye); Gareed and Meagan (Sonya); and Aldrich, Lisa, Amara, and Tanji (Monroe). Ms. Towner is now the great grandmother to twelve great grandchildren. She made sure Auwilda, Herbye, Sonya, and Monroe went to college and sometimes made contributions to her grandchildren's college education.

Just watch, all of you men and women, and see what a woman can do when she is determined. Ms. Towner's children were never without food or clothing. She fed both adults and children, many from the community, friends, acquaintances, and even a stranger or two. Oftentimes, men without wives went to her for a good southern meal because she was known for her cooking. Ms. Towner extended credit to many of the residents of Pace by allowing them to purchase items from her store and club on their promise to pay. And when someone did not pay, her understanding and big heart would not refuse them more credit. She would smile, only remembering how good God has been to her and therefore she could not refuse. Much of the early economic stability of Pace is attributed to her. She was mother and father to her own and many others in the community.

Ms. Laura J. Towner is a prominent member of Elbethel Missionary Baptist Church. Elbethel MB Church is home to many members of her family, both in life and after life. From 1973 to 1988 she was the City Clerk of Pace, performing her job with high integrity and standards. Her lifetime presence and service in Pace has won the hearts of many people from different races, black, white, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Laura Josiephine Towner of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 139 and 140.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MICHAEL AMARAL

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Colonel Michael L. Amaral on his retirement from the United States Army after 30 years of service to our

country. An esteemed and respected member of the Army's Medical Service Corps, Colonel Amaral most recently served as the Deputy Commander for Administration at Fort Bliss' William Beaumont Medical Center. In this capacity, he managed the day-to-day operations of a facility comprised of over 3,700 staff members and over 72,000 beneficiaries. He also played an integral role in strengthening the relationship between Fort Bliss and the El Paso community.

Colonel Amaral's distinguished career began as a platoon leader with the 54th Support Battalion in Germany, and included assignments with the 44th Medical Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the Walter Reed Army Medical Center; the TRICARE Regional Office in Rosslyn, Virginia; and within the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. During this time, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

As Colonel Amaral embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center and to the United States Army. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2016 I traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of my dear friend, John Sullivan, who lost his battle with cancer. For this reason, I missed rollcall vote Number 136 through 138 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea, nay, yea, respectively.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX DUONG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Duong for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As a marketing and communications specialist at the Mediacom Communications Corporation, Alex has been given the opportunity to pursue his passion, marketing. His willingness to exceed expectations and dedication to

customer service are big reasons why he was given this honor. Not only has he worked tirelessly in his professional life, but Alex has dedicated his time to organizations like the Des Moines Public Library Foundation board of directors, the Greater Des Moines Young Professionals Connection, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Iowa. His emphasis on civic duty is a true testament to his character.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alex in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alex on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

WELCOME ANNIBEL FRANCES
SCHUERFELD

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Deputy Staff Director for the House Armed Services Committee, Jenness Bergeron Simler and her husband, Gary Warren Schuerfeld, on the birth of their new baby girl. Annibel Frances "B.B." Schuerfeld who was born at 11:24 a.m. on Monday, June 29, 2015, at Palmetto Baptist Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. She weighed eight pounds and two ounces and measured 20 and 1/2 inches long. I have no doubt her talented parents will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate her brother, Taggart McRae Schuerfeld, and grandparents, Shellie Ann Kenna Simler of Tucson, Arizona, and Pierre Bergeron Simler of Litchfield, Connecticut. Congratulations to her entire family as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jersey Battered Women's Service located in Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

The Jersey Battered Women's Service, or JBWS, began as a hotline for victims of domestic violence. However, after the murders of two callers by their husbands, the small group of female pioneers responsible for the original hotline recognized the dire need for a greater service for domestic violence victims in New Jersey. In 1978, the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter opened its doors to those requiring refuge from violence at home. Today, it operates

as a full-service, private, not-for-profit domestic violence agency.

The Jersey Battered Women's Service is a multi-faceted operation, focused not just on providing protection to survivors, but also on helping these individuals rebuild and restart their lives. JBWS is heavily involved in raising awareness for domestic violence, specifically through providing education services on the consequences of domestic violence and how it can be prevented. The organization is notable for its domestic violence advocacy efforts and its mission to improve the rights of survivors. The shelter aims to empower the women who seek its safety, transforming them from victims to survivors. Ultimately, the goal of the Jersey Battered Women's Service is to create a community culture that refuses to tolerate partner and family violence of any sort.

Alongside staff, the over 120 Jersey Battered Women's Service volunteers dedicate their time and energy to combating domestic violence. Services JBWS offers include legal assistance, victim services and shelter, counseling for friends and family members of survivors, batterer's intervention, child services and protection, and teen dating abuse protection and prevention services. These services, and the efforts of volunteers, have been crucial in helping survivors and their families rise above the abuse.

The 40th Anniversary of the Jersey Battered Women's Service is marked by the grand opening of the Morris Family Justice Center. This comprehensive center combines various organizations to provide counseling, protection, legal and immigration assistance, and children's services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, all conveniently in one location.

For forty years, the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter has provided protection and support for survivors of domestic violence. The organization has made incredible strides in increasing domestic violence awareness and strengthening education about relationship and familial violence. I commend the Jersey Battered Women's Service for the remarkable contributions they have made to New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the Jersey Battered Women's Service as the organization celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

HONORING LAWANDA W. PARKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. LaWanda W. Parks, who served as the Executive Assistant to the Network Director of the South Central VA Health Care Network, an integrated system of 10 VA medical centers providing a full range of specialty, tertiary, mental health, and long term care in an eight-state region. As a member of the Network's Executive Leadership Team, Mrs. Parks was the Network's liaison to VA Central Office in Washington, DC, served as the Network Management Support Officer and provided oversight for VISN administrative operations.

Mrs. Parks joined the VA 17 years ago as an Administrative Resident at the New Orleans

VA Medical Center and has held positions of progressive responsibility at the local and National levels before returning to her home state of Mississippi as the Executive Assistant to the Network Director in 2007.

Mrs. Parks is a 2010 graduate of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Care Leadership Institute and a 2012 graduate of the VHA Executive Career Field program. She is a mentor for the Network's Advance Leadership Development Institute and has served on a number of national workgroups and committees. Mrs. Parks is also a member of the American College of Health Care Executives and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. From August 2010–October 2010, Mrs. Parks served as the interim Assistant Medical Center Director of the Birmingham, Alabama, VAMC.

A native of Magnolia, Mississippi, Mrs. Parks holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Tougaloo College and a master's degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She and her husband, Mr. Michael Parks have one son, Ezekiel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. LaWanda W. Parks for her dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL
"BUD" ALAN AYRES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Daniel "Bud" Alan Ayres, 53, of Poland, OH who passed away on Wednesday March 30, 2016. Daniel was born on March 28, 1963 in Belleville, Illinois and was a veteran of the United States Army where he served in Korea and Washington, DC as a Military Police Officer.

Together with his family, and throughout his 11 year military career, Daniel was stationed in many locations throughout the U.S. and in Germany. After September 11, 2001, he joined Homeland Security as an Air Marshal.

To Daniel, there was no such thing as a stranger—only a friend that he had yet to meet. His passion for family, friendships, Texas style BBQ, Alabama & Patriots football, togetherness and fun, will live on in everyone who knew and loved him.

Daniel will be deeply missed by his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 28 years, Kimberly Ann of Poland. They raised four children, Joshua Alan, Dustin Alan, Chance Alan, and Grace Ann. He leaves one brother, Steven (Linda) Ayres of Beeville, Texas; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Patsy and Ricky Smith of Austin, Texas; sister-in-law Sherri (David) Fossati of Houston, Texas; and a niece, nephew and many close friends, all of whom adored him.

Daniel will be greatly missed by his family and the Poland community. He has lived a long and prosperous life and will be remembered for his service.

A TRIBUTE TO NOLA CARTMILL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nola Cartmill for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As a shareholder and attorney at Belin McCormick P.C., Nola works hard to provide her clients with top of the line legal services. Her passion stems from the support she has received from her mentors throughout her life. Her willingness to serve others and give back to her community is one of the main reasons she was given this award. Nola volunteers her time as a board member of Children and Families of Iowa where she works tirelessly to show those who have lost all hope that there are people out there who will work with you to get you back on your feet and on a path to success.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Nola in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Nola on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING NEIL KORNZE, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor Director Kornze for his great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of

“pristine parks across the country that represent America’s most treasured public resources. The region’s unique geological formations will play host for the world’s scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region’s value, the Obama Administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with Director Kornze to further our mutual goal of preserving our nation’s great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the City of San Buenaventura as it celebrates 150 years of incorporation. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Los Padres National Forest, the City of San Buenaventura is known for its breathtaking ocean views and expansive rolling hills and truly lives up to its namesake as the “City of Good Fortune.”

The City of San Buenaventura has a long history and archaeological discoveries in the area suggest that humans have populated the region for at least 10,000–12,000 years. Founded in 1782, the San Buenaventura Mission served as the heart of this small coastal community and the city was incorporated on April 2, 1866. From the beginning, Ventura has been a place of commerce, starting with the indigenous Chumash, who were fine artisans and adept travelers by canoes, naming it Shisholop or “port on the coast” for their lucrative trade activities. While living in Shisholop Village, which is now downtown Ventura, the local indigenous Chumash people thrived through their trade of shell bead money and chert.

In 1873, the community’s visionary leaders boldly stepped up to establish Ventura County, carved from Santa Barbara, with the City of San Buenaventura as the county helm. As development boomed in the 1900s, the region flourished with agricultural operations and oil production.

According to local lore, the city’s name was abbreviated to Ventura to accommodate the dimensions of a sign at the local railroad sta-

tion. Today, Ventura has continued its steady growth and boasts over 100,000 residents. Throughout history, Ventura has remained an ideal locale for residents, businesses, and visitors as a quintessential California coastal community often cited as one of the most desirable places to live in the United States.

With the historic Two Trees overlooking the city, Ventura has miles of pristine beaches, making it one of the most renowned destinations for surfing. Ventura is home to the iconic Ventura Pier and the Ventura Harbor, a commercial harbor gateway to the Channel Islands National Park. With a thriving downtown cultural district, many musicians come through to play at the Majestic Ventura Theater and festivals regularly occur at Plaza Park. Ventura is also known as the host of the annual Ventura County Fair, “a county fair with ocean air.”

As we commemorate the city’s 150th anniversary, I would like to commend the City of San Buenaventura and its residents, past and present, on their success of reaching this milestone. I offer my sincerest congratulations during this sesquicentennial celebration and look forward to many more years of growth and prosperity.

HONORING BARBARA J. POWERS OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Barbara J. Powers on her May 31, 2016 retirement upon 30 years of Federal Civilian Service to the United States of America.

Mrs. Powers’ career has culminated as the Executive Support Specialist to the Commanding General, United States Army Medical Research and Material Command. Mrs. Powers served in the United States Air Force from March 1977 to March 1981, throughout which she performed duty at Andrews Air Force Base, Carlisle Barracks, the U.S. Department of Energy and at Fort Detrick, where she’s served for the last 16 years.

Since the beginning of her career, Mrs. Powers performed with zeal, professionalism and tireless dedication to duty—the standard by which all civil servants should be measured.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s Fourth Congressional District, I’m proud and humbled to congratulate Barbara J. Powers on her retirement after 30 years of service to the United States of America.

HONORING LULA FRIAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Lula Friar.

Ms. Lula Friar is a retired educator with 30 years of experience teaching in the classroom. She taught at Goodman-Pickens Elementary School in Pickens, Mississippi. She used her passion for teaching the little ones to successfully prepare second-graders for their academic journey until she retired in 2008. In

2004, she was recognized as the Teacher of the Year by the Holmes County School District.

Ms. Friar is currently employed by the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) and has shown herself to be a valuable resource and asset to CSLC. Over the last five years, she has served as the HIPPY Coordinator for CSLC's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), an early childhood literacy evidence-based program for 3- to 5-year-olds that teaches lessons in homes and works with families to support parents as their child's primary teacher.

