

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VOTING RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, to help our constituents gain a better understanding of the negative impact of the Supreme Court decision, on May 20, 2016, I hosted a forum titled "Protect Your Future: Restore the Vote." My co-chairs were Representative LINDA SANCHEZ, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Representative JUDY CHU, Chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus; and special guest, Representative KAREN BASS. The event was organized to educate constituents on the devastating impact of the Supreme Court decision, *Shelby County vs. Holder*.

Members from our communities heard expert testimony from the National Association for Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) regarding the devastating impacts of the decision upon the Voting Rights Act. I include in the RECORD the expert testimony of Arturo Vargas, Executive Director of NALEO.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY ARTURO VARGAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (NALEO) EDUCATIONAL FUND, BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL FIELD FORUM ENTITLED "PROTECT YOUR FUTURE: RESTORE THE VOTE"—LOS ANGELES, CA MAY 20, 2016

U.S. Representative Roybal-Allard, U.S. Representative Chu, U.S. Representative Sánchez, U.S. Representative Bass: thank you for extending the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the status of Latino voting rights and protection of all Americans' equal right to vote.

The NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. Our constituency encompasses the more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials nationwide, and includes Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. For several decades, the NALEO Educational Fund has been at the forefront of efforts to advance policies that protect Latino voting rights, and ensure that Latinos are fully engaged as voters and have a fair opportunity to choose their elected leaders. We have advocated passage of state and federal voting rights legislation including the reauthorization of key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). We have also provided direct assistance to voters encountering barriers to casting ballots through our year-round, bilingual hotline, 888-VE-Y-VOTA, and through nationwide dissemination of bilingual voting rights public service announcements, palm cards, and other materials.

DISCRIMINATORY VOTING LAWS THREATEN ELECTION 2016

As the 2016 Presidential election approaches, we are extremely concerned about policy developments that will severely impede the robust participation of Latinos and all Americans in our nation's democracy.

The legal landscape against which the election will play out has rarely changed as dramatically as it did between the 2012 and 2016 election cycles. For almost 50 years, the VRA's signature provision protected voters in jurisdictions that had a demonstrated propensity to adopt discriminatory policies. During Election 2012, in nine entire states and selected towns and counties in seven additional states, no new voting law or administrative change in voting procedures could be implemented unless the U.S. Department of Justice or a federal court first determined it to be free of discriminatory motive and impact. This VRA-mandated preclearance procedure stopped more than 1,000 problematic provisions from taking effect between 1965 and 2013, when the Supreme Court decided *Shelby County v. Holder*.

When it effectively ended most jurisdictions' preclearance obligations, the Court's *Shelby County* decision inspired a wave of restrictive election lawmaking, and rapid implementation of laws that had been on hold, in states in which the potential influence of underrepresented voters has been dramatically increasing. For example, nine of the 12 states whose Latino populations grew most rapidly between 2000 and 2010 enacted laws that made it harder to register and vote between 2010 and 2014. In six of the nine states that saw more than a 100% increase in their Latino populations between the 2000 and 2010 decennial Censuses, there are new provisions in effect that will make voting in 2016 more difficult than it was in 2012. Moreover, nine of the 15 states covered in whole or part by preclearance procedures at the time of the *Shelby County* decision adopted new statewide voting restrictions between 2008 and 2016.

Restrictive election lawmaking and administrative practices continue to have a disproportionately negative effect on Latinos' ability and propensity to be active participants in our democracy. The confluence between places where Latino and other underrepresented voters' political influence is increasing and places that have impaired access to the ballot strongly suggests that the discriminatory chilling impact of restrictive policies is not a coincidence, but a motivating factor behind their enactment.

Restrictive voting policies implemented since 2012 include barriers to voter registration, measures that leave registrants with less opportunity to vote, and changes that reduce the potential influence of underrepresented communities' votes. New statewide laws alone, which have been implemented in at least 19 states, will make it more difficult for more than 875,000 eligible Latino voters to cast ballots in November 2016. In addition to enacted laws, some elections officials' administrative choices will impede Latino access to the ballot in 2016. For example, a decision to close two-thirds of polling places in Maricopa County, Arizona, just a few short weeks in advance of the 2016 Presidential primary produced hours-long lines to vote, particularly in neighborhoods with large populations of underrepresented voters. Set forth below is a summary of these restrictive policies; attached to this testimony is our report, *Latino Voters at Risk: Assessing the Impact of Restrictive Voting Changes in Election 2016*, which provides a detailed description of the policies and their impact on the Latino electorate.

Verification of Citizenship at Registration:

Since 2012, multiple states have begun to regularly check registrants' citizenship. Some states will not process new registration applications until receiving documentary proof of U.S. citizenship, while other states review their existing registration lists to identify possible non-citizen registrants. Latinos are disproportionately likely to be wrongly singled out as suspected non-citizens, because a larger-than-average share of the Latino electorate is composed of naturalized citizens who interacted with government agencies prior to naturalizing and who frequently appear in outdated records as non-citizens. Eligible Latino voters are also overrepresented among U.S. citizens who lack documents concerning their citizenship, and who face steep barriers to obtaining that documentation. As a result, Latinos are more likely than people of other races and ethnicities to be prevented from registering or maintaining registration by citizenship verification procedures.

Earlier Registration Deadlines:

Although advanced technology has reduced the practical need to compile lists of eligible voters in advance of voting periods, some jurisdictions have nonetheless moved voter registration deadlines to earlier dates for 2016. Shortening the available period for voter registration impairs the Latino vote because Latino voters frequently lack basic information about the voting process. Young and naturalized voters who are the least likely to have meaningful voting experience constitute much larger percentages of the Latino electorate than of voters of other races and ethnicities, for example. Latinos are also more highly mobile than voters of other races and ethnicities, and thus more likely to have to re-register at a new address to preserve their right to vote in any given election year. In states that are tightening registration deadlines, the relatively large number of Latinos who must take action well in advance of Election Day are at heightened risk of exclusion from the political process.

Expanded Reasons for Cancellation or Rejection of Registrations:

Since 2012, some states have adopted new provisions that expand the circumstances in which election officials must cancel existing registration records or reject new registration applications. As is the case with earlier registration deadlines, these measures make it more likely that Latinos and other people who are less knowledgeable about and experienced with the voting process will be excluded from participating in elections merely because of a technical requirement and not for any substantive reason.

Restrictions on Third Party Voter Registration Activities:

In the past four years, jurisdictions have continued to make it more difficult for community-based organizations and individuals not affiliated with a government entity to help register new voters. Restrictions on third party registration activities are likely to exacerbate the troubling gap between white and Latino voter registration rates, since disproportionately large percentages of Latinos indicate that they register to vote at a public location associated with a community registration drive, such as a school

• 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.

or shopping center. Moreover, community-based organizations that are known and trusted also have more incentive and opportunity to reach and engage low-propensity voters than government officials and politicians. Hindering their efforts may significantly reduce the likelihood that eligible, unregistered Latinos will be asked by anyone to take part in an election.

Imposition of Strict Voter ID Requirements:

The strict voter ID laws implemented in a number of jurisdictions around the country since 2012 inhibit qualified members of the electorate from casting ballots, because millions of American adults do not possess any of the personal identification documents that strict ID laws require. Individuals who do not already hold a valid form of voter ID face numerous potential barriers to obtaining a qualifying document, including inability to pay application fees, difficulty arranging transportation to identification-issuing locations during business hours, and lack of access to documents like birth certificates that are mandatory precursors to obtaining ID. Eligible Latino voters account for disproportionate shares of both those without ID and those who confront significant or insurmountable barriers to obtaining ID. In addition, studies indicate that Latinos are disproportionately likely to mistakenly presume they lack the ID required to vote, and to decline to attempt to vote as a result of apprehension about the scrutiny they will face at the polls.

Shortened In-Person Early Voting Periods:

In recognition of the increasing demands on Americans' time, many jurisdictions have extended voting days and hours in the past fifteen years, and many voters have taken advantage of early voting periods. Against this backdrop, jurisdictions that have moved in the opposite direction to limit the voting options available to their citizens stand out for their recalcitrance. Latino voters are more likely than others to lack workplace flexibility, and also to shoulder childcare responsibilities, both factors that leave potential Latino voters with less ability to vote where polling places are open on fewer days and for fewer hours. Unsurprisingly, the states with the highest early voting rates are disproportionately Latino: the nine jurisdictions whose citizens were most likely to vote early in 2008 and 2012 are home to less than 26% of all of the nation's voters, but 36% of all Latino voters in the country. Where early voting is constrained, Latinos are disproportionately likely to be negatively affected.

Restrictions on Absentee Voting:

Provisions that have made it more difficult to vote by mail also stand out as a contrast to the wider voting opportunities that improved technology generally has made possible. Several states implemented new laws between November 2012 and Election Day 2016 that impose tighter deadlines on mail ballots, restrict assistors' ability to deliver ballots for people with limited mobility, and make it more likely that mail ballots will be rejected. These and other measures that have made it more difficult to vote by mail are likely to have a disproportionate impact on Latino voters, because their demanding schedules and heightened likelihood of lacking access to personal transportation may force many to rely on mail balloting as the only logistically feasible voting option.

Heightened Qualifications to Vote and Restrictions on Counting Ballots:

Restrictions on registration and voting mechanisms have gained currency among legislators from many different states in the years following the contentious Presidential election of 2000. Voter advocates have begun

to win high-profile victories in legal challenges to voter ID laws, proof of citizenship requirements, and shortened early voting periods. However, simultaneously, jurisdictions have successfully pursued alternative legislative provisions that have not yet been the subject of successful anti-discrimination enforcement actions. Examples of other voting restrictions likely to disproportionately impair Latino voters in November 2016 include felon disfranchisement in Kentucky; refusal to count any votes cast outside the correct precinct in North Carolina; and heightened barriers to the counting of provisional ballots in Ohio.

Redistricting and Other Laws That Diminish Latino Voters' Influence:

Underrepresented voters' influence can be limited not only by laws that create barriers to registration and voting, but also by laws that diminish the weight of their votes. Between the 2012 and 2016 Presidential elections, a number of jurisdictions have adopted new measures concerning redistricting and methods of election that impair the ability of underrepresented communities to elect the candidates of their choice. For example, some redistricting plans have included districts in which Latinos constitute a slight majority of the population, but are unlikely to constitute a majority of voters because so many of the individuals assigned to the district cannot or are not likely to vote. When Latinos have preferences for the candidates of their choice that are consistently different from those of the majority white population, whites and Latinos may vote in blocs and in opposition to one another, and the deliberate manipulation of district boundaries can ensure that Latino voter-preferred candidates are consistently defeated.

