

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed Roll Call Votes 88 through 92.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 88, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 89, on agreeing to the resolution, H.Res. 99, providing for consideration of H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, and H.J. Res. 42, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 90, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 91, on agreeing to the resolution, H.Res. 116, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 66, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees and H.J. Res. 67, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 92, on passage of H.R. 428—Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, I would have voted "No."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 89, 90 and 91 on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. At the time, and at the request of the President, I was attending the swearing-in ceremony of VA Secretary Shulkin. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on roll call votes 89, 90 and 91.

### HONORING INVESTMENTS IN RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 244, the Honoring Investments

in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act or the HIRE Vets Act."

H.R. 244 encourages effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts.

H.R. 244 directs the Department of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to solicit voluntary information from employers for purposes of recognizing, by the award of a HIRE Vets Medallion, verified efforts by these employers to:

1. Recruit, employ, and retain veterans
2. Provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community.

The President shall annually present the medallion and corresponding certificate to recipients at a time to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans Day.

Two levels of medallions shall be established, large and small employers, to be designated the Gold HIRE Vets Medallion and the Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion. The bill prescribes awards criteria.

Beginning two years after enactment of this bill, the Secretary of Labor shall submit annual reports on fees, program costs, the number of applications, and the medallions awarded, including the name and medallion level of each recipient.

### RECOGNIZING DR. DALE MCCALL

#### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale McCall on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Dr. McCall has made a great impact on the agricultural industry throughout his life. He devoted 40 years to agricultural education after receiving his bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. degrees from Colorado State University. He has helped the next generation of agriculture producers through his roles as a teacher, Agricultural Education staff member, and even Executive Director of Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Not only has Dr. McCall given his time to agricultural education, he also has first-hand experience working on the farm. He and his wife have grown a variety of crops including oats, wheat, and milo. He is the current president of the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union and has received numerous awards for his various agriculture and educational achievements.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Dr. McCall pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry

makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Dale McCall for his accomplishments.

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE SERGEANT (SGT) DONNIE LEO FORD LEVENS

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Sergeant (SGT) Donnie Leo Ford Levens who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2006, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Levens was killed when two CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters crashed into the Gulf of Aden near Ras Siyyan, northern Djibouti, while on a training mission in the Godoria Range area.

SGT Levens of Long Beach, MS, was assigned to the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Air Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, New River, N.C. He was deployed to Djibouti as part of the U.S.-led Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, a counterterrorism force. SGT Levens was an Aircraft Ordnance Technician.

SGT Levens's mother Margaret and brother Matt honored SGT Levens by completing their studies at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in 2006. Margaret Levens said Donnie's courage inspired her to go back to school and earn a degree. President George W. Bush delivered the commencement address at the graduation ceremony held in Biloxi. President Bush praised SGT Levens for his service and sacrifice.

SGT Levens will be remembered for his courage and determination to keep America safe.

### HONORING MR. RICHARD BIEDENBACH AS VETERAN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Richard Biedenbach for his achievement as Veteran of the Year for 2016 by the Greater Canton Veterans Council.

Upon his graduation from Central Catholic High School in Canton, Ohio, Mr. Biedenbach joined the Army in the 1960s, where he was stationed in Berlin, Germany at the height of the Cold War. As a photographer in West Germany, Mr. Biedenbach monitored East German activity near the border between East

• 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.

and West Germany. His contributions to the effort against the Soviet Union helped advance the cause for democracy around the world.

After he was discharged from the Army at the rank of E-4 Specialist in 1963, Mr. Biedenbach dedicated his time to his fellow veterans, volunteering to transport veterans to and from the Veterans Affairs clinic in Canton. Today, he is a member of American Legion Canton Post 44, where he serves on the Burial Honor Guard.

On November 11, 2016, Richard was named Veteran of the Year by the Greater Canton Veterans Council for his selfless commitment to caring for and improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent SPC Richard Biedenbach in the United States Congress. He established a patriotic example for all Americans to emulate and I am humbled to recognize Mr. Biedenbach's service to our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUCHESS  
OUTLET FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE GREATER PITTSSTON  
AREA

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caprari Family of Pittston for celebrating the 60th Anniversary of their family business, the Duchess Outlet, last year on Friday, November 11. The Duchess Outlet, which began as a textile manufacturer, operates as a retail clothing outlet and seller of heirloom toys.