In addition to her role as a HIPPY Coordinator, she also utilizes her teaching experience to support other educational enrichment programs and services available at CSLC such as the After School Program, where she has served for five years. She also works with the CSLC Summer Youth Enrichment Program, where she has provided her leadership and teaching expertise for the last 12 years. Although she is no longer in the school system, Ms. Friar continues to keep her state teaching license renewed. CSLC is grateful to have a certified teacher working with its children.

Education is only a part of Friar's service at CSLC. Her primary position is Housing Advocate under the CSLC Housing Programs in which she assists the center in coordinating affordable housing and rehab housing services for low income families. Friar takes pride in helping children and their families secure better living conditions.

When she is not working at CSLC she is an active member at her church, Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church in Lexington where she has served on the Board of Trustees for the past ten years, Vice-President of the Lebanon Inspiration Choir, President of the Lebanon Senior Choir, and also works with the youth department. Over the past 15 years, Lula has also helped with the Holmes County Central High School Marching Band. In her spare time, Lula also enjoys spending quality time with her family and grandkids.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Lula Friar for her dedication and support to the Holmes County Community.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 2

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the Boy Scout Troop 2, located in West Orange, Essex County, New Jersey.

In January 1916, a group of seven boys were registered into The Boy Scouts of America. Today, they are known as the Boy Scout Troop 2 of West Orange. They were originally sponsored by the Men's Guild of the First Methodist Church at High and Ridge with The Reverend Karl K. Quimby as their first Scoutmaster. Together they promised to do their duty to God and country, to help other people, to keep physically strong, morally straight and mentally awake. Originally the program was

tailored for outdoor activities and nature studies. However, today it is more expansive in its interests and is learning about technology. Over the past one-hundred years, about 1,750 boys have participated and nearly sixty of those boys have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

The role of the Troops Scoutmaster has always been a major factor in the longevity and success of Troop 2. One Scoutmaster that had particular impact was William K. Rust during the Second World War. Due to the war taking a lot of young men away from the town, not many were left to keep the troop alive. Without Bill, Troop 2 may have been ended.

A large part in why Troop 2 has been successful over the years is due to their credo, "Scouting is Outing." The "Patrol Leaders Council" of the senior scouts plan monthly short-term camping trips and a week long summer camping trip at Camp Wakpominee. Along with these trips, they have also enjoyed overnight bike hikes and canoe trips on the Upper Delaware River, White Water rafting on the Lehigh River, ski trips and week-long excursions to Washington, DC.

Troop 2 also has a long history of service in their community. To name a few of the projects they have been involved in: the sale of war bonds during World War I, the cultivation of Victory Gardens, the collection of scrap metals during both World War I and II, the distribution of informational tracts such as air raid posters and get out to vote, and their latest service project, "Scouting for Food," the collection of food for the needy.

For their active participation and achievements, Troop 2 has won many awards including: The President Roosevelt Award in 1934, permanent possession of the Klondike Derby trophy in 1962, numerous first prize at camps, distinguished troop awards at summer camp, and represented the Orange Mountain Council at the New York World's Fair. Each year, at summer camp, they have been awarded the Troop Excellence Award.

Many of the boys who worked their way through the ranks were molded into responsible adults who continue to uphold the ideals of scouting in their present occupations such as engineers, lawyers, teachers and doctors. Troop 2 has offered their boys moral training and preparations in the tests of life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the members of the Boy Scout Troop 2 of West Orange, New Jersey for all of their service to the community, and in congratulating them and their scout leaders on their Centennial Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN GRANDGEORGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Megan Grandgeorge for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an

impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the co-owner of Le Jardin restaurant and director of marketing and public relations for Variety—the Children's Charity, Megan certainly stays busy. Her drive and passion for her restaurant and Variety is matched only by her love of Des Moines. At Variety, Megan has worked tirelessly to promote their message as well as increase awareness for the children of Iowa who are underprivileged, at-risk, or have a mental illness. Believe it or not, Megan would still like to find time to dedicate herself to several other community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Megan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Megan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EAST COAST SIKH FREEDOM RALLY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sikh Coordination Committee of the East Coast and its East Coast Sikh Freedom Rally, taking place here in Washington DC. On April 9, hundreds of Sikhs from around the country came to our nation's capital to promote justice for Sikhs around the world.

As the co-chairman of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus, I speak with the Sikh community regularly about injustices occurring around the world. American Sikhs have contributed to the strength and diversity of the United States for more than 130 years. They play an active role in our local communities and are a strong part of our economy.

Whether it's equal opportunity in the U.S. Armed Forces, fair treatment for travelers or religious freedom in the workplace, Sikhs are still facing challenges. The American Sikh Congressional Caucus is working to address some of these issues, and I commend those who will come together in Washington to make their voices heard to their government and fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, events like the East Coast Sikh Freedom Rally will help Americans and people around the world better understand the issues facing the Sikh community. I thank the organization and its leaders for their dedication to this cause.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

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 \$19,064,879,099,682.52. We've added \$8,599,349,440,294.10 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BLANCHE
BAUDHUIN'S SERVICE TO THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Blanche Baudhuin of Green Bay, Wisconsin, who has been an American Red Cross volunteer for almost 40 years. Still active at an amazing one hundred years young, Blanche is almost certainly the oldest Red Cross volunteer in the United States.

Over the past few years, Blanche has frequently been the first person donors see when they arrive at Green Bay's Blood Donation Center on Deckner Avenue. Knowing full well that giving blood can be a nerve-racking experience, especially for first-timers, Blanche is a constant source of comfort and mirth, always willing to offer reassurance, a smile, and maybe a cookie or two to those who donate. In addition to making the rounds at the Center, Blanche also works tirelessly to promote blood drives at churches and other locations throughout Northeast Wisconsin.

In the lead-up to her 100th birthday last month, Blanche's wish was for 100 people to donate at a blood drive hosted at the First Lutheran Church in Allouez. Her birthday wish came true . . . and then some: an incredible 114 donors showed up.

Thank you, Blanche, for your extraordinary service to a life-saving cause, and keep up the great work.

TRIBUTE TO JANET AIRIS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative LOWEY, rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Janet Airis on her retirement after 32 years of distinguished service to the Congress with the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Janet started in the Scorekeeping Unit at CBO in the waning days of 1983, soon after graduating from Wellesley College. She was first hired to maintain the unit's database for tracking the status of enacted legislation and

over the next 16 years worked as the lead analyst responsible for scoring appropriations legislation for five of the thirteen Appropriations Committee subcommittees.

In 2000, after demonstrating her acumen as a proficient analyst, Janet made the smooth transition to Unit Chief and took on the responsibility of overseeing all of the work of CBO's Scorekeeping Unit. Janet has served the Congress diligently by overseeing the unit's analyses of the President's budget requests; the estimates of every appropriation bill taken through each chamber; the publication of the annual Unauthorized Appropriations and Expiring Authorizations report; and countless other informal requests for information on budgetary matters related to matters under Congressional consideration.

In addition to her management responsibilities, Janet has directly supported the Congress's fiscal bookkeeping by serving as the lead analyst for the Legislative Branch appropriations bill.

Congressional staff and CBO colleagues have come to depend on Janet for her ready expertise, her diligence, and her attention to detail. She has provided this institution with insightful guidance and analysis through several major reforms to budgetary processes, dozens of budget resolutions, creation of new government agencies and departments, and the reorganization of our committee structures.

Constant through all that change has been Janet Airis' dedication to her work at the Congressional Budget Office. She has been the steady hand of the Scorekeeping Unit, generous with her time and knowledge, and vital to the smooth functioning of CBO's Budget Analysis Division.

Janet's retirement constitutes a profound loss of institutional memory to both CBO and the Congress—nobody has ever worked in the Scorekeeping Unit as long as she has. Her presence won't easily be replaced and will be sorely missed.

HONORING YOUNTVILLE WOMEN
VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 28 women veterans who served our country honorably during World War II. The Yountville Women Veterans Club today celebrates these brave veterans at a ceremony in Yountville, California.

Their varied contributions to the war effort include working as nurses in France and Germany, as Aviation Services Marines, and at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. When our nation mobilized to confront the aggression and abuses of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, these women bravely volunteered their services to support our country's war efforts.

More than 350,000 American women volunteered to serve their country during the war, and served in five branches: the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs, later renamed the Women's Army Corps, or WACs), the Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES), the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS), and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs).

The 28 women honored today are Penni Anderson, Mildred Bliss, Jane Boote, Rita Bowers, Barbra Bregoff, Cathy Britt, Bernice Bryan, Margaret Clotworthy, Shirley Coen, Mary Grissette, Dorothy Henry, Merrice Hoppe, Helen Huntington, Eva Jacques, Janice Klein, Betty McGee, Della Miller-Kenny, Ellie Neilsen, Willa Olivolo, Elizabeth Rosensweig, Paula Ross, Barbara Salinas, Pat Salyer, Pat Smallwood, Kay Tallman, Hope Vandeventer, Dottie Ward, and Theresa Williams.

Mr. Speaker, these 28 women courageously served our country through one of the most challenging and pivotal wars in American history. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE COUNSELING CENTER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 30th anniversary of Grace Counseling Center located in Madison, Morris County, New Jersey.

Grace Counseling Center is devoted to providing guidance to those who need to improve their way of handling life's challenges. The Center also provides service to couples and families who wish to better understand each other's needs and feelings.

Established in 1984, the Center is an independent, nonprofit, interfaith facility where they tend to the needs of their patients. Originally founded by members of the Grace Episcopal Church, they have since become an independent, non-profit counseling center which serves the entire community. Their staff consists of pastoral counselors, psychiatrists and psychologists, all of whom are professionally trained and certified in their respective disciplines.

Additionally, they are supportive of community education programs and administer lectures and workshops during the year. On request, unique programs can be arranged for local churches, synagogues, schools and community and service organizations. One upcoming event, Technology, Social Media, and our Kids, is designed to help parents understand the technology their children are using and have a discussion on the challenges we face with communication due to technology. This goal of this event is to help parents understand their children more, so that they can strengthen their close interpersonal relationship.

As concerns or needs develop, the Center offers programs which address individual issues such as bereavement, unemployment, separation and divorce. These services are usually free or minimally priced and offered to the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the members and supporters of the Grace Counseling Center of Madison, New Jersey for all of their service to the community, and in congratulating them on their 30th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH EHLEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Josh Ehlen for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Josh serves as an account executive at the Des Moines based insurance company Reynolds & Reynolds. He has displayed a dedication and passion for providing high quality customer service each and every day. Josh's dedication at the office has also spilled over to his life outside of work. He has volunteered his time to organizations like Variety—The Children's Charity, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Booster Pak, and the Des Moines Ambassadors Club to name a few. Josh is an excellent example of all things that make Iowa such a great place to build a career and a family.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Josh in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Josh on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING TEAM BROADCASTING
WGNL-WGNG FM—104.3-FM—106.3

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Team Broadcasting, Inc. WGNL 104.3 FM.

WGNL is a 50,000 watts FM Station, which is located in Greenwood, Mississippi. It is in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. The Delta is one of the areas that is popular for the birth of the Blues. WGNL 104.3 FM broadcasts a vast variety of music. It is Urban Adult Contemporary mixed with Oldies and Blues. One of the highest rated shows on WGNL is the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. all day Saturday Blues. This show includes a mixture of traditional Blues. For example, some of the artists featured include: Muddy Waters and Howlin Wolf. There are many more contemporary Blues artist such as: Tyrone Davis, Johnnie Taylor, and

many more. With the diverse format, this is what makes WGNL 104.3 FM number one in the Mississippi Delta.

The sister station WGNG 106.3 FM is 25,000 watts. WGNG has attracted listeners because of its ability to reach ages from 12–54. This is due to the blend of R&B HIP HOP. WGNG has come into holding its own and it reaches a number of people in the Mississippi Delta.