Barriers Imposed by Administrative Policy-making:

As widespread as restrictive election law-making has been in state legislatures around the country between 2012 and 2016, discretionary decisions made by unelected administrators—particularly those serving at municipal or other local levels—now pose at least an equal threat to underrepresented voters' ability to participate in elections. With the exception of noncompliance with language assistance obligations, voting rights laws have rarely been used successfully to challenge executive policymaking that has discriminatory effects. Thus, Latino voters are particularly vulnerable to negative consequences of discriminatory or unsound election administration. Among the administrative issues over which election administrators have discretionary control, those that may have the most deleterious effect on Latinos' ability to vote in 2016 include decisions about registration list maintenance and the processing of new registration applications, the closing and consolidation of polling places, the allocation of resources among polling places, and the degree of effort invested in providing language assistance to voters not yet fully fluent in English.

CONCLUSION—CONGRESS MUST RESTORE THE VRA TO FULL STRENGTH

Laws and policies that make it harder for Latinos to register and vote have a clear negative impact on the individuals who are individually prevented from taking part in elections by their inability to satisfy heightened requirements. What may be less obvious is that restrictive measures inhibit even those who are not directly affected by them. The kinds of restrictive laws and policies that jurisdictions around the country have adopted since Election Day 2012 signal to members of the electorate that their voices and input as voters are not welcomed, but

only grudgingly accepted when voters are willing to put in the effort to clear the hurdles in their way. Because they discourage a broad group of potential voters at a time when voter participation has been in dangerous decline, policies that create barriers to the ballot box are the wrong policy choices for 2016. It is imperative that we instead encourage Latinos and all Americans to become more active participants in the political process by making the registration and voting process more accessible.

We applaud Members of Congress for introducing bipartisan legislation that would modernize the VRA. The Voting Rights Amendment Act, H.R. 885, and the Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 2867, would ensure that discriminatory policies do not taint our political process, and that elections are instead open to all Americans regardless of their race, ethnicity, or linguistic ability. We look forward to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to advance legislation that strengthens protection of the fair and equal opportunity to vote, and safeguards the integrity of our democracy for the long term.

FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office regarding H.R. 5460.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL McCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5460, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jacob Fabian.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

H.R. 5460—FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants to help state, local, and tribal governments develop their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism. Under current law, equipment purchased using such grants must meet voluntary standards, developed by FEMA in coordination with appropriate federal agencies, the National Advisory Council, and private entities. Requests to use grants to purchase equipment that does not meet such standards, or for which no such standards exist, are subject to further review and approval by FEMA.

H.R. 5460 would require FEMA to implement a uniform process for reviewing applications for grants intended to support purchases of innovative equipment that does not meet or exceed current applicable standards or for which no voluntary standards exist. The bill also would require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to assess and report on FEMA's implementation of the new review process.

Based on information from FEMA, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would not have a significant effect on the federal budget. According to the agency, grant recipients rarely request permission to purchase equipment that does not at least meet current standards or for which standards do not exist. As a result, CBO expects that any administrative costs to establish, implement, assess, and report on the proposed process for reviewing such requests would be insignificant; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 5460 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 5460 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jacob Fabian. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

**DANGEROUS SYNTHETIC DRUG
CONTROL ACT OF 2016**

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3537, the “Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act”. I want to thank Congressman KATKO and Congressman DENT for their work on this important legislation.

Earlier this year, Congress passed S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA. That historic legislation was vitally important because, today, the United States faces an epidemic of opioid abuse. More than 120 Americans are dying every day from overdoses.

H.R. 3537 continues Congress’s stated commitment to stem the tide of drug abuse and death, by placing 22 synthetic substances on schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. These 22 substances represent the “worst of the worst” synthetic drugs, and include three varieties of fentanyl, a powerful opioid which is all too familiar to Members of this body, as well as to our constituents, families, and loved ones. Fentanyl is up to 100 times more powerful than morphine, and has led to a rash of deaths across the country.

The federal agencies charged with battling drug abuse—specifically, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse—have all concurred that these substances are the “worst of the worst,” and have no medicinal use. People are overdosing and dying because of them right now. Congress cannot sit on its hands and allow this to continue happening.

I want to address a couple of misconceptions about this legislation. First, some have argued that the bill will prevent these substances from being researched. But that is a specious claim. Federal law permits schedule I controlled substances to be researched, via

FDA-approved “new drug” applications and DEA schedule I research registrations. The application requirements are significant, but that is appropriate since, again, these drugs are the worst of the worst. If you are experimenting with these substances, which have killed people, you should be held to the highest standards of scientific research.

Second, some of my colleagues have argued that this legislation would impose mandatory minimum sentences on people for simple possession of these synthetic substances. Again, this is erroneous. In order to receive a mandatory minimum sentence under the Controlled Substances Act, a defendant has to possess more than a certain amount of a drug that appears on a list in federal law. None of the synthetic substances in H.R. 3537 appear on that list. As a result, even with the passage of this bill the only way a defendant could be subject to a mandatory minimum is if a user suffers death or serious bodily injury after consuming the drug.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3537 is good, timely legislation that will criminalize some extremely dangerous substances that are killing American citizens. It is a stopgap, since a more comprehensive solution is needed down the road, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on comprehensive synthetic drug legislation. But Congress must pass this legislation now to get these substances off the streets now.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

IN HONOR OF KELLY MCMILLIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable public service career of Chief Kelly McMillin, who is retiring after a 32-year-long career in law enforcement, that last 4 as the Chief of the Salinas, California, Police Department. Kelly has been a remarkable leader who led the Salinas Police Department through a particularly challenging period. I am particularly grateful for his work with my office to help convince the U.S. Department of Justice in 2011 to include the City of Salinas as one of the initial 7 U.S. cities in the pilot National Forum on Youth Violence. I am proud of Kelly’s service and honored to call him a friend.

Kelly began his law enforcement career in 1984 as a Deputy with the San Benito County Sheriff’s Department. In 1986, he transferred to the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department before joining the Salinas Police Department in 1988. As a Salinas Police Officer, Kelly has worked patrol, several anti-gang units, vice/narcotics, administration, and various assignments as a detective including homicide. He was a SWAT operator, team leader and tactical commander. He has held the ranks of Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander and Deputy Chief. He was appointed Chief of the Salinas Police Department on June 11, 2012, and was the first Chief to be promoted from within the ranks since 1965.

While he was serving as a full time officer, Kelly earned an Associate’s Degree from Hartnell College, a BA from Saint Mary’s Col-

lege, and a Masters of Public Policy from the Panetta Institute at California State University Monterey Bay. He is a 2003 graduate of the 213th session of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. In 2012, the White House recognized Kelly as a “Champion of Change” for his work in youth violence prevention in 2012.

Kelly is married to his wife Teresa, a Physician Assistant who owns a cosmetic dermatology practice in Salinas. Their son Liam has followed in his father’s public service footsteps and is currently a Plebe at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in congratulating Chief Kelly McMillin on the occasion of his retirement and to thank him and his family for his many years of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST ORLANDO BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special occasion for West Orlando Baptist Church in Winter Garden, Florida. West Orlando Baptist Church will celebrate their 45th anniversary and new building dedication on October 2, 2016.

On October 3, 1971, more than 100 charter members founded Metropolitan Baptist Church in Pine Hills, Florida. Today, known as West Orlando Baptist Church it serves more than 700 in Winter Garden, FL. In honor of their 45th anniversary, West Orlando Baptist Church is dedicating a new 32,000-square foot expansion in Winter Garden, which includes a brand-new sanctuary and additional classrooms.

I would like to thank West Orlando Baptist Church for their 45 years of faithful ministry to our community and their dedication to Christian leadership. Many lives have been impacted through the church’s ministry.

On behalf of the people of Central Florida, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate West Orlando Baptist Church on this momentous occasion. May God continue to bless their church and ministry throughout future generations.

RESTORATION TUESDAY: UNITED
WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the dangerously divisive effect that voter suppression has had on this country and the pressing need to restore the vote.

The unique diversity of the people of the United States of America is indeed one of our greatest strengths. However, it is our unity of principles that forms the strong foundation that our greatness is built upon. This country stands on the principles of liberty, justice and

equality for all. In order to maintain our position and place as one of the greatest nations in the world, we simply cannot stand for any efforts that would suppress a fundamental right of the American people. The right to a vote—to a voice is the cornerstone of our democracy and we cannot continue to stand by idly while the right to vote continues to be trampled on simply because of Congress' apathy and failure to act.

Following the 2013 Supreme Court decision asking for a new preclearance formula in *Shelby v. Holder*, states all across the country put in place new suppressive voting laws making it harder, not easier for Americans to vote. The elderly, disabled, students and minorities have been disproportionately affected by these new laws blocking hundreds of thousands of Americans from the ballot box. It has been three years since the Supreme Court decision asking Congress for a modern-day preclearance formula—and for three years, Republican leaders in Congress have refused to take up bipartisan legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act.

This is an election year and with less than 50 days from the Presidential election, we are facing the first time in over 50 years that Americans will not have the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We are in desperate need for immediate action to voting rights in this country. These threats to our democracy and civil rights bar thousands of Americans from their right to the voting polls. Division in this country is both dangerous and destructive. We are never better when rights are restricted and we are always stronger when all voices can be heard. This is still the United States of America and as elected officials and conduits of the Constitution—voting rights deserves our undivided attention.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues should join the 178 members of Congress and support H.R. 2867—the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Let's restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and give all Americans access to the voting polls—it's the right thing to do.

THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY
OF MR. ERIC JOHNSON

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the 50th birthday of a dear friend, Mr. Eric Johnson, be recognized on October 14th. A great patriot and Arizonan, my wife Joyce and I wish Mr. Johnson another 50 years of good health and happiness. Happy Birthday, Eric.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on September 26,

2016, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 557 and YEA on Roll Call 558.

HONORING LIBBY MAYNARD AS
2016 NONPROFIT LEADER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Libby Maynard of Humboldt County, who is being honored on September 30, 2016, by the Northern California Association of Nonprofits with the 2016 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Libby Maynard has served as co-founder and Executive Director of The Ink People Center for the Arts in Eureka since 1979. A professional printmaker, Libby co-founded The Ink People to support artists and educate the community about the arts. Under her leadership, The Ink People has grown to more than 400 members and provides exhibitions, performances, and educational opportunities for all ages. The program helps at-risk youth create positive change in their communities through the MARZ Project and provides administrative support, management, and capacity building through its DreamMaker Program to self-directed projects.

With Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Humboldt State University in Arcata, Libby is an accomplished artist in her own right. Her artwork has been exhibited throughout California and is in collections across the nation.

Libby Maynard is highly engaged in her community, serving as a consultant in nonprofit management and program development, as well as director on many nonprofit boards, including Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board and Executive Committee, Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Marketing Committee, and Access Humboldt and Finance Committee. Since 2005, Libby has served as staff to the City of Eureka's Art & Culture Commission and sits on Eureka Main Street's Public Arts Committee.

Libby has received numerous awards and honors, including the Ingrid Nickelsen Award for a lifetime of commitment to the arts; The Selina Roberts Ottum Award from Americans for the Arts; California Association of Nonprofits' Insurance Services' Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership; California Arts Council Director's Special Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Local Arts Agency Field; and recognitions from the Hmong Community of the North Coast and Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, Libby Maynard's commitment to bettering her community through the advancement of art and culture is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDMUND
EDELMAN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Edmund Edelman—father, husband, grandfather, cellist, politician, and activist—who passed away on September 12, 2016, at the age of 85.

A lifelong resident of Los Angeles, Ed grew up on the Westside where he attended Beverly Hills High School. After serving in the Navy for two years, Ed earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and Bachelor of Laws degree, both from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ed's service to the community began in these halls as a staff lawyer for a congressional subcommittee on education and labor and then as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.

Ed served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1965 to 1974 to represent the 5th district. His progressive agenda helped the most vulnerable citizens in this district. Some of his notable accomplishments working as a City Councilman are creating support systems for the homeless and mentally ill, promoting public transportation, and protecting important landmarks from developers.

Ed was elected in 1975 to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors where he continued to serve the community. In that position he continued to be proud of his title as an "unabashed liberal." During his time as a Supervisor, Ed was a champion for abused and neglected children by establishing the county's Department of Children and Family Services and the Monterey Park court, which was later named for him. Ed was also a supporter for the arts and supported the renovations of the Hollywood Bowl to better promote cultural events in the community.

Ed was a passionate advocate for public transit, leading the drive for Los Angeles to invest in mass transit both the in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles. The Red Line connecting the North Hollywood to downtown and the Los Angeles-Long Beach Blue Line are here today because of the vision and drive of Ed Edelman.

Ed retired from political office in 1994, but his public service did not end there. He continued to help others by advising on different public policy matters a Senior Fellow at the RAND Corporation. He later worked for the City of Santa Monica to assist the homeless population and created a program to establish connections between homeless people and different social services. Ed's legacy comes from his compassion for other people. The wide range of accomplishments in humanitarian, environmental, and cultural endeavors has enduring impact on the community of Los Angeles.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mari; brother Raymond; sister; Sandra; daughters Erica Edelman Benadon and Emily Glickman; and grandchildren Jonah, Juliette, Adam, and Alexandra.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Ed Edelman.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
ROHRERSVILLE BAND HALL'S
100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community of Rohrerstown and join with them in celebration of the Rohrerstown Band Hall's 100th Year Anniversary. The Rohrerstown Band Hall was built by the community band and first opened its doors in 1916. The Rohrerstown Band Hall has served as a rehearsal space, Town Hall, and concert venue to the people of Rohrerstown for the last 100 years.

The Rohrerstown community's commitment to preserving and maintaining this historic building is nothing short of inspiring. It is so critical to preserve and celebrate local history. So much has changed since 1916, but this building and the band who calls it home have stood the test of time.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S TEN TEN

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2016, Taiwan celebrates the National Day of the Republic of China, more commonly known as double-ten day. I wish all Taiwanese a safe and happy National Day, and hope for many more to come. I lived in Taiwan for two years while serving a church mission, and quickly grew to love the people of Taiwan, their way of life, democratic values, and open-market principles. Taiwan has left a lasting impression on me and I have celebrated and worked to protect the U.S.-Taiwan relationship ever since.

In Congress, I've striven to ensure that Taiwan's close friendship and faithfulness as a global citizen is never forgotten. Just this year, Taiwan reminded the world once again that a vibrant democracy can thrive in the region with the peaceful election of a new leader through genuinely free and fair elections. I congratulate President Tsai once again and wish her well in leading her people.

Congress has also acted to include Taiwan in the international community and prevent marginalization efforts by China. As the world grows smaller and more interconnected, it is not only unreasonable that Taiwan is not at the table, it is dangerous. For that reason, I want to express my profound disappointment that the United Nations failed to include Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly this year. As we all know, Taiwan airports are among the busiest in the world, and pressure from China should not lead to putting passenger safety at risk. I urge the UN to include Taiwan as a participant in all future ICAO assemblies; in addition to all other international organizations as they would be a valuable addition to addressing our many global challenges.

Congress and the United States stand firm in our commitment to Taiwan, and will continue to do so. I look forward to celebrating

another double-ten day along with my friends in Taiwan this year and in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DYSAUTONOMIA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions that fight each day against Dysautonomia, a group of debilitating medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. This system is responsible for "automatic" bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature control, things that many of us have the luxury of taking for granted. Dysautonomia continues to significantly impact the lives of Americans across the United States especially in Western New York.

As is, dysautonomia can be extremely debilitating but an often unseen symptom of this disability is the social isolation that accompanies it. The stress on the families of those impacted coupled with the financial hardships warrant our recognition as well as awareness. I am proud to affirm that the outstanding character and strong moral fiber of those in the Western New York community has provided the much needed support for the victims suffering from dysautonomia. Looking ahead, it will be crucial for the community to rally around these victims as they continue their hard fought battle against this disease.

Dysautonomia awareness is monumental in the early detection of the disease due to the fact that most patients take years to be properly diagnosed. Dysautonomia International, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia, encourages communities to deepen their understanding and be mindful of this challenging condition especially during Dysautonomia Awareness Month each October. The tireless efforts of the Dysautonomia community for increased research and accessible services will be recognized on Saturday, October 1 in my Congressional District as the color turquoise will bathe Niagara Falls and the Peace Bridge in the light of care, concern and continuing the fight to improve the lives of individuals living with this chronic condition.

Currently, Dysautonomia International is funding research to develop more substantial treatments and hopefully find a cure for all forms of this condition in the future.

I wanted to recognize the contributions of the professional medical community, patients and family members who are working to educate our citizenry about dysautonomia throughout Western New York. They are deserving of our support, recognition and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in support for those suffering from the devastating medical condition and encourage them to spread awareness across our nation throughout and beyond the month of October.

THE OCCASION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, Beijing's concentrated effort to isolate Taiwan from the global community, coupled with Taiwan's ambiguous sovereignty status has contributed to its exclusion from many international organizations and agreements. This is despite Taiwan's willingness and capability to be a major actor on the international stage.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island of Formosa represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. While Taiwan might be separated by oceans and different cultures, we are united in our respect for democracy and human rights.

As an economic partner and vital ally, the United States should aid Taiwan in ensuring its meaningful participation in international organizations and bodies that it has expressed interest in participating. It is of vital importance for Taiwan's inclusion in the International Civil Aviation Organization. Taiwan occupies a critical geographical location and handles large cargo and passenger volumes. More than 47 foreign airlines operate flights from Taipei to over 100 international destinations. For the sake of passenger safety and international security, it is crucial Taiwan be brought into the ICAO fold. Any exclusion from the International Civil Aviation Organization is unnecessary and unconstructive.

On this noteworthy day Congress and the United States are provided the opportunity to evaluate our relationship with Taiwan. As such, the United States should work with Taiwan and our allies to ensure Taiwan is fully included in the international community, including the ICAO.

IN HONOR OF SHEN-YI MICHELLE
CHANG

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and bring attention to an outstanding individual who has come to the United States and demonstrated that the American Dream is still alive and waiting for those who are willing to strive for it and are committed to achieving it.

Shen-Yi Michelle Chang, now residing in Phoenix, Arizona, has shown the grit and resolve that has so long been a staple of American pioneers across this country. She founded her own real estate firm and has excelled at real estate development and sales. In so doing, she has helped countless others achieve their dream of home ownership, a cornerstone of the American Dream. Her dynamic office is a mainstay of the community and employs Arizonans from diverse backgrounds.

Her peers have recognized her hard work and talent. Soon, Ms. Chang will be installed

as the 2017 President of the Arizona State Women's Council of Realtors (WCR) and she will be the first Asian American to take office in its 78 year history. A woman dedicated to public service and the well-being of others, Ms. Chang serves on multiple commissions for the City of Chandler, Arizona. She has founded and runs numerous non-profits and even works in support of the local Little League team.

It is an honor to recognize her hard work, diligence and determination. I congratulate Ms. Chang on behalf of the members of Congress and thank her for showing all of us what self-reliance and motivation can achieve and how such success can benefit one's community.

IN CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Taiwan's National Day, celebrated on October 10th, and to offer my best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

Also known as Double Ten Day, since it takes place on the 10th day of the 10th month, this holiday marks a special time for the Taiwanese as they celebrate their rich culture and take part in festivities across the country of Taiwan as well as here in the United States where Taiwanese-Americans have enhanced and diversified the culture of many cities and towns.

The state of Texas has a strong bond with the Taiwanese, bolstered by the trade of agricultural goods and products. I am also proud to have joined several of my colleagues from Texas to cosponsor legislation geared towards fostering Taiwanese prosperity as well as supporting their admission to the United Nations.

The 26th Congressional District of Texas has experienced great diversification and enrichment thanks to the people of Taiwan. I am glad to call them friends of Texas and friends of the 26th district.

I wish the people of Taiwan all the best as they celebrate Double Ten Day.

HONORING LT. COL. IRA STEPHEN
"SHOOTER" EADIE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Ira Stephen "Shooter" Eadie, who died on September 20, 2016 while flying a routine training mission.

At 9:05 am, the TU-2S piloted by Lt Col Eadie and his trainee crashed near the Sutter Buttes in California. They were assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale Air Force Base. Although both pilots ejected from the aircraft, Lt Col Eadie did not survive.

Lt Col Eadie was a respected pilot who began his military career in the Navy, flying P-3 patrol aircraft. He eventually joined the Air Force and became a U-2 pilot. The U-2 is a notoriously difficult aircraft to fly—becoming a

U-2 pilot means you are among the very best. He was part of an elite, tight-knit group of pilots, whose flights more closely mirror those of astronauts—the U-2 flies at altitudes over 70,000 feet, at the very edge of the atmosphere, affording the pilot breathtaking views of the horizon, watching nighttime creep across the Earth.

