

called Union Station Homeless Services (USHS) in Pasadena, California, becoming Chief Executive Officer in 2008. USHS is dedicated to helping homeless and low-income families through their outstanding service programs operating throughout the San Gabriel Valley. The programs provide food, shelter, medical care, rehabilitation and job training for homeless and low-income families and individuals, assisting them through each step of the process, so they can become thriving members of society. Under Rabbi Gross' stellar leadership, USHS has expanded from a 36-bed shelter on Raymond Avenue to a successful homeless service institution that serves over 2,200 people each year.

In his more recent volunteer capacity, Marv has served on many boards and committees, including Flintridge Preparatory School, the Pasadena Police Foundation, and he is a staunch member of the Pasadena Rotary Club. A longtime Sierra Madre resident, Marv has three children: Becky, Daniel, and Tara.

Rabbi Gross has tirelessly committed his working life to profoundly improve the lives of the homeless community. His generosity, compassion and leadership have deeply benefited the lives of thousands of homeless individuals and families.

I ask all members of Congress to join me today in honoring Rabbi Marvin M. Gross for over two decades of extraordinary and unparalleled service to Union Station Homeless Services.

HONORING EILEEN SMITH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eileen Smith of Marin County, California, for her selection as the Educator of the Year at the 2016 Golden Bell Awards Ceremony, presented by the Marin County Office of Education in collaboration with the Marin County School Board Association and other local civic organizations. Director of a California Math and Science Partnership (CaMSP) project that works with teachers across the county, Ms. Smith has nearly two decades of experience that have greatly benefited the preparedness and success of Marin County's students.

Ms. Smith has served in a variety of leadership roles in our community. As principal of Loma Verde Elementary School in the Novato United School District, she was recognized by several awards, including Principal of the Year in 2010 by the Marin County School Administrators' Association. In her current role as director of a CaMSP project, "Marin's Next Generation Collaborative for Science & Math," she has worked with more than six dozen teachers from 8 districts countywide, coordinating and providing intensive, ongoing professional development in math and science. The project is set to expand next year.

Throughout her career, Ms. Smith has been known and respected as an effective leader with a gift for educating teachers. She has pushed for increased and improved STEM

education at an early age, and has fostered relationships with leading scientific and educational institutions including the Exploratorium, Dominican University, the College of Marin, the University of California, Berkeley, and more.

The Golden Bell Awards celebrate public education in Marin County by recognizing outstanding teachers and supportive community partners. Each year, they select an exemplary educator, classified employee, teacher, and trustee for recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we honor and thank Eileen Smith for her contributions to students and public education in Marin County and California.

IN MEMORY OF GREG CONNELL

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Greg Connell, a stunt pilot from South Carolina, who unfortunately passed before his time while performing several weeks back in the Good Neighbor Day Airshow in Atlanta. Accordingly, I want to take a moment to offer my condolences to his wife, Ginger, as well as the host of additional family and friends he leaves behind.

It was the inventor Leonardo da Vinci who once said, "Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return."

Greg's eyes indeed always looked up. The heavens were his domain, and it is to them that he has returned.

He followed in his father's footsteps and started flying back in 1989 at the young age of 13, and his love of flight was obvious in the way that he lived life. Indeed, he flew at the Annual Water Festival down in Beaufort, South Carolina on numerous occasions, and my brother, John, flew with him many times. At a personal level, I spent New Year's down at the farm watching him do what he loved best: fly.

And that he could. He made the impossible look all too easy. With grace and flair, he was mesmerizing in the way he took to the sky.

Greg's story is that of pursuing with passion a quest for excellence, and I think there is a lesson all of us can learn from within those pages. In his memory, I would ask that we take a moment today for reflection, and pause in asking how we live up to his model of excellence in all we do. For those of us who knew him, we will miss him. I look forward to our reunion in the heavens above.

A FAIR PROCESS FOR ALL: VOTER
INEQUALITY IS A PROBLEM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge today as Restoration

Tuesday and once again, to speak on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced by the refusal of Congress to fully restore the federal protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Two weeks ago, I was honored to stand beside fellow colleagues Rep. MARC VEASEY of Texas and Rep. BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia and other Members of Congress to launch the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus. The Caucus is committed to restoring the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to its original state and restoring the vote to all the suppressed voices in this great nation. We will continue to stand together until we achieve our goal and make our election process fair for everyone once again. The right to vote should be easy for all eligible voters and not made more difficult for some of this country's most disenfranchised members.

It is a sad day in this nation when there are eligible Americans who cannot take part in the democratic process that we as Americans are all promised, just because they are unable to attain a photo ID. To some, this may not seem like a hard request or even a major problem. However, to the people in rural Alabama and in many rural areas all over the country—it is a tough request and it is a big problem. When your district closes over 30 DMVs—the most common location to receive a photo ID—this is a problem. When the nearest courthouse or DMV is 20 miles away and you don't have gas money, a car, or any public transport—this is a problem. When you do not have a birth certificate because you were delivered by a midwife and are told you are not able to vote, even though you are an American, born and raised—this is a problem. What is crystal clear is that these new suppressive voting laws are crippling the democratic process. This is an election year and the right to vote is under attack. An essential element of our democracy is corroding, and we indeed have a problem.

When a county systematically shuts down voting polls from 400 in 2008 to 200 in 2012 and then plummets to only 60 in 2016, the problem is clear. Maricopa County in Arizona forced voters to endure long lines and an arduous process to simply have their vote counted—to have their voices heard. To my fellow colleagues, I say maybe your district doesn't have long lines wrapped around the streets and maybe your elderly constituents can easily access their birth certificates. But my district and so many others do have real problems accessing the ballot box. If one person is denied the right to vote, it undermines the integrity of the entire voting process. We cannot forget about the millions of Americans who suffer from new suppressive voting laws around the country. We cannot sit back and simply say, "This is not my problem." When Americans are being suppressed and silenced, it is an American problem. This is still the United States of America, and we cannot stand strong when a significant portion of our country suffers in silence. A democracy means inclusion, not exclusion—America stands for equality, fairness and justice for all.

It is time we make the democratic process, democratic once again. Until every voice in this great nation is allowed to speak freely, without suppression, I will stand on this floor and speak in support of our Constitutional right to vote. I urge my colleagues to join me and 168 other members in support of H.R. 2867, the Voting Rights Advancement Act. It is time Congress restores the VRA.