WGNL-WGNG gets a great response from their advertisers. They should not be overlooked by sponsors. WGNL and WGNG combined covers over one-third of thirty counties in the Mississippi Counties in Northern Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the number one radio station in the Mississippi Delta, WGNL-WGNG for its dedication in serving the Mississippi Delta and giving back to the African American community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED ROSE TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RRTA)

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA), a public transit organization in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

On April 1, 1976, RRTA began operations to provide public transportation services in Lancaster City and County. The mission of RRTA is to provide high quality transportation services. RRTA operates nearly 20 bus and trolley routes throughout the city and county. The transit agency operates Red Rose Access, a door to door transportation rideshare program for seniors and people with disabilities at a discounted fare.

Transit systems like this one provide an invaluable service to our communities, helping middle class families commute to and from work every day and helping seniors visit their doctors, grocery stores and other services.

Mr. Speaker, the Red Rose Transit Authority is an important public transportation system for the residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and we are grateful for the service of its employees.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TERRY O'SULLIVAN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Terence J. O'Sullivan, 86, who passed away on Thursday March 31, 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer. Terry was born in 1930 in Colma, California to Irish immigrant parents.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marines and served in the Korean War, from where he was honorably discharged in 1952. During the conflict, he participated in the Inchon Landing and the

Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, one of the bloodiest engagements of the war.

Terry worked in the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local Union 261 in San Francisco in 1947, at the age of 17. He quickly rose through the ranks, taking on many leadership roles before being appointed LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer, the second-highest elected office in the union, in 1968. For more than six decades, Terry was a major force in his union, which represents nearly half a million workers in construction, health care, the public sector, and the federal government. He dedicated his life to fighting for workers' rights, and for social and economic justice. Terry was a lifelong advocate of training, retirement security, and health benefits for the proud men and women of LIUNA. Through his entire career, he worked passionately and tirelessly on behalf of LIUNA, its members, and their families.

Terry will be deeply missed by his family. He leaves behind his loving wife, Lenora, of 62 years. They raised three children, Kevin, Kathleen Finnerty (Shawn), and Terry, who is the current general president of LIUNA. He leaves one brother, Brendan (Diane); five grandchildren; and many other family members.

Losses like these are never easy, but we can all take solace in the fact that Terry led a long and fulfilling life. He will live on in the memory of his beautiful family.

RECOGNIZING DON KNABE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a colleague and friend, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Fourth District Don Knabe, who is retiring after over thirty-four years of service to the county. Mr. Knabe has worked tirelessly for our community and he is finishing his career with a long list of accomplishments. While it would be impossible to list them all, I would like to highlight just a few successes that will continue to benefit our county for years to come.

Over his time as Supervisor, Mr. Knabe has become a national leader in protecting children. He established a Safe Surrender Program to care for surrendered infants in Los Angeles County while also championing a scholarship fund to help these children as they grow up. He launched a campaign to spread awareness about child sex trafficking, making it become a County priority, and testified on the matter before Congress.

Supervisor Knabe is also passionate about the arts. His enthusiasm led to the establishment of several youth programs that bring visual art, dance, music, and theater programs to children across the district. Thanks to his efforts, Los Angeles County children are able to experience the rich benefit of exposure to the fine arts from a young age.

Beyond those projects, the Supervisor continues to lead the fight to protect our precious Southern California environment. Mr. Knabe led 19 separate projects to lower pollution and improve water quality. He also supported the development of innovative technologies to turn trash into energy and fuel instead of dumping

it into landfills. The air we breathe and the water we drink in Los Angeles County has literally improved thanks to his efforts.

I have had the pleasure of working with Supervisor Knabe on several occasions throughout my time in Congress. A navy veteran, Mr. Knabe has been a strong supporter for Veterans Resource fairs and Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day events. I have always been able to rely on his support, whether it was for the Congressional Art Competition or for an Annual Senior Fair in my district.

Supervisor Knabe will leave an indelible mark on Los Angeles County when he retires at the end of this term. I am forever thankful for the work Mr. Knabe accomplished, and I thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Los Angeles County. He will truly be missed.

HONORING JIM RIDLEY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Nashville lost one of its finest citizens last week. Nashville Scene editor and Middle Tennessee native Jim Ridley was a true talent—an exceptionally gifted journalist and critic, a gracious and humble leader and a champion for our great city. Just as much as he was known in Music City and beyond for his matchless wit and intelligence, he was known for his generous spirit, his earnestness and his enormous heart.

Jim was widely respected for his work with the Scene, where he was a writer and editor for well over two decades—nearly since the publication's inception—and that respect brought him accolades and offers alike. But he never wanted to leave his beloved alt-weekly newspaper, or his beloved town.

Jim's passion for music and film is what drove our arts community to greater heights. His honesty and diligence shone a light for his fellow journalists and the city's leaders. His kindness, patience, guidance and love for his friends and family continue to set an example for what it means to be a truly good person, a truly good Nashvillian. Jim Ridley made our city better, and it will not be the same without him.

TRIBUTE TO JAYME FRY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jayme Fry for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based

on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As First Vice President of West Bank, Jayme works tirelessly to build relationships with clients that will lead to continued business and growth within the company. She has been dedicated to improving her skills within the banking industry so that one day she can achieve the goals she has set for herself. Not only is Jayme a dedicated employee but she is also passionate about creating awareness for the ever increasing need for mental health services among young people in our state. Specifically, she dedicates her time and talents to Orchard Place, a Des Moines based non-profit that specializes in mental health services for children.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jayme in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jayme on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING MILDRETTE N. WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Mildrette White, who is a remarkable Educator and Public Servant.

Born July 15, 1948, the second oldest of five children born to J. W. and Cora V. Netter in the small Delta town of Rosedale, MS. Mildrette attended elementary, junior high and high school in the West Bolivar County School District where her extracurricular activities included basketball, band, track and cheerleading. Because of her successful performance in track and the efforts of her high school coach, Willie McCoy, she was invited by the track coach at Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN, to participate in his summer training camp for high school girls during the summer of her junior and senior year of high school in hopes of getting a track scholarship. At that time, Tennessee State was the nearest University to her that had a women track program. None of the Colleges and Universities in Mississippi had women track programs. After she was rejected, basically because of her height and being from Mississippi, she thought her track career and her chance to go to college was over. The coach preferred taller girls and didn't particularly care for girls from Mississippi because of previous unpleasant experiences.

Mildrette later realized that being turned down by the coach was a blessing in disguise. The disappointment of not getting the scholarship she thought she deserved made her more determined to go to college because she did not want to spend the rest of her life chopping and picking cotton. Mildrette was also

able to take the skills and knowledge gained and come back to Mississippi and open the doors for other young girls to get a track scholarship to go to college, and still be blessed with what God had for her. Little did she know then, that she would become the first and only African American to represent the state of Mississippi in the Olympics, who attended a Historical Black College or University.

After graduating from high school in May, 1967, because of her faith in God, a positive attitude and help from a few people who believed in her, Mildrette entered Alcorn State University in the fall as a freshman on a Work Study Program where she was assigned to work in the gym. Growing up in the Mississippi Delta in the sixties wasn't easy and she was determined to get an education to make a better life for herself, her family and become a productive citizen in society.

Alcorn's men track coach took a chance and gave Mildrette the opportunity to prove herself. She finally earned a track scholarship by training and traveling with the men's track team to other states and competing in individual events only. During the process she qualified for the 1968 Nationals and Olympic trials. That was the beginning of a long and successful collegiate track career. She received numerous accolades, honors and awards to include: three time All-SWAC and All NAIA; AAU International Track Team that competed in Norway and Poland; U.S. Olympic Track and Field team (68,72); Gold medal winner, 4X100 meter relay, Mexico City Summer Olympics (68); U.S. European Track and Field Tour; Held the third best 100-meter time in the world (68) and selected Female of the year, 100% Wrong Club of Atlanta (69).

The experience, education, exposure and extensive travel, (nationally and internationally) received while attending Alcorn, prepared Mildrette to be successful in her careers as an athlete, classroom teacher, track coach and athletic director. After graduating from Alcorn in May, 1972 with honors and a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education, Mildrette began a twenty-eight year teaching and coaching career in the state of Mississippi. Some of the honors and accomplishments achieved were: Delta Valley Conference Coach of the year five times; U.S. Southeast Region High School Coach of the year (79); Six District Titles; two South State Titles; Two Big Eight Eastern Zone Titles; and District Five Coach of the Year (88). During her coaching career, a number of Mildrette athletes were able to earn track scholarships to go to college.

Other educational accomplishments include: Master of Science-Health Physical Education, Athletic Administration/Coaching and Biological Science Alcorn State University (1981), Continuing Education and Secondary Administration/Supervision courses (1997–2000) Delta State University.

During her Athletic, Teaching and Coaching careers, other honors received include: Alcorn State Hall of Honors (1992), SWAC Hall of Fame (1995), Alcorn State Athletic Hall of Fame (1996), Rosedale-West Bolivar High School Hall of Fame (1998), Bob Hayes Track Hall of Fame (2001), Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame (2003), and Clarksdale/Coahoma Sports Hall of Fame (2013).

After retiring from teaching and coaching in 2002, Mildrette served as Athletic Director of

the Tutwiler Community Education Center for six years. A key part of the mission was to make a difference in the community in which they served. Some of the organizations and community involvements she currently participates in are: President of the Mass Choir and Hospitality Ministry of the Greater Pleasant Grove Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alcorn State University National Alumni, ASU Athletic Club, Montgomery-Carroll-Grenada County ASU Alumni Chapter, Grenada Smile Team, Grenada Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Committee member and the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center Community Relations Council.

Mildrette is the mother of two children and is the grandmother of two. She is currently married to her college sweetheart, Willie White. After thirty-eight years of separation, they reconnected in 2006 and married in 2008. In addition to enjoying their retirement, traveling and spending time with the grandchildren, Mildrette and husband are still busy giving back to the community in their current hometown of Grenada, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an Educator and Public Servant, Ms. Mildrette White, for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT LADIES AUXILIARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the Denville Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary located in Morris County, New Jersey.

The Ladies Auxiliary emerged in 1936 as the result of the continued expansion of the Denville Volunteer Fire Department, which was originally conceived and founded in 1926. Since its creation, the Ladies Auxiliary has served a crucial role in assisting the Denville Volunteer Fire Department in its mission to protect and serve citizens of Denville and surrounding communities.

The original role of the women was to provide refreshments to firefighters at the scene. However, one of the Ladies Auxiliary's most important contributions to the developing department was their dedication to fundraising. The women hosted raffles, parties, and even canvassed door-to-door in an effort to help the department pay for equipment and improvements.

A particular incident in the 1980s is a testament to the importance of the Ladies Auxiliary in serving not just the department, but the citizens they swore to protect. The department had recently rescued several dozen motorists trapped on the highway during a vicious snowstorm, and opted to house them at one of the department member's houses. The Ladies Auxiliary fed and cared for these individuals over the two-day period where they were housed, and nursed back to health.

The Ladies Auxiliary is a critical facet of the central department, and the time and dedica-

tion of these women is an invaluable resource to Denville's ability to serve the entire township. The department undoubtedly appreciates the energy female members of the community have invested in the Ladies Auxiliary and the department itself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Denville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary as they celebrate 80 years of unwavering and unselfish service.

RECOGNIZING ROGER RAICHE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Roger Raiche for his distinguished environmental stewardship. Since 1981, Mr. Raiche has dedicated his time to researching and preserving the unique ecological zone and natural landscape of The Cedars in Sonoma County.

In the 1980s, Mr. Raiche was the first scientist to bring the importance of The Cedars to the attention of the Bureau of Land Management. His research and documentation of the rare plants and ecology of the site were an important step in establishing it as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern and led to the discovery of several new plant species found nowhere else on Earth. Many institutions have been provided access to these important lands through his hospitality and volunteer work.