Steve was a loving and devoted family man. He met his wife Ashley in Lake City, FL, and together they raised six children, and recently welcomed a granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, pilots fondly quote, "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings". Today, it is my heartfelt honor to remember a cherished member of the flying community, Lt Col "Shooter" Eadie, who has put out his hand, and touched the face of God. In the days to come, may strength and comfort be granted to his family and friends, the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron and Beale Air Force Base, and the entire Dragon Lady community.

THANKING PATRICIA ORSINI FOR
HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Ms. Patricia Orsini who is retiring on September 30, 2016, as the Director of the Wounded Warrior Program at the United States House of Representatives.

Patricia joined the House of Representatives in February 2008 after a long and distinguished career in the Marine Corps. For the past eight and a half years, Patricia has served as the first, and only, Director of the House Wounded Warrior Program. To embark on this endeavor, Patricia relied on the skills and instinct honed as a Marine and quickly rose to the challenge of creating a brand new program for our Nation's Wounded Warriors.

Through Patricia's guidance, assistance, and expert placement, many Members of Congress have come to rely on the Fellows as talented advisors and reliable advocates for military and veterans affairs issues. Every day, the Fellows are asked to attend and lead meetings with constituents, conduct policy analysis on complex issues, handle important and sensitive casework with the utmost care and compassion, and serve as a liaison with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

However, one only needs to look at the results of the program to understand and appreciate that the true benefit rests with the Veterans and their families. Over the course of the program's eight year history, Patricia helped place 142 Wounded Warriors into fellowships in Washington, DC and District Offices nationwide. Of those, 23 Fellows transitioned to full-time employment with the Member office. An additional 53 accepted a full-time position outside of the House of Representatives. Fifteen other Fellows advanced their career path by accepting a job with the Department of Veterans Affairs. All in all, 75 percent of the Wounded Warrior fellows either accepted a full-time position or returned to col-

lege after completing their assignment with the Member office.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend and thank Patricia for her military service. Patricia began her career in the Marines in 1975 as the Assistant Editor at the Marine Corps Institute in Washington, DC. Over the next 33 years, she rose to become a Master Gunnery Sergeant, which is the highest rank an enlisted Marine can achieve. Patricia retired from the Marine Corps in 2008 as the Program Manager for the Wounded Warrior Regiment in Quantico, Virginia.

Clearly Patricia's background in the Marine Corps made her the right candidate to serve as the first and, up to this point, only Director of the House of Representatives Wounded Warrior Program.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Patricia Orsini for her many years of dedication, outstanding contributions, and service to the United States House of Representatives and to our grateful Nation.

We wish Patricia many great years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF HEALTHLINK DEN-
TAL CLINIC IN SOUTHAMPTON

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, HealthLink Dental Clinic opened its doors in 2001 in Southampton, Bucks County Pennsylvania as a medical and dental clinic providing free care to underserved adults. The 15th anniversary, this year, marks the opening of a free dental clinic. The change from a medical-dental facility to a dental clinic resulted from the increased availability to healthcare through expansion of the eligibility requirements for Medicaid coverage and the Affordable Care Act. But little progress has been made regarding access to dental care; therefore, in March 2015, HealthLink Dental Clinic, Inc. became a sole provider of dental care with an expansion of the clinic and collaboration with Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry. Congratulations on this milestone and for recognizing a need in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and stepping in. In so doing, HealthLink has set an example of professionalism and charitable giving for others to follow.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN
MACOMB-OAKLAND HOSPITAL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital in Warren as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

In 1955, the greater Warren Chamber of Commerce and others recognized a need for quality health care and so began the effort to build a hospital in the south end of Macomb

County. The city of Warren purchased the land and an ambitious community fund drive led to the groundbreaking of a new 202-bed hospital, South Macomb Hospital which first opened its doors to patients on March 1, 1966.

As the city and region saw growth, so did South Macomb Hospital. In 1974, South Macomb Hospital opened the west tower and over the next several years continued to add additional floors to the east wing. By 1987, the hospital changed its name to Macomb Hospital Center in recognition of its wider geographic outreach and expansion of services.

In 1997, the Macomb Hospital Center joined the St. John Health System and became St. John Macomb Hospital. The hospital continued to grow and gave residents of southeast Michigan access to quality health care at a state of the art facility. St. John Macomb Hospital provided patients with comprehensive prevention, primary care, and advanced treatment programs through the additions to their surgery center, OR, ICU, Webber Cancer Center and Cardiac Intervention Center.

And in 2007, St. John Macomb joined with St. John Oakland to create the current St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital. The two campuses in Madison Heights and Warren are now home to over 1,200 physicians and 195 residents, 3,436 nurses and associates, 600 volunteers, all faithfully caring for the patients who walk through the door.

I've had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the growth of St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital and have enjoyed many opportunities to meet with hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, and patients to discuss critical health care issues. We've discussed challenges such as the effects of sequestration on the hospitals, and the impact of proposed cuts to Medicare. And we have discussed the importance of the Affordable Care Act on patients' health. I've also had the opportunity to see the many medical advances made at St. John Macomb-Oakland. I toured the Hip & Knee Replacement Center, an orthopedic program for joint replacement, that has been designated a Blue Distinction Center by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

I look forward to continuing to work with St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital as it remains committed to addressing the needs of the community it serves.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION AND THE FIRE APPARATUS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) and the 70th Anniversary of the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA). In advance of their joint conference in Nashville, TN on Oc-

tober 5th, I would like to personally extend my congratulations to both organizations in recognition of their distinguished legacies. Both of these organizations bring their members together to discuss ideas on how best to provide the needed tools, equipment, educational materials, and apparatus that enable our nation's firefighters and emergency services personnel to perform their missions safely and more effectively.

The brave men and women serving in our nation's fire and emergency services put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. Every year the fire service industry does everything it can to reduce the threat of injury and death for these heroes. While members of both FEMSA and FAMA compete with each other for business, these two associations have served a critical role in bringing fire service companies together to advance important issues to the industry and the fire service as a whole.

The fire service industry is vast, comprised of both large and small companies. These companies are located in nearly every state in our nation, including my home state of New Jersey. They provide thousands of well-paying jobs to highly skilled and trained workers. Some bear a family name and are guided by new generations of family members who possess the same values and work ethics as the founders themselves, while others are large companies providing a broad range of technologies and equipment.

Thanks to the great work being done by FAMA and FEMSA, the fire service industry has been bolstered by individual companies working collectively to develop new technologies and training methods. Next week marks two important anniversary milestones for the fire service industry. I extend my congratulations to both the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association and the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association. I encourage both organizations to continue their important missions as we all work together to make the fire service industry a safer profession for all who serve.

COMMEMORATING CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Paul Findley's contributions to the state of Illinois and his accomplishments as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

From a young age, Mr. Findley had a talent for writing, starting at the Jacksonville Journal Courier in high school, he went on to author his own section in the Illinois College newspaper titled, Findley's Uncensored Prejudices. He then became the first editor of Wingtips at Monmouth College. Mr. Findley joined the Navy Reserves in the spring of 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Eager to go overseas, he was stationed in both Guam and Japan during the war. Upon his return to the United States, he married Lucille Gemme, a flight nurse whom he had met in Guam. They

moved to Pittsfield, Illinois, where he became the managing editor of the Pike County Republican.

In 1958, Mr. Findley felt called to enter politics, and he ran for Illinois' 20th congressional seat, which he won in 1960. As a Congressman, he was an active supporter for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He persistently offered the Powell Amendment, to prohibit racial discrimination, as an amendment to each bill considered on the House Floor. In 1965, Congressman Findley hired Frank Mitchell, a 15-year-old boy from Springfield, Illinois, and the first African American page in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Findley shaped U.S. House of Representatives' foreign policy by leading the NATO task force and establishing a stronger relationship with France, particularly General de Gaulle, whom he always considered a strong ally of the United States. In his early years in office, Congressman Findley was a supporter of the Vietnam War and led initiatives to block food sales to any Warsaw Pact countries aiding Hanoi. This action became known as the Findley Amendments.

Congressman Findley devoted a considerable amount of his public and personal life to honoring Abraham Lincoln. He authored, "A. Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress," a book about Abraham Lincoln's influence in the U.S. House of Representatives. His admiration of Lincoln led to the preservation of Lincoln's home, which was fulfilled when the Lincoln Home Historic Site Act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1974.

Congressman Findley was the first Republican member of the House of Representatives to advocate for diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China, during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Once diplomatic relations were achieved, the Chinese Ambassador traveled to Jacksonville, Illinois to speak to the local Rotary Club, where he praised the leadership and friendship of Congressman Findley.

During all of his overseas negotiations, Congressman Findley still found time to support his constituents in Illinois. He continuously protected the interests of farmers and the agricultural community, which made up most of Illinois' 20th Congressional District. Although one may disagree with Congressman Findley on policy, he was never a disagreeable person. His personal motto was "One catches more flies with honey than vinegar."

Congressman Findley spoke freely about his passions, even if they were against his own party. He continues, at the age of 93, to play a role in politics through speeches, books, and Op Ed articles advocating for tolerance, fair and balanced policy, and against nuclear proliferation. Stephen Jones, a long-time colleague and friend of Mr. Findley, described him saying, "He was an ideal Congressman. He was not dogmatic, always open to persuasion, did his homework, and remembered the people back home."

It is an honor to represent Jacksonville, Illinois, the hometown of Congressman Findley. He admirably served our state, worked to make the United States a stronger nation, and continues to live Abraham Lincoln's vision.

CELEBRATING THE LONG-
STANDING COMMITMENT TO EX-
CELLENCE OF THE NAVAL SUR-
FACE WARFARE CENTER CRANE
DIVISION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the active duty military and civilian employees at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division as they celebrate their 75th anniversary and the 241st birthday of the United States Navy.

Located at Naval Support Activity Crane in Indiana, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division supports the shore command of the U.S. Navy and provides engineering services for electronic systems and electronic, strategic, and special warfare weapons. These systems and weapons have proven to be critical to the success and high performance of the Navy over NSWC Crane's 75 years of service.

American Naval supremacy and military readiness depends on the ability to harness the power of the cutting-edge technologies that NSWC Crane supports. Because of these hardworking employees and military personnel, the exceptional men and women of our Armed Forces are well-equipped to defend our nation and support our allies across the globe.