Established in 1956 by Sam and Theresa Caprari, the Duchess Coat & Suit Manufacturing plant was a major garment producer for northeastern Pennsylvania and employed over 150 workers. As the business grew, the Duchess opened a discount retail outlet that offered raincoats, wool jackets, leathers, and outerwear.

When Sam and Theresa retired, they handed over the business to their son Paul and his wife Paula. The Duchess Outlet expanded their inventory with suits, sport jackets, outerwear, and name-brand raincoats. The store also began carrying Madame Alexander Dolls and opened a Doll Museum. The Museum now has more than 1,000 pieces, dating from the 1930s to the present.

In addition to operating the Duchess Outlet, the Caprari family has a long record of service to their community and country. During World War II, Sam Caprari served as a military aircraft-manufacturing instructor. He was a member of the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the Elks Club, and the Italian American Association. Theresa is the Vice-President of the Business and Professional Women's Club Association. She was also a member of National Federation of Independent Business and the Pennsylvania Mental Health Association.

Paul Caprari is the founder of Hear for You, a program that provides hearing aids to those who cannot afford them. Paul also serves with the Knights of Columbus Council 372 as a 4th Degree Knight. Paula Caprari has received

multiple honors and awards for overseeing Duchess Outlet Doll Museum, including being recognized by the Madame Alexander Company. Julio Caprari is also a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus with Council 372. As Co-Chairman of Pittston City History Day, Julio has worked with Misericordia University and Luzerne County Agency on Aging to preserve the history of Greater Pittston.

It is an honor to recognize the Caprari family as they celebrate the Duchess Outlet's 60th Anniversary. May they continue to serve their neighbors and community in the Greater Pittston Area with distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, due to other commitments, I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll call no. 86, I would have voted yes. Roll call no. 87, I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-  
EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY  
SERGEANT (SGT) TIMOTHY R.  
OSBEY

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Timothy R. Osbey who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation February 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Osbey lost his life along with Army Sergeant (SGT) Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim when a roadway collapsed and their vehicle rolled into a canal at Forward Operation Base Iskandariyah, Iraq.

SGT Osbey, a Mississippi Army National Guard soldier and Pike County native, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, MS. SGT Osbey served as an emergency medical technician. Before he entered the military, SGT Osbey excelled in track at the University of Southern Mississippi. During his funeral, Rev. Alphonse Patterson remembered SGT Osbey as a gifted athlete who also achieved academic success. SGT Osbey was a University of Southern Mississippi graduate.

Major General (MG) Harold A. Cross, Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard, presented SGT Osbey posthumously with a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service and a Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Osbey will always be remembered as a role model who inspired so many others he served with. SGT Osbey is survived by his wife, Willie Marie Dickerson Osbey and daughter, Saderia Osbey.

HONORING WAYNE OLDHAM

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, from time to time members of this House rise, address the body to honor events in their districts, members of their communities, or occurrences in their towns. To be read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is an honor our constituents cherish. Today, though Mr. Speaker, the honor is all mine to rise and tell this body about one of the Tennessee 7th Congressional District's most cherished and devoted citizens, Wayne Oldham, as his life and homegoing is celebrated this week.

Wayne was born in Montgomery County and made his life there and at every stage of his life, he would be found championing the conservative cause. From creating the Austin Peay State University College Republican chapter still in existence today, to being the longest serving State Executive Committee member of the Tennessee Republican Party, Wayne had a drive and a passion to support the people and causes he held dear. There was never a meeting too small or a race too insignificant for Wayne to attend and support. He was a fixture in Clarksville and his absence will be felt for years to come.

There are those whose light shines so brightly, boldly, and consistently that we are confident their legacy will remain long after they are gone. I join with family, friends, political activists, neighbors, committee members, and all those who will miss Wayne's supportive phone calls, his never-fading friendship, and his heart-felt laugh. I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembrance of my dear friend. May his life's work be a reminder in serving the world around us, no matter how big or small.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES  
BARTLETT

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Bartlett on being posthumously inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Bartlett made a substantial impact on the Colorado agriculture industry throughout his lifetime. He got his start at an early age, when he undertook a supervisory role on his family's farm when he was 20 years old. Dedicating his time to protecting Coloradan's water and agriculture, he became Chairman of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and co-founded First FarmBank and FarmBank Holding Company.