Over the last 35 years, Mr. Raiche has led efforts to preserve additional parts of The Cedars. He has invested his personal resources to protecting the 500-acre Main Canyon parcel and volunteered his time to build trails, guide tours, and work towards public acquisition. Mr. Raiche personally reactivated a science program on these lands that had been inaccessible for 30 years and which had been the site of some very early and important work on geology and plate tectonics.

During his involvement at The Cedars, Roger Raiche has made an invaluable contribution to the natural history of California and the preservation of the unique environment of The Cedars, and it is fitting to recognize this legacy.

HONORING CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Clackamas Community College (CCC) as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Founded in 1966, with 93 part-time students taking classes at Gladstone High School and 600 more added by the end of the first school year, CCC has since grown to serving over 35,000 students across three distinct campuses and two extension sites. Throughout its development, CCC has remained committed to its values, a student-centered focus, and a collective decision-making process that drives its mission.

Since 1966, students have become accustomed to a dedicated faculty and a friendly atmosphere focused on their personal growth. CCC provides a unique learning experience whether a student attends to complete a transfer degree to a four-year public university at an affordable cost, wants to take Community Education classes, is seeking an Adult High School Diploma, or is at the school to pursue a degree or certificate in one of the more than 80 career and technical programs offered. These include the expanding fields of renewable energy, medical assistance and digital multimedia communication. For the past 50 years, the college has prided itself on equipping students with the relevant job training and skills to apply toward real world, high-demand careers and family wage jobs.

In the last 50 years, thanks to the strong leadership of its current and past presidents and Boards of Education and an open, collaborative spirit behind its decisions, CCC has thrived. In preparation for ringing in 50 years of service, the Board launched the Imagine Clackamas project, a two-year community engagement process designed to identify what the community valued and needed from the college in the present and into the future. The resulting bond measure is enabling CCC to make great strides toward meeting those needs by updating and expanding classrooms and labs and by modernizing equipment. With this energy and momentum at 50 years, I am excited to discover what goals and heights the college will reach in the next half century.

I am honored to be the representative of Clackamas Community College and I congratulate the college on its 50th anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF MR. DON WARKENTIN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Don Warkentin, former President of West Hills College Lemoore, who sadly passed away on February 1, 2016.

Mr. Warkentin was born in Reedley, California on November 15, 1946 to Vern and Doris Warkentin. After his graduation from Reedley High School, he went on to study at Reedley College and later California State University, Chico. At the outbreak of the Vietnam War, Mr. Warkentin enlisted as a Lieutenant in the United States Army and eventually rose to the rank of Captain, receiving two Purple Hearts in the process. After his service to our country, he married the love of his life Betty. Together, they had two children, Brooke and Steven.

Mr. Warkentin's long career in education began in 1973 when he accepted a position as a biology teacher for Lemoore High School. Mr. Warkentin also served as a football and baseball coach, athletic director, and principal of the continuation school for adults wishing to complete their education. In 1986, he began work as an Associate Dean at West Hills College Kings County Center, known today as West Hills College Lemoore, and his commitment to the institution continued until his retirement, just months prior to his passing.

Under his stewardship, West Hills College Lemoore moved to its own campus in 2002 and saw student enrollment grow from 700 to more than 4,500 students. Additionally, Mr. Warkentin was responsible for several expansion projects including the new student center and the Golden Eagle Arena.

In 2004, Mr. Warkentin's career culminated with his promotion to President of West Hills College Lemoore, a position which he held until December 2015. Mr. Warkentin's dedication to the field of education was without question and West Hills College Lemoore stands today as a memorial to his strength of character and work ethic.

Mr. Warkentin's commitment to our community was not exclusive to West Hills College Lemoore, but included his active membership in the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, and the Kings County Economic Development Corporation. With his passing our community has lost a great leader and his dedication to the Central Valley deserves our recognition and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and achievements of President Emeritus Don Warkentin. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Betty and their two children, Brooke and Steven during this difficult time.

GRAND OPENING OF THE CONSUMERS ENERGY INNOVATION CENTER

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Consumers Energy Innovation Center.

Located in downtown Jackson, Michigan, the center will be home to Consumers Energy employees, CP Federal Credit Union, the Heat and Warmth Fund and the Anchor Initiative headquarters.

This initiative is an effort to promote Jackson's downtown area as a vibrant place to live, work, and innovate. Consumers Energy and CP Federal Credit Union are among the more than 20 area employers that have committed to the revitalization program.

The building will feature a floor that is dedicated to community growth and will serve as a collaborative space available to the building's tenants. This will allow further collaboration between Consumers Energy and The Heat and Warmth Fund on the development of energy assistance options for Michigan residents in need.

Consumers Energy—headquartered in Jackson—has demonstrated a commitment to its hometown by investing resources into the positive transformation of the city.

On April 15, this innovative hub will open its doors for the first time. The building, which had previously stood vacant for over 10 years, will now serve as a center filled with new ideas and state-of-the-art tools to support economic expansion.

I applaud Consumers Energy for its continued commitment to our community and congratulate them on the opening of the new Innovation Center. I look forward to the solu-

tions, discoveries, and positive impact that will undoubtedly result from this investment.

TRIBUTE TO JAN GLENDENING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jan Glending for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the Iowa state director for the Nature Conservancy, Jan has been dedicated to finding solutions for some of Iowa's most important issues revolving around land and water preservation. She is dedicated to educating Iowans on the importance of taking care of our lands as well as finding solutions to the issues we face today. Jan also dedicates her time and talents to Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Executive Committee that works to build resources for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Her commitment to preserving our lands and leaving them better off for our future generations is a true testament to her Iowa values.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING KALEIDOSCOPE OF LEARNING PRESCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Kaleidoscope of Learning Preschool and After School of Byram, Mississippi, and the great leadership it is under.

Patrina Robinson Dace is a native of Georgetown, Mississippi. She is the seventh of eighth children (four girls and four boys) born to Mr. L.J. and Mrs. Lula Lewis Robinson. She attended: Brushy Creek Headstart; Crystal Springs Elementary; Crystal Springs

Junior High; and Crystal Springs High School. She graduated from Crystal Springs High School in May of 1984 with honors. Patrina participated in numerous activities and received numerous accolades while in high school which included: Student Council Reporter, Vice-President of Student Council, Beta Club Member, Yearbook Staff and Editor, Junior Homecoming Maid, Captain of the Cheerleading Team, Honor Student, and Most Beautiful.

Patrina received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Jackson State University in 1991 with Magna Cum Laude. She completed a Master of Science in Teaching from Jackson State University in 1994 in General Science Education. In 2008, Patrina received her CDA from the Child Development Associate National Credentialing Program with endorsements in Infants and Toddlers and Preschool Education.

Patrina is married to Dr. Glen W. Dace, II of Meridian, Mississippi. They are the proud parents of three daughters: Racolesha (30), Ramanda (22), Glendolyn (17); a son-in-law, Frederick; and two grandchildren: Kennedy and Kyler. The Dace family resides in Terry, Mississippi, and attends New Horizon International Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Patrina has served her church family for seventeen years and has been a deaconess for eleven years.

Patrina's faith in Christ and desire to know Him has created a passion for serving others. She is active in the community and is a member of: Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Minority Business Owner, Byram Business Association, Mississippi Early Childhood Association and Southern Early Childhood.

In August of 2003, Glen and Patrina opened Kaleidoscope of Learning Preschool and After School in Byram, Mississippi with a license capacity of 49. Four years later, they decided to build a new facility to accommodate the increasing demand for childcare in the Byram area. The vision was clear, but much work was still to be done. They worked full time professional jobs with a desire to open a new center. In June 2007 Glen and Patrina's hard work and diligence paid off, and a brand new facility was built with a license capacity of 150. This business adventure was a major accomplishment for them.

Prior to becoming a fulltime employee at Kaleidoscope of Learning in April 2008, Patrina served as Director of Environmental Microbiology for the Mississippi State Department of Public Health Laboratory. She worked as a Laboratory Technologist for 11 years and a Division Director for 4 years. Patrina's certifications included: Laboratory Evaluation Officer by FDA and Laboratory Certification Officer by EPA. She worked fifteen years for the Mississippi Department of Health and eight years in the Jackson Public School System. On December 31, 2013, after serving 25 years in the Public Employee Retirement System of the State of Mississippi, she retired at the age of forty-six.

Patrina is currently a full time owner, operator, and director at Kaleidoscope of Learning Preschool and After School. She provides many years of business development and management experience to the Kaleidoscope of Learning family. Patrina is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations, account management, hiring, budgeting, payroll, inventory, classroom management, and administrative duties.

Patrina is an advocate for childcare in Mississippi. She feels that every community should have affordable full-childcare service for any social or ethnic groups. Patrina's strong investment in Kaleidoscope initially began because she had to transport her own children from the suburbs to the city every day. Patrina, one day, decided that instead of making the families in her community drive for quality care, she would be the one to step up and provide it. It made good business sense as it also opened up many doors to be able to minister to families, by providing a loving, caring, and Christian environment to children, while their parents are away at work. Since opening in 2003, many of our students have shown to perform at the top of their class. The first children to start at Kaleidoscope are in high school now and are expected to graduate high school in 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kaleidoscope of Learning and After School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi.

HONORING COMMONWEAL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Commonweal, a nonprofit in Marin County, California, in honor of their 40th anniversary. By serving our community in innumerable ways, from offering a healing space for people living with illnesses to providing educational opportunities to advocating for juvenile justice reform, Commonweal has had a unique and far-reaching influence across many issues and areas for a generation.

Founded in 1976 by Michael Lerner, Carolyn Brown, and Burr Heneman, Commonweal was envisioned as a healing space to serve people and the planet. From the beginning, their partnership with the National Park Service has helped supply an appropriate backdrop—a scenic 60-acre site just south of the Point Reyes National Seashore—for the compassionate, attentive work done by the dedicated staff and Commonweal community over the years.

Commonweal's efforts have touched countless lives within three broad areas of focus. Their health and healing programming includes week-long retreats for people with cancer and yoga therapy classes. Their efforts to support the arts and education include classes for teachers and students to better integrate creative thinking into school curriculum. Finally, their advocacy for the environment and justice incorporates work on health effects of environmental factors and research on juvenile justice laws. Their work is multifaceted and extensive, and has left a lasting, positive impact that can be felt throughout our community.

For four decades, Commonweal has been a beloved, wide-reaching organization, and they have contributed significantly to West Marin's culture and character. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today for their ongoing work and congratulate them on their anniversary celebration.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LEE COLLEGE DEBATE TEAM

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of the Mendoza Debate Society at Lee College, in Baytown, Texas. On April 4, 2016, the Debate Team won their third consecutive Community College National Championship in the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) National Championship Tournament.

Led by Director of Forensics, Joe Ganakos, the Mendoza Debate Society has become the top-ranked IPDA debate program in Texas for 2015–2016. The debaters achieved this incredible success through their unmatched work ethic and countless hours of practice. I extend my congratulations to all the members of the Mendoza Debate Society, captained by Kyle Diamond and Rigo Ruiz—and I wish them all continued success in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW JONES ON BECOMING A McDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrew Jones of Irving, Texas, on being named to the 2016 McDonald's All American basketball roster. This is a tremendous honor from the basketball community as it pits the best high school players in the country against one another in an exhibition game. Mr. Jones also participated in the three-point competition and Legends and Stars Shootout as the players display their shooting ability and point guard play.

The requirements to become a McDonald's All American are extensive as you must consistently be a consensus Top 20 player in the national rankings, and earn enough votes from the selection committee. Andrew was one of 24 high school senior basketball players selected to join this elite group of young men as the best in the country from over 100,000 players nationwide. Andrew has been consistently rated as one of the best guards in the 2016 class with his ability to create plays and soft touch around the rim. Mr. Jones' following has only grown as his tremendous improvement has been highlighted over the past year in his spring and summer performances in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). He brings great pride to the basketball community of Texas.