NSWC Crane, which is located on the third largest naval installation in the world, is an important contributor to the Indiana economy. The base employs over 5,000 civilian personnel and is an engine of the Indiana economy that provides secure jobs to Hoosiers who work every day knowing the vital role they play in the defense of the nation. Moreover, it is one of Indiana's largest high-tech employers, with over 2,000 scientists, engineers, and technicians.

This organization is committed to excellence and continues to promote patriotism, honor, and strong national security. Their continued devotion to our service members and our country should serve as an honorable example for all Hoosiers.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I am honored to celebrate the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division's 75th anniversary and the U.S. Navy's 241st birthday. Lastly, I would like to recognize the important work of the men and women at NSWC Crane, and wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, October 10, 2016 is Taiwan's National Day, marking the founding of the Republic of China 105 years ago. I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important occasion.

I've had the opportunity to visit Taiwan in the past. The country's evolution into a free society that espouses the values of free elections, human rights, free markets, and the rule of law is a significant one in which the United States has played an important role. Taiwan remains a great friend and strategic ally to the United States.

Beginning with passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, Congress has been at the forefront of bilateral relations with the island nation, playing a key part in ensuring Taiwan's military needs are addressed and assisting Taiwan with its democratic and economic development.

That cooperation continues today. Congress has played a critical role in assisting Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly and facilitating its entrance into the Visa Waiver Program. Most recently, through the assistance of the United States, Taiwan was granted observer status in Interpol.

As a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum and World Trade Organization, Taiwan is an important trading partner and export market for the United States in almost every major sector. It is our ninth largest trading partner overall, and the sixth largest international market for U.S. agricultural products. Taiwan has been a full participant in trade negotiations and initiatives, devoting a great amount of effort to multilateral trade and investment activities, working to ensure that any trade agreements are both free and fair.

Given its economic strength and dedication to global trade and investment, Taiwan should be given fair and equal treatment when considering future U.S. partnerships and trade deals. As we continue to discuss the merits of a Trans-Pacific Partnership, we must carefully examine the implications of excluding countries that are not only robust trading partners, but critical geopolitical allies as well. It is my hope that the U.S. Government thoughtfully consider all these relevant factors and allow them to inform our path forward in an evolving landscape of international trade.

I look forward to the continued collaboration with Taiwan in the months and years ahead as we continue to enhance our bilateral security, economic, and trade relations.

**HONORING LEVI LEIPHEIMER'S
GRANFONDO**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Levi Leipheimer for his work to create the GranFondo cycling event, taking place this year on October 1, 2016, which has enjoyed great success in the cycling community and has raised funds to support many local charitable organizations in our community.

Mr. Leipheimer led an impressive cycling career from 1997 until his retirement in May 2013. His accomplishments include three Amgen Tour of California victories from 2007 to 2009 and a bronze medal at the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics in the road time trial.

Mr. Leipheimer later finished as the Tour de France Stage 4 winner in 2009 and won the Tour de Suisse in 2011.

Mr. Leipheimer began "Levi's GranFondo" in 2009 to welcome cyclists of all ability levels from around the world to our community and to raise funds for important local causes. The GranFondo has achieved incredible success under Mr. Leipheimer's leadership, raising nearly \$2 million for philanthropic causes over the past eight years. Furthermore, publications including Red Kite Prayer, Road Bike Action and Outside Online have recognized the GranFondo as one of the best organized cycling events in the world.

The GranFondo has raised nearly \$2 million for the King Ridge Foundation which supports numerous programs that address the needs of at-risk youth in our community. For example, the foundation provides funding to the Forget Me Not Farm and the B-RAD Foundation which teach children and teens team-building and leadership skills through farming and outdoor adventures. The Social Advocates for Youth program, also supported by the foundation, provides housing, counseling and job training to young adults at risk for homelessness.

The King Ridge Foundation also creates opportunities for our young people to become involved in cycling through its 50 Bikes for 50 Kids program, which supplies bikes, helmets and locks to 50 underserved youth in our community each year. The GranFondo has also helped our community in times of need, raising over \$60,000 for the Valley Fire relief efforts in Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, Levi Leipheimer has created an impressive event that provides resources for young people in need. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. It is therefore, fitting and proper that we honor him here today and recognize the tremendous value of his GranFondo event for our local community.

**RECOGNIZING THE TEN YEAR AN-
NIVERSARY OF NAVIENT'S MUN-
CIE, INDIANA FACILITY**

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ten-year anniversary of Navient's Muncie, Indiana facility in my district. As one of the largest employers in the region, Navient has recognized the talent and value that Hoosiers bring to the table.

Today, Navient has two locations in Indiana and employs more than 2,000 people who are on the front lines providing superior customer service to both private and public sector clients. The employees in Muncie play an integral part in providing quality loan counseling and guidance to over 12 million customers nationwide whose loans are serviced by Navient.

Companies have a choice in where they do business, and I am confident Navient has chosen well in Muncie, Indiana. I want to congratulate the employees in my district for ten years of tremendous work, and I wish them the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I missed roll call vote 557 and 558.

On roll call vote 557, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 3537, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015.

On roll call vote 558, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act.

On September 27, 2016, I missed roll call votes 559, 560, 561, and 562.

On roll call vote 559, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 560, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

On roll call vote 561, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 562, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

HONORING LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lennie Roberts, a tireless advocate for our open spaces and wild creatures, a conscience for elected officials on the local, state and federal level for all things environmental and a personal friend for over 35 years. Lennie will be honored today with the extremely rare "Guardian of Nature Award" from the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter for her four decades of exemplary service. This is only the second time in the chapter's 83-year history that this honor will be bestowed. There is no one who comes close to Lennie Roberts in vigilance of our environment.

Lennie served on the original California Coastal Commission after it was established by voter initiative in 1972. In 1974, she was a founding docent for Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Whether as policymaker or docent, Lennie Roberts seems to advocate and educate because the laws of nature command her to these tasks.

One of Lennie's greatest accomplishments was her fight against construction of a six lane freeway at Devil's Slide, a treacherous stretch of Highway 1 along California's beautiful coast. Instead, Lennie Roberts had the audacity to proffer to Caltrans a pair of tunnels. These tunnels now connect communities long threatened with periodic isolation when massive rock and debris slides, or the loss of the roadway, occurred during storms.

Construction came after a decades-long, hard-fought battle by the so-called tunnelists. A handful of visionaries saw that San Mateo's beautiful coast could be protected and the public's safety ensured.

Vast stretches of the Santa Cruz mountain range from San Mateo through Santa Clara

counties have been preserved because Lennie and her friends established, with voter approval, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Working with local philanthropists such as Tom Ford and the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Lennie's vision of a permanent mechanism to identify and preserve precious tracts of land has given the Bay Area a crown jewel: huge Redwood forests, hundreds of miles of walking and riding trails, recreational opportunities for people and pets, and habitat that nourishes endangered and threatened species. In part because of Lennie's advocacy, local farmers and ranchers now transition agricultural lands into permanent conservation, often permitting sustainable agriculture to remain on the property even when the land is in public ownership.

Lennie's interests are not simply in the mountains. The coast and coastal waters, and streams that serve as endangered species habitat, are all enriched and preserved through her efforts. Vast stretches of open space along the coast have been preserved by a local ordinance, passed by voters, that was inspired by Lennie's direction and standards.

The Yosemite Trust is an important steward of Yosemite National Park, and Lennie is an active member of the trust's board of directors. The planning and long-term vision for John Muir's most precious place on earth is in skilled hands through Lennie's thoughtful advocacy.

Some say that Lennie Roberts knows every square inch of rural San Mateo County. I can tell you that she certainly knows every square inch that is worth preserving. At the same time, she is also willing to support thoughtful development and this includes using land within already-developed areas for housing and public services. In short, she is a public steward and compromise is often offered but only with the public's best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to join me in honoring San Mateo County's version of a Mount Rushmore figure, Ms. Lennie Roberts. Where Caltrans once proposed to carve a bypass, we might carve her visage although she would undoubtedly oppose such a sacrilege against the pristine nature of our coast, and perhaps file a lawsuit, if anyone seriously made such a proposal. The Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter may be honoring Lennie Roberts with a Guardian of Nature Award, but in truth they are only stating the obvious over the past many decades. Mother Nature has no greater local and regional guardian, and we are all honored to call her friend and leader as she is honored on October 1st for her lifetime of achievement in service to this nation's environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American Civil Rights League on the day of the organization's 5th annual Fight for Justice Gala. The ACRL plays an integral role in advocating on behalf of the constitutional and civil rights of Arab Ameri-

cans through its legal and outreach efforts and continues to serve as a driving force toward meaningful change.

The ACRL was founded in 2011 in Dearborn, Michigan to protect and advocate on behalf of the wider Arab American community. The organization acts as a conduit between Arab Americans and the media to ensure adequate and accurate representation on issues affecting the Arab American community. The ACRL is dedicated to combating negative stereotypes through education and outreach, and providing legal representation for individuals whose civil rights have been violated.

The organization plays a vital role in addressing discrimination and helps shape public policy initiatives that protect and preserve Arab Americans' civil rights. ACRL also works to better the wider community through charitable efforts, including recent efforts to provide bottled water to families in Flint.

The ACRL has effectively served the Arab American community at a time when the principles of religious tolerance and respect are under threat. The ACRL's efforts show that, in a time of uncertainty, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We must all come together to combat the most extreme elements of society while recognizing our common humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the ACRL. The organization serves in the public interest through its anti-discrimination initiatives, and it is my hope that it continues to be an effective advocate for the Arab American community.

TRIBUTE FOR PASTOR JAMES MODLISH

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor James Modlish of the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg, Colorado. Pastor Modlish, through his faithful service and commitment to God, has served individuals and families across Colorado and the country for the past fifty years.

Born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, Pastor Modlish received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. He went on to receive his Doctorate of Divinity from Hyles-Anderson College in Hammond, Indiana. After receiving his Ph.D., Pastor Modlish got to work establishing churches across the nation.

In 2007, after establishing churches in Wisconsin, New York, Washington State, and Idaho, Pastor Modlish came back to Walsenburg in Huerfano County, Colorado, where he and his wife planned to retire. God seemed to have other plans for Pastor Modlish. Shortly after moving to Walsenburg he formed the Huerfano Community Bible Church. Today, the Huerfano Community Bible Church has grown to a congregation of 120 people.

Not only has Pastor Modlish spent his life spreading the gospel in communities across the United States, he has also prioritized sharing God's word across the world. Pastor Modlish has visited 26 different countries to inspire missionaries and share the good news of

Christ. He has spread his message from the jungles of the Philippines to the distant villages of Antarctica.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of appreciation for Pastor Modlish and his dedication to his church and community, and it is my honor to acknowledge his faithful service.