Mr. Bartlett maintained a commitment to education in his community. He served on several school boards including the Board of Cooperative Educational Services and the Buffalo School District Board of Education. He received numerous prestigious awards, including

the Colorado Corn Amicus Friend of Agriculture Award, throughout his lifetime for his many acts of public service. It is clear that he cared greatly about bettering his community through leadership and hard work.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to the family of Mr. Charles Bartlett. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Charles Bartlett for his accomplishments.

RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CACHERO SELECTION AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Cachero, a student at Hilltop High School in Chula Vista, California, for his selection to represent the State of California as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The event will be held at the Tsongas Center at University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, MA, from June 29, 2017 to July 1, 2017.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program designed to motivate and direct the top students in our country who aspire to be scientists, engineers, and technologists and encourage them to stay true to their dream. All delegates are nominated by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Scientists based on proven academic excellence and a demonstrated desire to enter the scientific or technology professions.

I want to congratulate Joseph Cachero and Hilltop High School in their success and leadership in the scientific field.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WATTS

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Joyce Watts.

After 40 years as Allegan County Clerk and Register, this past December Joyce made the tough decision to hang it up and retire.

She did so as the longest-serving elected county clerk in the entire state of Michigan and simply put one of the most dedicated public servants our great state has ever seen.

Joyce juggled many duties in her career. Before she was clerk-register, she was register of deeds for 12 years. She also served on the board of directors of the National Association of County Records and Clerks.

Joyce always impressed me with her professionalism, work-ethic, and tireless advocacy on behalf of our corner of the state. Joyce was someone you could trust to get the job done right. And as a clerk handling elections, it's absolutely imperative you have someone of her character and integrity serving in that position.

There is no doubting her passion and commitment. But above all, Joyce was a wife, mother, and a friend to me and countless others in our Allegan community.

And so, I want to wish Joyce, her husband John, and their son Jason and his wife Lesley best of luck in the coming years and I look forward to remaining close friends.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CECILIA ZÁRATE-LAUN

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Cecilia Zárate-Laun, a constituent and dear friend of mine who dedicated her life to building a more just and peaceful world. I first met Cecilia while serving on the Dane County Board of Supervisors in Wisconsin, where we worked together on a sister-city relationship between Dane County and Apartadó, in Antioquia, Colombia. I had the honor of visiting Apartadó on a delegation that Cecilia led, and worked with her to host Colombian dignitaries visiting the U.S. over the years.

Cecilia was born in 1945 in the Santander Province in Colombia. The eldest of five sisters, she studied nutrition in Bogotá, and later, as a Master's student at the University of Wisconsin. In 1976, she married Jack Laun, whom she had met while studying in the United States. They celebrated their 40th anniversary together last year.

Her lifelong mission was to educate and inspire ordinary people to become involved in the messy work of democracy. She had an intimate understanding that efforts to change government policy here in the U.S. had a profound impact on the lives of untold billions across the world. By shifting our priorities away from militarism and war-making, the United States could instead contribute to sustainable development and solving real human needs globally.

Co-founding the Colombia Support Network (CSN) in 1987, Cecilia went on to lead more than 50 delegations of residents of the United States to Colombia, supporting the formation of CSN chapters in the U.S. and matching them with communities in areas of conflict. CSN sought to achieve peace with justice in Colombia by changing U.S. policy and minimizing the violence faced by people caught between guerrillas on the one hand and state security forces and paramilitaries on the other.

Cecilia's commitment to social and economic equality, and a deep sense of solidarity with people around the world, drove her tireless efforts. That passion had a lasting effect on me and will continue to inform my work and the values I strive to uphold as a public servant.

Even in the weeks just before her passing, she worked closely with me as we pursued strategies to ensure accountability, truth, and justice for the victims of Colombia's 50-year conflict. She lived to see the end of Colombia's brutal civil war, which was the fruit of her labors and the efforts of persistent, dedicated peace activists just like her. Her life is a window into the decades-long commitment from millions of people in order to produce real social change.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life and legacy of Cecilia Zárate-Laun today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, 2017, I did not cast my vote on roll call votes No. 81 and No. 82. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on both votes.

On February 14, 2017, I was unavoidably absent due to illness and unable to cast my votes on roll call votes Nos. 88 through 92. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll call vote 88 on ordering the previous question; NAY; Roll call vote 89 on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 99; NAY; Roll call vote 90 on ordering the previous question; NAY; Roll call vote 91 on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 116; NAY; Roll call vote 92 on final passage of H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; NAY.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF KENNETH WILLIAM THOMPSON

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Downey resident, Mr. Kenneth William Thompson on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Ken was born on February 9, 1917, to William and Eleanor Thompson in Virginia, Minnesota. The third of four boys, he spent his childhood in nearby Duluth, where the Thompson family survived the many challenges of the Great Depression. In 1940, the family moved west to California.