Andrew has a natural gift for the game of basketball as his court vision and slashing capabilities creates scoring opportunities and proves to be a nightmare for opposing teams. Andrew will only improve at the collegiate level as his basketball gift continues to attract admirers and people who look up to him including young fans that need positive role models in their lives.

While Andrew continues to receive praise from scouts and people close to him, he has

kept his roots in mind as he has committed to playing college basketball at home for the University of Texas (UT). At UT he will continue to display his exemplary skills and pride for the great state of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Andrew Jones on his hard work and athletic accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 139, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF COLLIN MCKINNEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 250th birthday of Collin McKinney, a Texas patriot, statesman, and hero. Mr. McKinney was a drafter and signer of the Texas Constitution and is the namesake of Collin County and the city of McKinney. His courage of conviction and love of Texas fundamentally shaped our state's history and our nation. Mr. McKinney was born to Scottish immigrant parents on April 17, 1766, in New Jersey. Years later he moved to Kentucky before settling in our great state of Texas. Mr. McKinney was a man of faith and boldly preached the gospel message of love and redemption.

Mr. McKinney and four other individuals were drafted by Judge Richard Ellis at the convention meeting at Old Washington-on-the-Brazos to write a declaration of separation from Mexico. Today, we know this document bearing Collin McKinney's signature as the Texas Declaration of Independence. He later went on to serve the Red River District in the First, Second, and Fourth Congresses of the Republic of Texas.

Author Samuel Houston Dixon wrote in his book "The Men Who Made Texas Free" that "Mr. McKinney was a man of most admirable character. He possessed a spirit of progressiveness which dominated his life. No one of that group of pioneers exercised a more wholesome influence over those with whom he came in contact than Mr. McKinney. He lived a life worthy of emulation and was held in high esteem."

In 1846 he settled near the Grayson-Collin county line which would become his final resting place and later bear his name. In 1936 the Texas Centennial Commission had his house moved to Finch Park in McKinney. Mr. McKinney lived under eight different governments in his life. He was born a subject of King George III, became a citizen of the Colonial Government of the 13 Colonies, then the United States, Mexico, the Provisional Government established by the Texans in 1835, the Texas

Republic until annexation, the United States again, and then the Southern Confederacy.

Mr. McKinney's life of public service and dedication to the cause of freedom should inspire each of us. I am proud to honor this statesman and encourage every Texan to study his life so that we may continue his legacy.

HONORING DR. ROLANDO D. HERTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Black Professional, Dr. Rolando D. Herts, a resident of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Dr. Rolando D. Herts is the Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. The Delta Center serves as the management entity for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, a partnership between the people of the Mississippi Delta and the National Park Service designed to promote understanding of the Delta's cultural heritage through education, tourism, and economic development. The Delta Center also oversees the International Delta Blues Project, a three-tiered initiative featuring an International Conference on the Blues, the development of an academic blues studies program, and a Blues Leadership Incubator for entrepreneurship and economic development, which aligns with Delta State University's goal of becoming a destination for blues education with GRAMMY Museum Mississippi.

Previously, Dr. Herts was Associate Director with the Office of University-Community Partnerships (OUCP) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. In this capacity, he helped to advance a learning organization model that integrates university-community partnership development, campus and community event planning and management, and campus and visitor information functions. During his tenure with Office of University-Community Partnerships, Dr. Herts collaborated with an array of local, regional, and state entities—including the Greater Newark Convention and Visitors Bureau, Brick City Development Corporation, New Jersey Department of Travel and Tourism, the City of Newark, the Rutgers Center for Latino Arts and Culture, WBGO 88.3 Jazz FM radio, and the Newark Literacy Campaign—to help promote the university and the surrounding community and region as distinctive educational destinations. As a Leadership Newark Fellow, he was presented the Berkowitz Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to the Greater Newark community.

Prior to working at Rutgers, Dr. Herts was a faculty member with the Fanning Institute, a public service unit at the University of Georgia where he was selected to participate in the Emerging Engagement Scholars Workshop of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium. He also served as program director of INSPIRE/TRIO Student Support Services, a top-funded federal retention and graduation program for first-generation college students at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. In addition, he completed a two-year teaching commitment

with Teach For America in the Mississippi Delta region where he taught second grade at Carver Elementary School. He was awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence in Teaching" from the Indianola Association of Educators.

Dr. Herts holds a Ph.D. Degree in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers Graduate School-New Brunswick and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. His dissertation *From Outreach to Engaged Placemaking: Understanding Public Land-Grant University Involvement with Tourism Planning and Development* examines university-community tourism engagement as a destination promotion and economic development strategy. His reflective essay, "Sacred Ground, Traveling Light: Personal Reflections on University-Community Tourism Engagement," won the prize for Best Treatise in Impressions, Ruminations, Treatises: Essays on Intersectionality, Praxis, and the Educational Arena, a collection published by the Institute For Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. Dr. Herts also holds a M.Phil. Degree in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers, an M.A. Degree in Social Science from the University of Chicago, and a B.A. Degree in English from Morehouse College. His interests include university-community engagement and partnership development, community-based tourism planning, place branding/marketing, community and regional development, and interorganizational collaboration. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Mississippi, which is an affiliate of Rotary International, a worldwide network of business and professional leaders dedicated to humanitarian service.

Education, community engagement, public service and cultural heritage development have been prominent themes in Dr. Herts' family. His father, Dr. George E. Herts, earned a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, became the first African-American Superintendent of schools in the Arkansas Delta community of Eudora, and subsequently completed 30 years of service at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in various leadership capacities, including Dean of the School of Education and Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies. His mother, Dr. Ruth Simmons-Herts, earned a doctorate in Educational Administration at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and served for several years as a public school central office administrator in Little Rock, Arkansas, and as Assistant Dean of the School of Education and the Director of Performance Based Education at Langston University in Oklahoma. For over 25 years, she has served in local, regional, and national leadership roles as a member of The Links, Incorporated, an international service organization of African-American women. She also was a member of the Rotary Club of Little Rock, the oldest and largest civic organization in Arkansas, and served on several community boards including the Arkansas Arts Center and Black Community Developers, Inc., which brought the internationally-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club to Little Rock for the first time in the singing organization's history during the younger Dr. Herts' tenure as tour manager of the Glee Club and as baritone member of the Morehouse College Quartet.

Dr. Herts is dedicated to building upon the exemplary legacy of service established by his

predecessors. His great uncle, Harrison Douglass, was a contemporary of Booker T. Washington during his undergraduate years at Tuskegee University during the early 20th century, and studied and worked in agricultural extension at Iowa State University. He taught at Tuskegee, Grambling, and Southern universities and established Douglass High School for African Americans in his northern Louisiana hometown. Dr. Herts acknowledges Harrison Douglass, as well as his grandparents Mr. Archie and Leola Simmons and Mr. Hermon and Shelley Herts, as key sources of inspiration for his parents and himself as they completed higher levels of education and committed their lives to serving communities of diversity. Dr. Herts is promoting and preserving this family tradition by encouraging the next generation to learn about and celebrate their heritage. In particular, he is dedicated to sharing heritage-based educational opportunities with his sisters, nieces, and nephew.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing black professional and community landscape innovator.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NUTLEY HIGH SCHOOL CREW PROGRAM

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Nutley High School Crew Program.

The Nutley High School Crew team first began rowing on the Passaic River in 1942. Founded by Coach Bill Bennet, the crew program has provided a productive and competitive outlet for Nutley students for the past 75 years. Although the program initially was available only to male students, the early 1980s saw the introduction of a women's crew program. Since then, both the men's and women's teams have been dominant forces in high school crew, with athletes competing against some of the best teams in the United States and Canada.

Graduates of the Nutley program have gone on to have successful athletic and academic careers, with many continuing to row at some of the top college programs in the country. The industrious nature and sense of teamwork fostered by the Nutley program in its athletes are easily translatable in a variety of settings. These athletes utilize the skills developed within the program throughout their post-high school careers.

Nutley rowers are notable for the high academic performance levels they have maintained alongside their athletic achievements. The intensity of training and racing schedules in no way impedes academic performance, but rather assists in forming well-rounded, athletic students.

Nutley High School Crew alumni and their children often return to the program to continue its tradition of cultivating strong rowers and even stronger leaders. Whether coaching or rowing, these individuals are important community figures and contribute substantially to the Township of Nutley.

Over the years, both the Nutley Board of Education and the Nutley Crew Boosters have

been incredibly supportive of the program. Without their contributions, the program would be unable to maintain its strength.

For 75 years, the Nutley High School Crew team has been a staple of the Nutley community, allowing student athletes to compete and contribute. Their contributions are invaluable in making Nutley a dynamic, involved township.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the Nutley High School Crew program as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN JENSEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ryan Jensen for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As Vice President of CBRE/Hubbell Commercial, Ryan continuously works hard to be one of the best, most recognized leaders within the real estate investment industry. He works tirelessly to provide accurate, high quality investment information for his clients and will take that expertise to start a new real estate investment platform later this year. Ryan is also passionate about giving back to his community and serves on the board of directors for Variety—The Children’s Charity.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Ryan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ryan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR DONNA J. BON OF PENN STATE ALTOONA FOR HER ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Donna J. Bon, of Penn State Altoona, for her commitment to bolstering the entrepreneurial spirit within Penn State Altoona and the Sheetz Fellows Program.

Founded by Steve and Nancy Sheetz to instill leadership and an entrepreneurial mindset in students studying business at Penn State Altoona, the Sheetz Fellows Program continues to make a positive impact in the lives of the committed Penn State Altoona student participants. While the generosity of the Sheetz family is worth highlighting, I believe Professor Bon also deserves appreciation for her role in making the program a continued success. As the Executive Director of the Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Professor Bon has been instrumental in executing the program’s important mission of teaching and mentoring students to be tomorrow’s key decision-makers and to impart in them a strong sense of servant leadership.

On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I want to thank Professor Bon for her commitment to these high ideals and recognize her success in pursuing them. Thanks to her and her colleagues at Penn State Altoona, our community will continue to benefit from the actions and ideas of an ambitious student body.

STATEMENTS GIVEN AT “RESTORE THE VOTE: A CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON THE CURRENT STATE OF VOTING RIGHTS IN AMERICA”

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the statements found below were given during an event titled—Restore the Vote: A Congressional Forum on the Current State of Voting Rights in America. The forum was held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 in the Birmingham City Council Chambers located at Birmingham City Hall. The forum provided elected officials, community leaders, scholars, and the general public the opportunity to examine modern-day voting rights as well as discuss the current challenges and barriers facing equal access to the ballot box. Discussions also focused on how community leaders and average American citizens can galvanize support around ensuring every American is able to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote.

The forum was hosted by Congresswoman TERRI A. SEWELL, and included special guests Rep. JOHN LEWIS, Rep. JIM CLYBURN, Rep. G.K. BUTTERFIELD, Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Rep. BARBARA LEE, Rep. HANK JOHNSON, Rep. KAREN BASS, Rep. MARC VEASEY, and Rep. STACEY PLASKETT, Birmingham Mayor William Bell, and Birmingham City Council President Johnathan Austin. The panelists included Jefferson County Clerk of Court Anne Marie Adams, President of Southern Poverty Law Center Richard Cohen, Metro Birmingham Branch NAACP President Hezekiah Jackson the IV, Calera, Alabama City Councilman Ernest Montgomery, and President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Spencer Overton.

STATEMENT OF COUNCILMAN ERNEST MONTGOMERY, THE CITY OF CALERA’S 2008 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

My name is Ernest Montgomery and I am a City Councilman, representing District 2 in the City of Calera Alabama. Our City is a

beautiful small city, strategically located in the south-central part of Shelby County. We had a population of 11,800 residents according to the 2010 census, but I believe thousands more today. Between the 2000 to 2010 census, our city was title as being the fastest growing city (percentage wise), in the State of Alabama.

This rapid growth is what led our City Leaders to have our district lines redrawn. The results of these new lines eliminated the sole minority-majority district in the city. Changing it’s minority voting percentages from about 69 percent down to about 28 percent.