IN HONOR OF THE OLD HICKORY
DIVISION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Old Hickory Division for their service during World War II.

This October 2nd will mark the 72nd Anniversary of the 30th Infantry Division's crossing into Germany during World War II and smashing through Adolph Hitler's vaunted Westwall. The Westwall was designed to keep American forces from driving into the heart of the Ruhr Industrial area, but American forces broke through, destroying Germany's ability to supply its armies.

The 30th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division made up of young men from the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia was part of that force that broke through the German lines. The 30th Infantry Division was proudly called "Old Hickory" after Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States.

In less than 100 days after landing on the beaches of Normandy, these men first kept the routes between Omaha and Utah Beach—the two principal American landing sites—open. They then led the charge through the Normandy hedgerows down to Saint-Lô, France. Next, they were the division that spearheaded the Normandy breakout in late July.

Less than two weeks later—in what was agreed to by both American and German commanders as the turning point of World War II in Europe—Old Hickory managed to hold off the onslaught of four German panzer divisions during a fight at Mortain, France that numbered nearly 80,000 Germans against 13,000 brave soldiers from Old Hickory.

By the 2nd of October, 1944, 72 years ago next week, the 30th infiltrated into France and became the first infantry division into Belgium and the Netherlands. This was the longest and fastest military incursion in history.

Two weeks later the men of Old Hickory broke up a massive counterattack put on by the 1st SS Panzer Corps and closed the Aachen Gap, which cut off all supply and reinforcement lines into the ancient imperial city of Aachen and forced its surrender on the 21st of October, 1944. This was the first large German city to be captured by the Allies in WWII.

The 30th followed this success with a rapid advance around the north side of the Ruhr Industrial Pocket, capturing Brunswick and finally capturing Magdeburg on the Elbe River on the 17th of April 1945.

The 30th met the Russian army at Magdeburg and remained in occupation there throughout the month of May when it was turned over to the Russians, as part of their designated occupation territory. This brought the end of the war for the 30th Infantry Division.

After war's end in 1946, General Dwight Eisenhower directed his historian of the European Theater to draw up a rating sheet and rank all of the divisions that fought there.

There were 42 infantry divisions in all.

His staff of 35 officers came to a quick and near unanimous consensus. Old Hickory was merited with the distinction of being the top-rated infantry division in all three major operations performed in Europe during World War II.

A Presidential Unit Citation honoring these men for this achievement was recommended that very same year. But it was never awarded.

Following the end of conflict in Europe, the 30th returned to Ft. Jackson, SC and was deactivated on the 25th of November 1945.

On this anniversary of the crucial breaching of Hitler's vaunted Westwall and subsequent capture of Aachen, I ask this body to pause and remember. Remember the achievements and sacrifice of those members of the greatest generation who belonged to the "most outstanding infantry division" in the European Theater in World War II, the 30th Infantry Division, the Workhorse of the Western Front.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the 30th Infantry Division for their outstanding service and sacrifice during World War II.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA URBY
URRABAZO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's finest teachers, Yolanda Urby Urrabazo.

Mrs. Urrabazo was born on February 12, 1947 to Juan and Carolina Urby in Del Rio, Texas. She was considered a miracle baby due to being born ten years after her nine siblings. Although her first language was Spanish, she quickly learned English and excelled in her studies. She had straight A's throughout her grade school education and graduated in the top five percent of her class from Del Rio High School in 1965. She was one of the few Hispanics in the National Honor Society all four years and participated in many extracurricular activities. She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature and a minor in English from Texas Woman's University and then a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from The University of Texas—El Paso in 1977. Many of her loved ones knew that her favorite novel was Don Quixote de la Mancha by Cervantes and she could quote Shakespeare eloquently and effortlessly.

Her enthusiasm for literature and poetry was most evident to everyone she met. This eventually led her to a passionate and fulfilling teaching career of 32 years, recently retiring from United High School in June 2016. Yolanda's devotion to her students is shown by her long and passionate career in teaching where she prided herself in teaching in every decade since the 1960s. For decades, she dedicated her life to educating generations of students, including her own seven children. She also inspired two of her daughters, Elizabeth U. Velasquez and Veronica Urrabazo, to follow in

her footsteps and become educators themselves. This commitment to education is an inspiration, and serves as reminder for how important educators are to our community. Her dedication to serving others will not be forgotten and will serve as a testament to what we should all strive for.

Mrs. Urrabazo is survived by her beloved husband Ignacio Urrabazo and their seven children (Tom, Elizabeth, Jaime, Yolanda, Veronica, Alejandra, and Claudia) and six grandchildren, as well as her five siblings. Her legacy will live on in the countless people she helped shape—she was intelligent, humble, strong, and compassionate to all. The mentoring and guidance that she provided will be shown throughout the community she touched. I have personally seen her impact through the great work her daughters, Yolanda Urrabazo and Claudia Urrabazo, provided when they worked in my Congressional office. It was clear through their hard work and ability that their mother had taught them very well.

She serves as reminder for how much one person can do to affect so many lives. Not only her family, but students, teachers, community members, and both the young and old, mourn her passing. Her legacy will live on through her good deeds and through our cherished memories. The city of Laredo will miss her and cherish the kindness and inspiration that she brought to our community and our education system.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Yolanda Urby Urrabazo.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ANNA M.
DEBRO

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Anna M. Debro of Columbus, Georgia on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Debro is a phenomenal woman who has lived a life of compassion dedicated to serving her community as a triumphant and caring teacher, Christian, and mother.

Anna M. Debro was born in Mississippi on October 3, 1916 to Reverend Louis W. Hooper, an honored educator, and Minnie Hooper. She married the late Presiding Elder James Debro, Sr., and together over their 30 years of marriage, had five children—James Jr., Willie, Lisa, Harriette, and Dwight.

Mrs. Debro graduated from Delta Industrial High School, a historical boarding school for gifted Black children in the Mississippi Delta. In 1941, she earned her undergraduate degree at Alcorn & Campbell College and continued her education at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), where she received her Master's in Math Education in 1960. As a lifelong learner with a passion for education, she sought further studies at the University of Georgia, Florida A&M University, and Tuskegee University.

Over the next 40 years, Mrs. Debro was committed to educating young minds in several capacities. She held the position of Math Department Chair, the Tri Hi Y Chair and Student Advisor, as well as the PTA Chairwoman at Carver High in Columbus, GA from 1954 to

1971. Furthermore, she taught at Columbus High from 1971 to 1978, where she was historically among the first wave of African American teachers to desegregate the Muscogee County School District.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mrs. Debro has lived a truly blessed life due to her eternal faith in the Lord and her vibrant testimony of His greatness to all whom she encounters, whether they are a member of her community, church or classroom. As a devout servant of God and a member of St. Mark A.M.E. Church for over 70 years, her pledge to Christ is echoed in her compassionate leadership, which makes her a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in extending our best wishes to Mrs. Anna M. Debro on her 100th birthday. As we celebrate another year of this outstanding citizen's life, we would do well to follow the example of her legacy of striving to be lifelong learners and improving the quality of the communities we touch.

A TRIBUTE TO CIVIL RIGHTS
LEGEND FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frankie Muse Freeman, a remarkable American who will soon celebrate her 100th birthday on November 24, 2016. As an exceptional and groundbreaking attorney, Frankie Freeman is a long-time civil rights icon who has set a standard of excellence in the law, housing reform, social justice, protecting the right to vote and personal courage.

Attorney Frankie Muse Freeman is a trailblazer who has been making history for decades. A brilliant, public service-oriented lawyer, she has devoted her life to opening up the doors of equal opportunity for all.

Her career has been exceptional in many ways. It includes her dedicated service as a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and Inspector General of the Community Services Administration, as well as her long time service as an attorney for the St. Louis Housing Authority.

Mrs. Freeman's extraordinary work has been recognized across generations and across this nation. This living legend was instrumental in creating the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights in 1982, inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in 2007, and appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a Member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars in 2015.

In addition, she has been the recipient of numerous awards such as the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP and the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

I have known Mrs. Freeman since my earliest days growing up in St. Louis. She stood

shoulder-to-shoulder with my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, and other national leaders to help break down the walls of segregation. A grand and gracious lady, and a person of total integrity, she has truly been a mentor to me, whose learned opinion I still seek out on a regular basis.

A noted author, she published her memoir, "A Song of Faith and Hope," to critical acclaim in 2003. She is also a Past President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress to join me in honoring Frankie Muse Freeman on her centennial, she has helped so many and continues to inspire us to have courage, to work towards transformative change, and to confront injustice and inequality wherever it exists.

RECOGNIZING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 105th anniversary of their National Day, which will take place on October 10, 2016.

Taiwan has close trade ties with the United States, ranking as our country's ninth largest trading partner. Taiwan also represents Kansas' fifth largest export market in Asia, and thirteenth largest export market in the world. In 2014, Kansas' exports to Taiwan reached \$185.4 million.

Every two years, Taiwanese Agricultural Trade Goodwill Missions visit the United States to purchase top quality American agricultural commodities, many of which are produced in my home state.

As a member of Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I cherish the friendship between our two nations and look forward to continuing to work with Ambassador Stanley Kao of Taiwan and his team in Washington, D.C.

TRIBUTE FOR GRAND JUNCTION
CHALLENGER BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Grand Junction Challenger baseball team on qualifying for the Little League World Series Championship game. The Challenger little league baseball team gives special needs children an opportunity to compete in baseball. The program started in 1989 with 12 kids who had a dream of playing baseball, and has turned into an entire league of kids with a passion for America's past time. Today there are more than 30,000 children participating in more than 900 leagues worldwide.

This year the Challengers Little League World Series games will be broadcast on ESPN. They are one of eight teams from the Grand Junction area to qualify to compete, and will be the first Grand Junction Challengers team to play in this televised game.

The whole community is proud of this Grand Junction team that rose to the challenge to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

There is a natural competitiveness to the game, but these kids will take it a step further when they take the field, showcasing their baseball skills and demonstrating that anything is possible in life through perseverance and determination. I look forward to watching them fulfill their dreams of playing baseball in front of a large crowd cheering for them just as fans cheered for Ruth, DiMaggio, Mays, Robinson and Williams.

THANKING CAROLINE KLEMP FOR
HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to Ms. Caroline Klemm who, during the past forty-one years, has served the United States House of Representatives in the offices of the House Sergeant at Arms and the Chief Administrative Officer.