After submitting these changes to the Department Of Justice for pre-clearance, they were rejected because the DOJ said it clearly disadvantage the African American Community. The City was in an election year and was order not to hold it election with these new changes by the DOJ. Yet the City Mayor chose to continue on with the municipal election.

In this election I lost my seat in my district, but learned two days later that the Department of Justice had filed a lawsuit against the city. Outrage was mounting because the African American Community said they had no chance of electing a candidate of their choice.

Changes were made to the city’s plans after meeting in Washington, DC with the DOJ and pre-clearance were granted. A new municipal election was held in 2009, resulting in me winning my seat again. I know without a doubt this would not have happened if the VRA, (especially the pre-clearance section), didn’t protect the most vulnerable.

STATEMENT OF J. RICHARD COHEN, PRESIDENT, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Good afternoon. The fact that we must be here talking about voting rights 51 years after Congress passed the Voting Rights Act is a national disgrace, one that dishonors the many who fought for the precious right to vote and the millions who were disenfranchised for decades in our country because of their race. It particularly dishonors the brave Americans who sacrificed their lives so that everyone, regardless of race, creed or color, could have a voice in our democracy—people like Jimmie Lee Jackson, Viola Liuzzo, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

A year ago at this time, we were celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. And, of course, we will observe the 51 anniversary in two days. We all know that the events of that fateful day and the subsequent completion of the march to Montgomery led to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, perhaps the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement—one that drove the final nail into the coffin of Jim Crow.

Forty-one years later, in 2006, when it re-authorized Section 4, Congress remarked on the tremendous progress that had been made under the Act to address first-generation barriers to voting—like literacy tests and poll taxes—that kept many minority voters from casting ballots.

At the same time, Congress noted that vestiges of discrimination continued in the states covered by the original Act in the form of second-generation barriers that diluted the voting strength of African Americans and other minorities. These included such practices as gerrymandering, at-large voting and the use of multimember legislative districts.

Today, 10 years later, we still have those second-generation barriers. For example, the Alabama legislature in 2012 passed a redistricting plan that packed black voters into legislative districts, thereby reducing their

influence in other districts. In 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled that there was strong evidence the lawmakers had engaged in racial gerrymandering and that the state had used the wrong legal standard to draw the districts. The case is pending before the district court.

But second-generation barriers are not the only problem today. Tragically, we're once again fighting the battle to remove first-generation barriers that suppress the votes of minorities—a battle that was fought 50 years ago.

Many have been implemented since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the preclearance requirement of the Voting Rights Act in its Shelby decision. The passage of the laws restricting voting rights has, in fact, accelerated since Shelby.

Here in Alabama, the legislature passed a law in 2011 that requires voters to produce one of seven kinds of photo IDs. But, even though preclearance by the Justice Department was still required under the Voting Rights Act at the time, the state did not submit it for review. Instead, it waited two years.

Then, on June 26, 2013, the very next day after the Supreme Court relieved Alabama and other states of their preclearance obligations, the state announced it would begin to enforce the law. The Alabama Secretary of State's office has estimated that at least 280,000 registered voters—disproportionately minority voters—lack the type of photo IDs required to vote.

It's questionable whether Alabama's photo ID law would have been precleared by the Justice Department under the Voting Rights Act. It can, of course, still be challenged in federal court—and, indeed, it is being challenged. But blocking the law is much more difficult in a lawsuit, because the burden of proof is on the plaintiffs to show discriminatory intent or effect. Prior to Shelby, the burden of proof was on states like Alabama—which have long histories of discrimination against African Americans—to show that any new law would not have a retrogressive or racially discriminatory impact.

To add insult to injury, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley last year reduced the operating hours of the state offices in 27 largely poor, rural counties where residents can obtain the IDs they need to meet the requirements of the photo ID law. African Americans make up a larger share of the population in those counties than in other parts of the state, where the office hours were not curtailed.

Rather than move toward same-day registration, the Alabama Legislature has moved further from it since Shelby. Despite the fact that for many years voters were allowed to register 10 days in advance of an election—and despite technological advances—in 2014 the legislature extended the period to 14 days. Since then, there have been legislative attempts to extend it even further—to 30 days.

Alabama, of course, is not alone in enacting racially discriminatory voting laws. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 33 states now have some form of voter ID law in effect. And, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, 21 states have enacted new restrictions since the 2010 mid-term elections. Sixteen have new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election. In addition, 27 states have attempted to purge their voting rolls since Shelby, leading to numerous lawsuits claiming these purges targeted minority voters.

Also, some states are now pushing to make voters prove their citizenship when registering. A recent decision by the federal Election Assistance Commission has allowed

Alabama, Georgia and Kansas to require documentation of citizenship for anyone registering to vote. This creates an undue burden for many—particularly minorities, young people, the elderly and the poor—who may lack easy access to their birth certificate, passport, naturalization certificate or other proof.

At the center of these efforts is Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who doubles as counsel for a nativist extremist organization called the Federation for American Immigration Reform. Kobach was the architect of the notorious anti-immigrant law in Arizona known as SB 1070—a discriminatory law that was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. Kobach was also behind an even more draconian, anti-immigrant law in Alabama, HB 57, which was also dismantled by the courts.

The cumulative impact of all of these efforts to suppress the vote is that millions of Americans—minorities, the elderly, the disabled and others—will be disenfranchised, their voices silenced.

And that is, of course, the goal of these laws. The movement to restrict the vote, as we all know, has nothing to do with combating “voter fraud,” which is, essentially, nonexistent in our country.

Here in Alabama, our secretary of state, John Merrill, has characterized voting as a “privilege.” And I think that statement, in some ways, reveals a certain mindset that we are facing. We would never call our First Amendment freedoms of speech and religion privileges. We would never call our right to bear arms a privilege. We would certainly never call it a privilege to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Privileges are something to be earned or granted. They can be taken away. The rights guaranteed under our Constitution cannot. We firmly support Congressional efforts to restore the federal preclearance requirement that was stripped from the Voting Rights Act in Shelby. But we know that restoring the Voting Rights Act will not resolve all of the problems. Our country's needs broader reform. We need a new vision for voting to bring the system into the 21st century.

The election process in the United States is a relic of the 18th and 19th centuries—an era when only white male property owners were allowed to vote and when Congress was more concerned about the time it took to travel to polling stations on horse than two-hour lines at the polls. The current system makes sense in the context of the 1850s, but it ignores the technology and the complexities of life and work in today's world. The reason we vote on Tuesday illustrates the point.

In 1845, Congress determined that Tuesday was the best day to hold elections because Saturday was a workday for farmers, Sunday the Sabbath, and Wednesday was a market day. Tuesday gave voters a full day to travel by horse to the county polling station.

Not only are Tuesdays now a workday for most Americans, but having only a 12-hour window to vote completely ignores today's work schedules, childcare needs, and other features of modern life. This system particularly disadvantages lower-income people who are more likely to work for hourly wages, who often cannot afford to miss work, or who may not be allowed to leave their job.

For a country that prides itself on our democracy—a country that has sacrificed thousands of our brave young men and women in the fields of war in defense of our democratic values—this is simply not acceptable. We can and must do better.

For starters, we must restore the preclearance requirement that was shredded in Shelby. The political machinations of the last few years have laid bare the unfortunate

reality that certain powerful forces will use whatever means are at their disposal—however anti-democratic—to retain power.

We also must roll back the many new state laws that silence the voices of millions of eligible voters. And, we must modernize our antiquated elections system in ways that make sense for the world we live in today—in ways that will bring many more people, not fewer, to the ballot box and result in government that is truly of the people, by the people and for the people.

As the Declaration of Independence says, governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. It does not say “some” of the governed. We must ensure that everyone has a voice. The future of our great democracy depends on it.

STATEMENT OF SPENCER OVERTON, PRESIDENT, JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES, PROFESSOR OF LAW, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

I am President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, an organization that was created due to the events of Bloody Sunday and the Voting Rights Act that followed. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 enfranchised hundreds of thousands of black voters, these black voters elected hundreds of new black elected officials, and in 1970 the Joint Center was founded to support these black elected officials. Today, the Joint Center focuses on providing innovative research, ideas, and support to leading elected officials of color nationwide. I am also a tenured Professor of Law at The George Washington University Law School. I regularly teach a voting law course, and in previous years I have taught courses on civil rights and the law of democracy generally.

I. Background: Shelby County and Congressional Efforts To Update the Act

A. Shelby County v. Holder

In Shelby County, the Court held unconstitutional the Section 4(b) coverage formula that determined which jurisdictions must comply with the preclearance requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 requires federal preclearance of changes affecting voting in “covered” jurisdictions before the changes are implemented. Section 4(b) as originally adopted and updated provided formulas that identified as “covered” jurisdictions with a voting test or device and less than 50 percent voter registration or turnout in the 1964, 1968, or 1972 general Presidential elections.

In Shelby County, the Court stated “a departure from the fundamental principle of equal sovereignty requires a showing that a statute's disparate geographic coverage is sufficiently related to the problem that it targets,” and that “current burdens . . . must be justified by current needs.” The Court believed that in the past the 4(b) coverage formula based on tests and low turnout from 1964, 1968, and 1972 elections was “sufficiently related to the problem,”—that it was “rational in both practice and theory,” “reflected those jurisdictions uniquely characterized by voting discrimination,” and “link[ed] coverage to the devices used to effectuate discrimination.” The Court observed that “[t]he formula looked to cause (discriminatory tests) and effect (low voter registration and turnout), and tailored the remedy (preclearance) to those jurisdictions exhibiting both.”

In contrast, the Court believed that the coverage formula based on 1964, 1968, and 1972 turnout and tests was not tailored to address discrimination today. The Court noted that Congress altered the coverage formula in 1970 (adding counties in California, New Hampshire, and New York), and 1975 (adding the States of Alaska, Arizona, and Texas,

and several counties in six other states), but not in 1982 or 2006. Specifically, the Court stated:

“Coverage today is based on decades-old data and eradicated practices. The formula captures States by reference to literacy tests and low voter registration and turnout in the 1960s and early 1970s. But such tests have been banned nationwide for over 40 years. And voter registration and turnout numbers in the covered States have risen dramatically in the years since.”

The Court did not believe that the record Congress amassed in 2006 establishing vote dilution and other discriminatory practices was tied to text of a coverage formula based on turnout, registration rates, and tests from the 1960s and 1970s.

The Court explicitly limited its holding to the 4(b) coverage formula based on election data from the 1960s and 70s, and stated that “Congress may draft another formula based on current conditions.” While the Court observed that states generally regulate state and local elections and that federal preclearance is “extraordinary,” the Court did not find the Section 5 preclearance process unconstitutional. Instead, it explicitly recognized that “voting discrimination still exists,” that “any racial discrimination in voting is too much,” and that Congress has the power to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment to prevent voting discrimination.

B. 2014 and 2015 Congressional Efforts To Update the Voting Rights Act

Since Shelby County, legislation has been submitted to update the Voting Rights Act—the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 and the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Both bills: 1) tie preclearance to recent instances of discrimination; 2) allow judges to order “bail in” preclearance coverage as a remedy for a voting rights violation even in the absence of intentional discrimination; 3) attempt to deter bad activity by requiring that jurisdictions nationwide provide notice of certain election changes; and 4) make it easier for plaintiffs to obtain a preliminary injunction to block potentially discriminatory election rules before they are used in an election and harm voters.

There are, however, significant differences. Generally, the 2014 Amendment Act basis preclearance coverage on jurisdictions with significant voting rights violations over the prior 15 years, while the 2015 Amendment Act focuses on violations over the prior 25 years. Thus, while the 2014 Amendment Act subjected only Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to preclearance when introduced, the 2015 Advancement Act applied preclearance to those states plus Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. The 2014 Amendment Act exempts voter identification from violations that justify the expansion of preclearance, whereas the 2015 Advancement Act provides no such voter identification exemptions.

The 2015 Advancement Act also contains provisions that do not appear in the 2014 Amendment Act. For example, the 2015 Advancement Act requires preclearance nationwide for “known practices” historically used to discriminate against voters of color, such as: 1) voter qualifications that make it more difficult to register or vote (e.g., ID or proof of citizenship documentation); 2) redistricting, annexations, polling place changes, and other changes to methods of elections (e.g., moving to at-large elections) in areas that are racially, ethnically, or linguistically diverse; and 3) reductions in language assistance. The 2015 Advancement Act also includes Native American and Alaska Native voting protections that ensure ballot translation, registration opportunities on and off

Indian reservations, and annual consultation with the Department of Justice.

II. The Need To Update the Voting Rights Act

A. Litigation Inadequate Substitute for Loss of Preclearance

While the holding in Shelby County was limited to invalidating the coverage formula, the decision has a significant impact. It effectively suspends Section 5 preclearance in all jurisdictions other than the handful currently subject to a Section 3(c) “bail in” court order,

Litigation Not Comprehensive: Preclearance was comprehensive—it deterred jurisdictions from adopting many unfair election rules because officials knew every decision would be reviewed. In contrast, litigation requires that plaintiffs have the information and resources to bring a claim, and therefore litigation misses a lot of under-the-radar manipulation.

Litigation More Expensive: Preclearance also put the burden to show a change was fair on jurisdictions—which enhanced efficiencies because jurisdictions generally have better access to information about the purpose and effect of their proposed election law changes. Litigation shifts the burden to affected citizens—who must employ experts and lawyers who fish for information during drawn-out discovery processes.

Significant Voting Discrimination Persists: Too many political operatives in previously covered jurisdictions continue to maintain power by unfairly manipulating voting rules based on how voters look or speak. Congress determined as much during the last reauthorization, and such discrimination has occurred since that time in various jurisdictions like Nueces County, Texas. While the Court in Shelby County invalidated the coverage formula because it was based on data from the 1960s and 1970s, the Court acknowledged that “voting discrimination still exists” and that “any racial discrimination in voting is too much.”

B. Joint Center Report: 50 Years of the Voting Rights Act

In 2015, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies published 50 Years of the Voting Rights Act:

The State of Race in Politics. The 46-page report established that while the Voting Rights Act increased turnout by voters of color, citizen voting age population turnout rates among Latinos and Asian Americans trail African-American turnout by 10–15 percentage points and white turnout by 15–20 points. The report also found that racially polarized voting persists, and in some contexts is growing. Race is the most significant factor in urban local elections, and more decisive than income, education, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, and political ideology. The 38 point racial gap exceeds even the 33 point gap between Democratic and Republican voters.

III. Conclusion

In the last 51 years the United States has made significant progress on voting rights. Unfortunately, after Shelby County v. Holder political operatives have more opportunity to unfairly manipulate election rules based on race. The Court in Shelby County stated that the purpose of the Fifteenth Amendment is “to ensure a better future,” but the future will be worse if Congress fails to act.

Fortunately, Congress has the power to prevent discrimination and update the Voting Rights Act. An updated Voting Rights Act will help not just voters of color, but our nation as a whole. Protecting voting rights provides legitimacy to our nation’s efforts to promote democracy and prevent corruption

around the world. We all agree that racial discrimination in voting is wrong, and Congress should update the Voting Rights Act to ensure voting is free, fair, and accessible for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR LANCE LEHR

HON. BETO O’ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. O’ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Command Sergeant Major Lance Lehr on his retirement from the United States Army after 30 years of service to our country. An esteemed and respected member of the Armor and Cavalry community, Command Sergeant Major Lehr most recently served as the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss. In this role, he served a community of over 30,000 active duty servicemembers and 47,000 family members. He also played an integral role in strengthening the relationship between Fort Bliss and the El Paso community.

Command Sergeant Major Lehr’s distinguished career includes assignments across the United States, Germany, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has served as a Scout driver, gunner, and Vehicle Commander; Scout Platoon Sergeant; Operations Sergeant; First Sergeant; and Operations Sergeant Major at the battalion and brigade level. He also had the extremely rare privilege of serving as a Command Sergeant Major for three different battalions; the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division; and the National Training Center and Fort Irwin. His deployments include Bosnia-Herzegovina, as part of Operation Joint Guard, and Iraq, as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Spartan Shield.

As Command Sergeant Major Lehr embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities and to the United States Army. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE EMANU-EL OF WEST ESSEX

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Temple Emanu-El of West Essex, located in Livingston, Essex County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

The Temple Emanu-El of West Essex was established in 1955 in response to growing demand for a Reform Jewish service within Livingston. Originally composed of eleven families, the congregation quickly expanded after the first year to include fifty-six families and has continued to grow throughout the years.

By 1962, the congregation completed work on the physical sanctuary, replacing an old hot-dog stand off of Northfield Road with the Temple Emanu-El of West Essex. The building is an architectural landmark within Livingston. The design reflects an artistic interpretation of the Israelites' Tent of Meeting in the desert wilderness.

Since its creation, the Temple Emanu-El of West Essex has been an active participant in both the local and global community. The congregation established the Social Action Committee in 1964, and with the pioneering efforts of Rabbi Peter Kasdan, often stood at the forefront of many social justice campaigns. Beginning with the Temple Emanu-El of West Essex, Rabbi Kasdan organized a nationwide Jewish Reform boycott of grapes in support of United Farm Workers. Other issues of focus included Soviet Jewry, Ethiopian Jewry, and Vietnamese Boat People. More recently, the organization has focused on reform rights in Israel, Darfur, LGBT rights, and raising awareness for Jewish genetic diseases.

The Temple Emanu-El of West Essex has expanded to include an Early Childhood Center, as well as a Holocaust Remembrance Center opened in 2004. Currently, Rabbi Greg Litcofsky leads the congregation. The Temple Emanu-El promotes inclusivity within the Jewish faith by welcoming not only Jews of all backgrounds, but also those of interfaith families and Jews-by-Choice. This community provides a strong support network for members, working to fulfill religious, cultural and social needs. From a religious school to a softball league, the Temple of Emanu-El of West Essex is more than just a religious institution, but a powerful, multi-faceted spiritual community within Livingston.

In 2007, the Union for Reform Jews Congregation recognized the Temple of Emanu-El with an Honorable Mention for the Learner's Award for Adult Education. Many individual members of the Temple have gone on to receive the Union for Reform Jew's Keva Award for at least one hundred hours of Jewish study.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and celebrating the Temple of Emanu-El of West Essex for its sixty years of serving as a community staple, paving the way on many social justice reform issues, and providing a religious and cultural sanctuary for its active members.

HONORING MRS. SARAH DAILEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this month and all this month I rise to give honor to a member of my district whom most people don't know but need to know. So today, I rise to honor Mrs. Sarah Dailey of Charleston, Mississippi located in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

Humble and Challenging Beginnings: Sarah was born a couple of years before the Great Depression and has to her credit the skill of survival and the will to give and gain in all aspects of human life. Her mother passed away when she and her siblings were still too young to care for themselves, so all of them to some degree had to grow up sooner than expected.

Her oldest brother was the first to grow up fast by assisting their father by helping provide for the family. The family relocated from the Valley Road, which is south of the town of Charleston to North Creek Road. There Sarah would not only grow up but it became the place where she reared her own family.

"It takes a village to raise a family" was the code of the old days. Since the family was being led by Sarah's father and brother, the older women in the community took Sarah and her sisters under their wings, teaching them those things that women must know and do like managing the home, cleaning the house, protecting each other as mothers do and personal care as a woman.

She was very intelligent and therefore school work came easy. She excelled in all her subjects, with many awards, plaques, and certificates of recognition to support. Education was not a giving back during her day of growing up so when the opportunity came along it was treasured because it was seen as the way to a better future. By the time she was old enough to be on her own, her father remarried and moved to St. Louis, MO, taking her younger sibling with him. But Sarah and the older sibling stayed on in Charleston to chart their own future using what they had learned from those around them about adult responsibilities.

A Woman: Sarah met and married Mr. Walter Luther Dailey to become Mrs. Sarah Dailey. The couple made their home and raised their children on the family land, owned by her father and mother. Her motherly instincts and caring not only provided for her family but she became the caring provider for other family members. Mrs. Dailey, remembering her own personal feelings about growing up without her mother, put her personal goals on hold to be a mother to many.

Mrs. Dailey eventually went to work after her children began school. She worked for the Charleston Clinic in Charleston, MS where she remained employed for twenty years until an accident forced her to stop working. Mrs. Dailey also became active in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. She was a quiet, but a strong woman who was steadfast on making a difference. She supported her children when the East Tallahatchie School District was integrated. It was during this same time that her children along with other children involved in the movement were bused off to Parchman where some of the children were kept for almost a month.

A historian by hobby and interest: Mrs. Daily became the go to person when someone wanted to know something about civil rights activities in Tallahatchie County in the 1960s. She has been interviewed by people as far away as London, England and has traveled with college professors and authors as they gathered information for books they were publishing.

Mrs. Dailey continues to participate in community related activities and is always eager to support efforts that enhance Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. She is still an active member of the NAACP, having joined in the 1960s, nearly fifty years ago. Tallahatchie County and her children can be proud to be connected to this historian and unsung hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, Mrs. Sarah Dailey, of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO CLINT DUDLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Clint Dudley for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As Owner of Shade Tree Auto LLC and Snowtel Mowtel Inc. Clint has worked hard to make a positive impact on his community and become a successful small business owner. His work ethic, drive, and dedication to civic duty have made him a leader within his community. As a member of the Grimes Home Base Iowa Committee, Clint is dedicated to making Grimes a city where veterans can turn for employment and a place to build their families. He also hopes to start a program that teaches young people the values of skilled labor and how to pursue a career they can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Clint in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Clint on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING THE SIERRA CLUB,
REDWOOD CHAPTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative GARAMENDI and Representative HUFFMAN, rise to recognize and honor the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club for its great contribution to the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument by President Barack Obama on July 10, 2015.

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the tireless work of countless advocates. Their commitment to engaging friends, colleagues, local residents, businesses, stakeholders across the country, and policymakers in a coordinated effort to achieve permanent protection was critical to the establishment of the Monument.

Now, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument may be counted among the hundreds of

pristine parks across the country that represent America's most treasured public resources. The region's unique geological formations will play host for the world's scientists for years to come. Centuries-old archeological sites will draw curious historians and researchers as they piece together the stories of generations past. And avid bikers, hikers, campers, horsemen, and sportsmen will be able to enjoy this landmark that is now forever open and accessible to outdoor enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument serves as proof of the value of the Antiquities Act and the power of the Executive to protect these lands in the face of inaction by Congress. After extensive input from interested parties and substantial evidence of this region's value, the Obama administration honored the support of stakeholders, and the gravity of conservation.

The legacy of public lands is one of the most important we can leave for future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument is a critical piece of a preservation system that stretches from the Hawaiian Islands to the Maine Coast. It has been a privilege working with the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club to further our mutual goal of preserving our Nation's great open spaces, and we look forward to collaborating in the future.

CONGRATULATING JIM CUNNINGHAM FOR BEING INDUCTED INTO THE MINOR PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Cunningham, of Connellsville, PA, on being inducted into the Minor Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Born in Connellsville, PA, Jim grew up excelling in athletics. In fact, during his time at Connellsville High School, he managed to win 10 varsity letters, competing in Track and Field, Basketball, Swimming, and Football. As a result of his outstanding performance, Jim was selected all-county in Basketball and Football two years in a row, and received many offers from colleges and universities to play football.

As a means of encouraging Jim to attend the University of Pittsburgh, the school arranged to help his mother out with a heart operation she desperately needed. Thanks to this kind gesture and Jim's talent and dedication, he went on to a successful collegiate football career at Pitt that subsequently got him drafted by the Washington Redskins in the 3rd round in 1961. Following three seasons with the Redskins, Jim eventually returned home to pursue his dream of teaching. However, it wasn't long until Jim returned to the gridiron, this time playing for the Wheeling Ironmen, of the Continental Football League, for five seasons.