In October of this year, Caroline will officially end her tenure at the House.

Caroline began her career with the House Sergeant at Arms in 1975, where she held various financial responsibilities for Members of Congress. In 1993, she began working in the Office of Members' Services under the direction of George Chapin in the Office of Non-Legislative and Financial Services, which later became the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Throughout the years, Caroline has made significant contributions processing and managing Member benefits and payroll for the House. In 1994, Caroline was promoted to Director of Members' Services. In this capacity she is responsible for the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of submissions of all Members' benefits records to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). She has provided many years of dedication, hard work, and service to Members and their families.

The Members truly view Caroline as a member of their family as she continues to serve them well beyond their House careers.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Caroline for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House. We wish Caroline many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

HONORING MR. CHARLES C.
FIELDER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative HUFFMAN, to honor Charles C. Fielder, the Director of Caltrans District 1, upon his retirement on September 29, 2016 from an impressive career that spanned over 28 years as a

civil engineer in state and federal transportation planning.

A California native, Mr. Fielder completed his B.S. in Civil Engineering at the University of California, Davis and his Master in Business Administration at Humboldt State University. He moved to Humboldt County in 1988 and has been an active member of his community ever since.

Mr. Fielder began his career with Caltrans as a Junior Civil Engineer and rapidly earned promotions in the agency. He served as a Transportation Engineer, Senior Transportation Engineer and Supervising Transportation Engineer over the next three years before earning a promotion to Deputy District Director for Program and Project Management. He was appointed District 1 Director in 2003 and has since been responsible for transportation policy and projects across northern California. Mr. Fielder has also served in Sacramento as an Interim Deputy Director for Maintenance and Operations, where he was responsible for over 50,000 lane miles throughout California.

Throughout his career, Mr. Fielder has focused on collaborative approaches to transportation operations. He has served our community well by receiving and implementing suggestions from the public. In addition to his work with Caltrans, he is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and he serves as a committee member on the Transportation Research Board which addresses transportation issues on a national level.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fielder has dedicated his career to making the process of delivering a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system as transparent as possible. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY MOORE, JR.

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a beloved Nebraskan whose life was truly an inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Terry Moore, Jr., who has passed away at the age of 47, suffered from a rare developmental disorder known as Williams Syndrome.

Although it brings with it a lifetime of health and learning challenges, Terry refused to let it slow him down as he maintained an extremely rigorous, productive and fulfilling life.

Many Omahans came to know him during his years happily working in the City-County building, as an energetic and most-helpful clerk in the Douglas County Treasurer's office.

This is a most difficult time for Terry's dad, Terry Moore, Sr., a very good friend of mine and longtime Nebraska labor leader.

Terry, I can't begin to understand the pain you are suffering but please know that your son will long be remembered for his never-ending courage and grace as he lived a truly motivating life.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VETOES SUPPORT FOR 9/11 VICTIM FAMILIES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago, on September 11, 2001, our country was instantly transformed. Three thousand Americans and people from other nations were murdered at the hands of evil, malicious terrorists.

A few weeks ago Congress granted the families of these victims their basic right under the Constitution of the U.S., to their day in court, the right to sue the perpetrators. President Obama disagrees. He vetoed the bill.

Based on the 28 pages held secret for years, there may be evidence that the country of Saudi Arabia and their officials may have had some involvement in planning the elements of that attack.

As a former judge I am a strong believer in the jury trial to solve such disputes. That is what the courtroom is for. However the administration seems more interested in diplomatic niceties with foreign nations than the victims of 9/11.

Congress must override this veto. The truth needs to be known about who was responsible for the 9/11 attacks. The families of the 9/11 victims deserve to pursue justice because Mr. Speaker, justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE MARK L. WILT AMERICAN LEGION POST 210 FOR 95 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the members of the Mark L. Wilt American Legion Post 210 in Middlebury, Indiana, as they celebrate 95 years of service to our community and advocacy on behalf of all veterans.

After its founding in 1921, American Legion Post 210 was named in honor of Mark L. Wilt, a local citizen who was killed in World War I. Post 210 met at several locations until 1969, when construction was completed on their present building on York Road in Middlebury.

Post 210 has grown since its founding, as has its mark on the community. The members of Post 210 have been constant advocates for Northern Indiana veterans, consistently raising charitable donations and honoring the area's veterans through activities such as dedicating headstones for unmarked military graves. Their continued success is due to their standing within the Northern Indiana community as a patriotic organization whose mission helps American veterans within our community and ensures future generations of Hoosiers recognize the sacrifices these heroes made on their behalf.

Because of their many significant contributions to our community and our veterans, I am grateful that the Mark L. Wilt American Legion Post 210 is in Indiana's Second District. It is

clear the veterans of Post 210 are still serving the nation long after their active duty has ended.

According to its mission statement, the American Legion "is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans." For Hoosiers, Post 210 exemplifies the longstanding tradition of excellence in Indiana.

On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I sincerely congratulate the Mark L. Wilt American Legion Post 210 on their 95th Anniversary, and I wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF HOWARD COUNTY, MISSOURI

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial birthday of Howard County, Missouri, a truly monumental milestone. Howard County was first established in January 23, 1816 as migrants from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia came west looking for room for their families to grow. Twenty-three more counties would be formed from this Missouri "Mother of Counties" which stretched all the way from St. Louis to what was then the edge of the Missouri Territory. After 200 years this thriving rural area, though quite a bit smaller in land mass, is home to more than 10,139 residents, 192 businesses, a plethora of family farms, and one of the loveliest court-houses in Missouri.

I am honored to represent the good people of Howard County and I want to congratulate the leaders of this beautiful area for their efforts in making this county one of the priceless gems of central Missouri.

SEA BOX, INC.

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sea Box, Inc., of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, in its recent award of a 32 million dollar General Services Administration contract to provide the United States Air Force with Containerized Hygiene Systems over the next two years.

Sea Box, Inc., of East Riverton, was established in 1983 and specializes in the design, customization, and manufacturing of ISO containers and related equipment for military and commercial applications. Sea Box directly supports our warfighters and has created 200 manufacturing jobs in New Jersey. This two year contract will provide the United States Air Force with temperature controlled expendable shelters for bathing and storage that can be transported worldwide, utilizing standard military equipment.

Sea Box, Inc., has deep ties to the community and has answered the call of need for our

men and women in uniform. I am proud to represent a South Jersey company that is providing shelter and care for our active duty members who sacrifice so much to protect our nation and our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Sea Box, Inc., as a part of their community. Sea Box, Inc., has shown a desire to serve our nation and provide for our troops. I am honored to recognize the award of their GSA contract, which will enable them to service our soldiers more efficiently, and to commend Sea Box, Inc., for all of its contributions to our community, before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
NATHANIEL R. JONES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great jurists of the United States, Nathaniel R. Jones. Judge Jones was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, just blocks from the federal courthouse that now bears his name. He served his country valiantly in World War II, and later attended Youngstown College.

Judge Jones was the first African American to serve as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. In 1969, he became General Counsel of the NAACP, where he directed national legal efforts to end school segregation. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Jones to the U.S. Court of Appeals, where he served until he retired from the bench in 2002.

Judge Jones has dedicated his life and career to protecting the rights of all: as a professor at Harvard Law School, an observer in South Africa's first democratic elections, a defender of affirmative action, and an advocate for black servicemen facing discrimination in our newly-integrated military.

At age 90, Judge Jones still serves as Senior Counsel at Blank Rome, LLP in Cincinnati. In October, he will receive the Simeon Booker Award for Courage of which he is so deserving.

Thank you, Judge Jones, for your tireless service to our community, our nation, and our world.

COMMEMORATING DR. JOHN HARVEY'S TENURE OF PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of a good friend, Dr. John Harvey. Dr. Harvey is the outgoing President of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG), which has close to 8,000 members spanning the entire state of Georgia focused on enhancing patient care and advancing the art and science of medicine.

Dr. Harvey has served Georgians for more than 25 years as a general and trauma surgeon in the Atlanta area. During his tenure with MAG, Dr. Harvey started the Medical Reserve Corp. The Medical Reserve Corp assists the state in times of disaster by having trained physicians ready to respond. Before serving as the President, Dr. Harvey was the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the primary legislative and policymaking body for the association, for five years.

Mr. Speaker, despite his full schedule, Dr. Harvey still takes time to teach residents in the transitional year at Gwinnett Medical Center and travels across the state to testify on the behalf of patients and physicians. He is a man I am glad to call a friend and a colleague in medicine. I would like to thank Dr. Harvey on behalf of citizens of the Sixth District of Georgia and the entire state for his service to patients and physicians and his commitment to public health.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
TOBLER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler of the United States Air Force who has been named one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2016.

Aaron enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 2011 and received honors at both basic training and technical school. He is currently a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst assigned to the 50th Intelligence Squadron at Distributed Ground Station-Two at Beale Air Force Base, California. His mission is to exploit high-value targets and satisfy intelligence requirements in support of Combatant Commanders around the World. As a direct result of Staff Sergeant Tobler's work, weapon manufacturing compounds were identified and destroyed, crippling an entire terrorist network. He also facilitated successful overwatch of Joint Task Force troop convoys, ensuring over two thousand miles of roads were clear of threats.

When he's not working for the Air Force, Aaron is an active member in his community. He is a manager with the California Department of Social Services in Sacramento, and serves on the Board of Directors for Rocklin Residents Unite for Fido community group, an organization that offers scholarships to wounded veterans to receive training for their service dogs. He is involved in several community fundraising events, offering strategic support and is a regular blood donor.

Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler exemplifies what it means to be an Outstanding Airman. He has accumulated many accolades and medals in his Air Force career, and now he can add being the first Reservist in the Intelligence Career Field to ever be selected as an Outstanding Airman of the Year as one of his many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Sergeant Tobler and his family are assigned to Beale Air Force Base in my district. And it is my privilege to recognize him here for his outstanding contributions to California and to the United States.

ST. VOLODYMYR UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on October 30, 2016 the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. St. Volodymyr is a part of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and was established in 1916 as the first independent Ukrainian Church in the United States. The centennial celebration will take place on the 30th day of October 2016, starting with the Hierarchal Dinner Liturgy, led by his eminence metropolitan Anthony and his grace Bishop Daniel at 10:00 am at St. Volodymyr, which has been a source of spiritual strength to its members as they perpetuated their religious heritage and culture at the same time. They also found inspiration from their religion to be active and loyal citizens to the USA and to the city of Chicago.

The festivities then will continue with a member banquet held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center at 2247 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago. Since its inception, the cathedral has been an integral part of life of the community at large. Some notable examples include participating in the 1928 women's world fair at the coliseum, and in the Ukrainian Pavilion during Chicago's 1933 century of progress international exposition; sending its son and daughter to war when the government called; providing help to those in need during troubled times.

I congratulate the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church for 100 years of spiritual and community service and look forward to 100 years more.

RECOGNITION OF THE TAIWANESE
NATIONAL DAY

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Taiwanese people on their National Day, the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan), celebrated each year on October 10th.

Taiwan is a key ally in the region and shares the important values of freedom and respect for human rights with our country. This year, Taiwan went through a peaceful transition of power with the election of President Tsai Ing-wen, the first woman elected to this office. I was pleased to have productive conversations with President Tsai and my colleagues during a recent visit to Taiwan earlier this year. Taiwan's remarkable democracy serves as a model to neighboring countries.

Both Chambers of Congress passed resolutions earlier this year reaffirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would like to reiterate my commitment of support to Taiwan and its self-defense capabilities.

Once again, I extend my best wishes for a Happy Double Tenth Day to the people of Taiwan and our Taiwanese American friends at home.

VOTING RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 2016, I was honored as a special guest at an event in Monterey Park, California titled "Protect Your Future: Restore the Vote". The event was organized to help constituents gain a better understanding of the negative impact of the Supreme Court decision, *Shelby County vs. Holder*.

Members from our communities heard expert testimony from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) regarding the devastating impacts of the decision upon the Voting Rights Act. I include in the RECORD the expert testimony of Sean Dugar, Regional Director, Region I of the NAACP into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TESTIMONY OF SEAN DUGAR, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION I, TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) ON THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION "PROTECT YOUR FUTURE: RESTORE THE VOTE"—MAY 20, 2016

Good morning, Congresswoman CHU, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congresswoman SANCHEZ, and distinguished guests and friends. Thank you so very much for inviting me here to discuss fully restoring and protecting the right to vote. I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with the thoughts and opinions of the NAACP on this very important issue.

Founded more than 107 years ago, in February of 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, is our nation's oldest, largest, and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. We currently have more than 1,200 active membership units across the nation, with members in every one of the 50 states as well as units on overseas military bases. In addition to our community based adult units, we also have youth and college units in hundreds of communities and schools including colleges and university campuses across the country as well as units in prisons.

My name is Sean Dugar, and I am the regional field director for the NAACP for Region I. The NAACP divides the country into seven regions, and Region I is the western-most region: it is comprised of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and of course, California. I am a national staff person, and I come to you today on behalf of the national NAACP. In preparing this testimony, I consulted with Mr. Hilary Shelton who is the Director of the Washington Bureau and the lead advocate for the NAACP before the federal government. Hilary asked that I tell you all how sorry he is that he cannot be here today and indicated that he would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have which I cannot answer for you.

The NAACP, a non-profit, non-partisan organization was established with the objective of insuring the educational, political, social, and economic equality of racial and

ethnic minorities in our country. The NAACP has as its mission the goal of eliminating race prejudice and removing all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic process. Voting rights for all eligible Americans, advancing voter participation and the eradication of disenfranchising practices and voter fraud, has been a top priority of the NAACP since our founding. Throughout our more than 107-year history, the NAACP has advocated and worked against such racist and heinous obstacles to full democratic citizenship participation such as America's Jim Crow laws and the Black Codes.

As such, we were instrumental in the development and enactment of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and its subsequent reauthorizations, the 1992 Motor Voter Law, and the 2002 Help America Vote Act as well as several other key pieces of Federal legislation aimed at ensuring and protecting the rights of all eligible Americans to cast an unfettered vote and be certain that our vote has been counted.

Tragically, our country, which promotes itself as the beacon of democracy throughout the world, has seen a reversal in the century-old struggle for achieving the goal of "one person, one vote." This reversal has been strategic and multi-faceted and sadly targeted disproportionately at the very people whom I would argue could use a louder, stronger, and more consistent voice among our elected officials. Specifically, a majority of those currently being disenfranchised by these malevolent laws are racial and ethnic minorities, low-income Americans, the elderly, students and women. Whether through bogus photo identification requirements, racially disparate ex-felon disenfranchisement laws, shortened early voting periods, or initiatives making it harder for third parties to register qualified voters, states are abridging the voting rights of millions of Americans.

Furthermore, with the Supreme Court's misguided, harmful 2013 decision in *Shelby v. Holder*, many of the protections we had begun to appreciate are now threatened. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), for which the NAACP was on the frontlines in the struggle to enact, was signed into law to insure that under the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, no one, including federal, state or local governments, may in any way impede people from registering to vote or voting because of their race, ethnicity or other differences. Most provisions in the VRA, and specifically the portions that guarantee that no one may be denied the right to vote because of his or her race or color, are permanent, and as such are not the provisions subject to reauthorization.

Section 5 of the VRA requires certain states or jurisdictions, which have an established history of laws or policies which result in the disenfranchisement of a group of racial or ethnic minority voters to obtain advance approval or "preclearance" from the US Department of Justice or the US District Court in D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. Examples of these changes include any change in the date, time, place, or manner under which an election is held. Federal approval is given to make the proposed change as soon as the state or jurisdiction proves that the proposed change would not abridge the right to vote on account of race or color. Originally, in 1965, legislators hoped that within five years the problems would be resolved and there would be no further need for these enforcement-related provisions: however, it proved necessary to extend these protections in 1970, and again in 1975, 1982 and 2006 through the Congressional reauthorization process.

As a side note, the 2006 reauthorization, which had passed the House by the over-

whelming bipartisan vote of 390-33, appeared to be stalled in the Senate, and was being threatened by a number of dangerous amendments. But thousands of delegates and friends of the NAACP who were attending our annual convention in Washington, marched from the convention center to Capitol Hill in support of the reauthorization bill and then went to their Senators' offices with specific demands to pass the reauthorization bill without amendment. I am pleased to report that the bill was passed later that same week, unamended, by a vote of 98 to 0.

I am relaying this anecdote because the march was driven mostly by our youth and college division, who led the marchers on that incredibly hot July day not only for the 2+ miles to the Hill, but then also on visits with their Senators. It was an instance where the NAACP, and specifically the next generation of NAACPers, made a real difference.

On June 25, 2013, however, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of *Shelby v. Holder* in which the Court did not invalidate the principle of preclearance. The Supreme Court did decide, however, that Section 4(b) of the VRA, which establishes the formula that is used to determine which states and jurisdictions must comply with preclearance, is antiquated and thus unconstitutional and can no longer be used. Thus, although Section 5 survives, it is currently not being used and will not be used fully until Congress develops and enacts a new formula to determine which states and jurisdictions should be covered by it.

The bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act, S. 1659/H.R. 2867, is sponsored in the U.S. Senate by Senators Patrick Leahy (VT), Lisa Murkowski (AK) and in the U.S. House by Congresswoman Terri Sewell and Congressman John Lewis (GA) on behalf of themselves, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus among others. I would like to stop for a minute and express the sincere appreciation of the NAACP to the three legislators here today, Congresswoman Chu, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, and Congresswoman Sanchez, who are co-sponsors of this important legislation. I would also be remiss if I didn't pass along Hilary Shelton's personal appreciation that they each consistently score an "A" on the NAACP's Federal Legislative Report Card.

This seminal legislation would: modernize the preclearance formula to cover states with an historical pattern of discrimination; ensure that last-minute voting changes won't adversely affect voters; protect voters from the types of voting changes most likely to discriminate against and disenfranchise people of color and language minorities; enhance the ability to apply a preclearance review when needed; expand the effective Federal Observer Program; and improve voting Rights protections for Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Furthermore, this legislation includes all of the priorities necessary for a strong VRA restoration as established by the NAACP National Board of Directors.

We need to fix the damage to the VRA inflicted by *Shelby*, and this legislation would repair and strengthen it. Yet the NAACP has consistently, and before *Shelby*, argued that we need to do more to expand the franchise and get more Americans involved in the electoral system. That is why our Washington Bureau Director asked me again to express our sincere appreciation to the three lawmakers sitting here today for lifting up and sponsoring H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act.

In a time when numerous states are considering or have already enacted legislation

to restrict or suppress voter participation, Congressman John Lewis (GA) and 174 of his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives have introduced H.R. 12, the Voter Empowerment Act. This important legislation would expand and protect voters' access to the polls and would increase accountability and integrity among election officials and poll workers. It also would expand eligibility to allow all ex-offenders who have been released from prison to register and vote in federal elections (even those who may still be on probation or parole).

Specifically, the Voter Empowerment Act would:

Guarantee early voting—require that every state establish early voting sites that are open at least 15 days prior to a general election day;

This includes weekends, which many working people may find to be the only time they can get to the polls;

Require automatic registration—the bill would use modern technology to automatically and permanently register all eligible voters;

Allow same-day registration throughout the country—H.R. 12 would ensure allow voters to register to vote on election day at their polling place;

Ensure on-line voter registration—the Voter Empowerment Act would ensure that online voter registration is a viable option nationally;

Outlaw “voter caging”—makes illegal a practice by which mail is sent to a registered voter's address and, if the mail is returned as “undeliverable” or if it is delivered and the

voter does not respond, his or her registration is challenged;

Clarify and strengthen the use of provisional ballots—ensures that provisional ballots are counted;

Make voter intimidation and deception punishable by law—with strong and tough penalties so that people who commit these crimes suffer more than just a slap on the wrist, and establish a process for reaching out to misinformed voters with accurate information so they can cast their votes in time;

Re-enfranchise ex-offenders—H.R. 12 incorporates the provisions of the NAACP-supported “Democracy Restoration Act” by allowing ex-offenders, once they are out of prison, the opportunity to register and vote in federal elections without challenges or complication;

Encourage youth voters—the Voter Empowerment Act requires colleges and universities to offer and encourage voter registration to all students;

Assure voting by overseas residents—H.R. 12 increases assurances that Americans who may be living overseas, especially those serving our country in the armed services, can cast a valid vote and be assured that their vote was counted.

In short, we can and should do more to guarantee that the vote to right—the cornerstone of our Constitution and our democracy—is not only protected but made easier. I would again like to commend and thank Congresswoman Chu, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, and Congresswoman Sanchez for their leadership in this area; please know

that Director Shelton and the entire NAACP stand ready to work with you in Washington and here at home, and I look forward to our round table discussion.

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, September 29, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.