Jim eventually retired from teaching in 1997. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Jim remains grateful for his three children and six grandchildren, as well as his wife, Norma.

It is my pleasure to highlight Jim's impressive football career and also the hardworking

approach his multiple careers illustrate. I wish him and his family the best going forward.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES M. COATES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James M. Coates, 86, who passed away with his family by his side on Monday, April 11, 2016. He was reunited on this day with his wife Velma on what would have been their 63rd wedding anniversary. James was born on February 5, 1930 in Niles, Ohio, a son of James and Isabella Brutz Coates.

James was a 1949 graduate of Niles McKinley High School, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles, and a United States Army Veteran of The Korean War. James was married to Velma D'Annunzio on April 11th, 1953. He enjoyed spending time with his family and attending his children's and grandchildren's sporting events. During his lifetime, James started 1-Minute Car Wash in 1959; now Coates Car Care, Inc. James excelled in customer service. James was one of the founders of The Mahoning Valley Chapter of The National Sports Hall of Fame and was named Man of The Year in 2001. He was actively involved with The Oblate Sisters of The Sacred Heart, The Ohio Car Wash Association, The Private Industry Council, The Warren General Hospital Foundation, The Elks, and The Loyal Order of Moose.

He will be deeply missed by his children; his son James Coates Jr. and his wife and their five daughters, Roselyn Cera and her husband Robin, Isabelle Santisi, Angela Stabile and her husband Robert, Amy Limongi and her husband Richard, and Jamie Williams, two brothers, Michael Coates and Marty Coates, two sisters, Anna Mae Massullo and Marian Mitolo, and fifteen grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a daughter Linda Livi, and a sister Isabelle Marcovecchio.

James will be honored for his military service by The Girard Veterans Council Honor Guard. James led a fulfilling life as a soldier, a husband and father, and beyond. He will live in the memory of both his loving family but also his wonderful community.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Denville Volunteer Fire Department located in the Township of Denville in Morris County, New Jersey.

The Denville Volunteer Fire Department first emerged in June 6, 1926 in response to a dire need in Denville for a fire-fighting organization. The Department is a result of the tireless ef-

forts and generous donations of its founding members, most notably Robert G. Ellsworth. The organization fought its first fire on August 11, 1926, responding to and successfully stopping a roof fire.

In March of 1927, volunteer laborers finished work on Denville's first firehouse, transforming the garage of one of its members into an operational department home. By 1935 and following a gift of land by the Denville Board of Education, the Denville Fire Department was able to establish its own building outside of the garage. Construction of the Union Hill Firehouse was completed in early 1958, and following another gift of land by the Denville Board of Education, the department was able to construct the Valley View Firehouse.

After a decade and a half of successful growth, the Denville Volunteer Fire Department established a First Aid Department in 1940. Over the following years, the Department would evolve and expand to meet the ever increasing needs of the Denville community. Private donations and government funding have been crucial in financing these projects.

By the 1970s, the department boasted a membership of more than 100 with five fire engines in service at three firehouses. With their ever-growing group, new construction began on a new facility for the Main Street Fire Station in 1973. By the fall of 1974, their completed home was open, and is their current home today. Continuing in their growth, the department established the Junior Fire Auxiliary in 1983.

Over the last twenty years, the fire department has continued to expand. Every year, they answer approximately 500 fire and 1,000 first aid calls and assist nearby departments as they respond to calls in neighboring communities.

In the summer, they hold the annual Denville Firemen's Carnival which brings Denville and surrounding communities together for lots of food and fun. Other events the department is involved in include the Halloween Parade, Santa Run, Rotary Street Festival, and St. Francis Fall Festival. The Denville Volunteer Fire Department is a consistent supporter of community activities and forging strong neighborhood networks.

The past and present members of the Denville Volunteer Fire Department have gone above and beyond their call of duty. From their dedication to the safety of their community, to raising funds to maintain each fire house, their unwavering and resilient efforts are truly commendable. Without the sacrifices of these men and women, the safety and quality of life within the Denville community would easily deteriorate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Denville Fire Department for its 90th celebration of service to the township and surrounding communities.

HONORING MR. ROGER GIVENS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roger Givens.

Roger Givens was born and raised in the Sunflower County town, Rome, Mississippi. He

is the seventh of eight children of the late Freddie and Lillie Davis Givens, Sr. Mr. Givens is 67 years old. He is currently employed with MINACT, Inc. as the Business & Community Liaison at the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center in Batesville, Mississippi, partially named after one of his mentors, the late civil rights leader, Dr. Aaron E. Henry and Governor Cliff Finch.

Givens accepted his current position after a distinguished career with the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (now Mississippi Department of Employment Security). He retired from the Commission in 2004 as the first African-American State Director of the Employment Service Division.

Givens is currently serving in numerous local, state and regional organization positions, continuing his life long practice of serving his community. He is recognized amongst his family, his colleagues, and his community as a man of service and passion to help those in need and improve his community. Givens and his wife of ten years are now residents of Grenada, Mississippi. He is the father of three daughters and grandfather of seven. He is a member and Deacon of the Greater Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Gore Springs, Mississippi.

Givens attended and graduated from Hunter High School in Drew, Mississippi. After high school he attended and graduated from Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He continued his education at Jackson State University receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1969. Immediately after receiving his degree, Givens assisted his parents in accomplishing a long time goal of moving off a Sunflower County plantation to Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Because of the Coahoma Community College president's knowledge of Givens and three other siblings, Givens' father was given a job at Coahoma Community College by the president upon a request by Givens and his older brother. While assisting his parents complete the move, Givens was hired as a Counselor by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission in Clarksdale. Being married to his hometown girlfriend while in college, Givens also assisted his mother-in-law and five in-laws move off the same Sunflower County plantation to Clarksdale.

Givens left the Mississippi Employment Security Commission after four months to teach in the Clarksdale Public School system. Since the school district was desegregated in the middle of the year, Givens was not immediately offered a contract for the next year because the school district was required to seek a balance of white-black teachers. He returned to the Employment Commission for the summer and committed to stay after a full time position was offered.

After only one year in Clarksdale, Givens mother-in-law passed and he and wife accepted the responsibility of caring for the five in-laws left without parents. The in-laws, along with Givens three daughters, remained in the household together until each completed high school or moved on to join the workforce or military.

After three years in Clarksdale, Givens lost his father to a heart attack. Givens committed to remaining in Clarksdale to be near his mother. Also, his work in the community, to include the Head Start program and the local chapter of the National Association for the Ad-

vancement of Colored People, was well under way and close ties had been developed with many local officials. The community involvement and encouragement from local officials, including Dr. Aaron Henry, resulted in Givens becoming active in state, regional and national advocacy groups for Head Start. He served several terms as President of the Mississippi Head Start Parents Association and was a founding member and two terms President of the National Head Start Parents Association.

After working in a non-status position with the Employment Security Commission for approximately three (3) years, in 1972 Givens became the first African-American to receive a permanent status position in the Clarksdale office. In 1975 he was selected to enter the agency's Counseling Masters Program at Mississippi State University. The same year he was promoted and selected to start and be Coordinator of the Employment Security Commission's Ex-Offender Placement Program based at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. He received his Masters degree in Counseling from Mississippi State University in 1978.

In 1980, Givens became the first African-American to be appointed the State Monitor/Advocate/Complaint Specialist. He relocated his family to Jackson to work in the Employment Security Commission's headquarters.

In 1986, Givens was appointed the Manager of the Greenwood Employment Office, the first African-American to manage an office in the Mississippi delta. Within months of relocating his family from Jackson to Greenwood, Givens' family started receiving telephone threats from callers identified as the KKK advising him to leave the city because the position of manager was for whites. Acts of violence and damage to his home were committed in the following weeks. The threats and violence ended after an investigation by the local law enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During the same year Givens' co-workers elected him the first African-American to be president of the Mississippi Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP). During his term as president, the Chapter improved in employee participation and service to members, obtaining an international ranking of number 6, the highest in Chapter history. During his five years as the Greenwood Employment Office Manager, Givens was deeply involved in community organizations as the Chamber of Commerce and the Greenwood Voters League.

In 1991, Givens was appointed the Employment Security Commission Area Supervisor for the Mississippi delta, the first African-American in the state to hold an Area Supervisor position. Partially, because of Givens commitment to staff development and equal opportunity, the minority office managers in the delta increased from 0 out of 9 to 6 out of 9 during his tenure as Area Supervisor. After a reorganization of the Employment Service Division in 1996, Givens supervisory responsibility was expanded to include all of north Mississippi.

Givens was appointed State Director of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission Employment Service Division in 2001. During his tenure in the position, he continued his commitment to staff development, teamwork, customer service and equal opportunity. This resulted in broad support within the Employment Service Division and a noticeable in-

crease in minorities in management positions throughout the state.

In 2005, after retiring from the state, Givens was hired by MINACT, INC., a minority owned company based in Jackson, Mississippi, upon the recommendation of a senior MINACT official, who was a former Head Start employee aware of Givens years of community involvement and career with the state. Givens considered it a blessing to be in a position to use the experience and knowledge from his life long career and community service to help the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center accomplish the mission of preparing youth and young adults for the workforce and life in general.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Roger Givens for his dedication to this great state.

TRIBUTE TO BRIANNE
FITZGERALD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brianne Fitzgerald for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the marketing and communication director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa Brianne has utilized her expertise in the marketing field to raise awareness of the message Big Brother and Big Sisters is trying to bring to the community. She works tirelessly to provide resources to those who need them most, so that they too have the opportunity to become successful. Her dedication and passion for serving others and strengthening the Des Moines community is a true testament to her character and it has not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brianne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brianne on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
APRIL 19

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Vincent K. Brooks, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea.
SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal.
SD-538
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine challenges and opportunities for oil and gas development in different price environments.
SD-366
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-406
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine preventing drug trafficking through international mail.
SD-342
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine ensuring accountability for crime survivors, focusing on assessing the Crime Victims Fund after three decades.
SD-226
- 1 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine anticipating and preventing deadly attacks on European Jewish communities.
CHOB-210
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold closed hearings to examine cybersecurity and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SVC-217

APRIL 20

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD-124
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security
To hold hearings to examine the state of the United States maritime industry, focusing on stakeholder perspectives.
SR-253
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine new approaches and innovative technologies to improve water supply.
SD-406
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the administrative state, focusing on an examination of Federal rulemaking.
SD-342
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Inga S. Bernstein, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Stephanie A. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Suzanne Mitchell, and Scott L. Palk, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, and Ronald G. Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.
SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for Defense innovation and research.
SD-192
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine restoring stability to government operations.
SD-608
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-232A
- 2:15 p.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Carla D. Hayden, of Maryland, to be Librarian of Congress.
SR-301
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
To hold hearings to examine the current state of research, diagnosis, and treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.
SR-222
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine our complex tax code and the economy.
SD-562

APRIL 21

- 9:15 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.
SD-342
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.
SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
To hold hearings to examine enabling advanced reactors, including S. 2795, to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.
SD-406
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine S. 1167, to modify the boundaries of the Pole Creek Wilderness, the Owyhee River Wilderness, and the North Fork Owyhee Wilderness and to authorize the continued use of motorized vehicles for livestock monitoring, herding, and grazing in certain wilderness areas in the State of Idaho, S. 1423, to designate certain Federal lands in California as wilderness, S. 1510, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1699, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, S. 1777, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, S. 2018, to convey, without consideration, the reversionary interests of the United States in and to certain non-Federal land in Glennallen, Alaska, S. 2223, to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, S. 2379, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Tucson, Arizona, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the City, and S. 2383, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to

the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land.

SD-366

APRIL 27

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on "Telecommunications: Additional Coordination and Performance Measurement Needed for High-Speed Internet Access Programs on Tribal Lands."

SD-628

MAY 9

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

MAY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the sub-

committee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

11 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SD-G50

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-232A

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SR-222