In 1942, at the outbreak of World War II, Ken was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as a Radar Technician (T5). Two of his brothers also served in World War II, in the U.S. Navy. During his tour of duty from 1942 to 1945, Ken served overseas in France, Belgium, and Germany. He fought in five major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge and at Bastogne. When the war in Europe ended, he was one of four in his unit who was scheduled to go to Japan because of his radar training, but the war ended before he shipped out.

After the war ended, Ken returned to California, where he met Vivian Laura Oden of St. Paul, Minnesota. They were married in 1948, and settled in Downey, California, where they raised their three beautiful daughters: Joan, Kathy, and Mary.

Ken was employed by Maytag for 35 years, where he worked in many positions until he retired in 1982. His loving wife, Vivian, died on February 19, 2000. Today, their family includes nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ken has made his home in Downey for 67 years, and has been very active in the community schools, for which he was awarded the Honorary Service Award. He has also been

actively involved with the Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton and the Trinity Baptist Church in Downey.

According to people who know Ken, and that is quite a large group, his life is built on love for faith, family, friends, a good wit, laughter, service to others, hard work, and a deep and abiding passion for his country.

Ken became 100 years old on February 9, 2017, and is celebrating this significant milestone on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at the Trinity Baptist Church.

I am honored to join with local leaders, and with Mr. Thompson's family and friends, in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

WORKING TO INTEGRATE NETWORKS GUARANTEEING MEMBER ACCESS NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 13, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 512, the Working to Integrate Networks Guaranteeing Member Access Now Act, ("Wingman Ace"), which amends title 38, United States Code, to provide certain employees of Members of Congress and certain employees of State or local governmental agencies with access to case-tracking information of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 512 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide an accredited, permanent congressional employee with read-only remote access to the electronic Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) claims records system of a represented veteran, regardless of whether the employee is acting under a power of attorney executed by the veteran.

The DVA shall ensure that success does not allow the employee to modify system data.

Each Member of Congress who elects to have an employee participate in the system shall bear the certification cost which shall be paid from the Member's representation allowance.

The amended version would also require the DVA to implement the bill using appropriated funds, and allow as much as \$10 million to be used from fiscal 2017 through 2020 for that purpose. No funds could be used to train congressional staffers.

An accredited, "permanent congressional employee" is an employee of a Member of Congress who assists constituents with issues regarding federal departments or agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 512 and urge all members to join me in voting for its passage. For that reason I support this bill.

RECOGNIZING ED AND MARY GEORGE POSS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ed and Mary George Poss, who will be celebrating 71 happy years of marriage on March 20th of this year.

The couple met one another in third grade, but didn't have the chance to go on their first date until Ed asked Mary George out seven years later. Ed was a typical class clown, and Mary George was a Grade A student who was admired for being dedicated to her studies. The two didn't want much to do with each other during elementary and junior high school, but Ed continuously admired Mary George's beautiful character.

After the two graduated high school, they decided to get married and begin a life together. As the two entered their freshman year of college as an engaged couple, it became clear that Mary George's father wasn't quite ready to let his little girl go. He tried to offer her gifts to postpone the wedding, but she insisted that Ed was the one for her and married him only 10 days after her eighteenth birthday.

Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Poss have maintained their commitment over many years and long distances. Mary George stayed close to home to attend the University of Georgia while Ed played football at Auburn University. Ed later enlisted in the United States Navy, and moved from Virginia to San Diego, California to carry out his duties. Throughout the seasons spent in various homes from coast to coast, they have raised two children, both of whom live in Rabun County.

Together, Ed and Mary George have presented their children and our community of northeast Georgia with an enduring example of commitment and trust. May we all look to Mr. and Mrs. Poss for an example of the joy that comes from a life of love and service to another.

IN TRIBUTE TO AL JARREAU

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alwin Lopez Jarreau, also known as Al Jarreau. He was a vocalist, musician, songwriter, and father. Al was born on March 12, 1940 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and passed away at the age of 76, on February 12, 2017.

He was born into a musical family; his father was a pastor with a fine voice and his mother, the church's pianist. Al began singing at the age of 4, harmonizing with his 5 siblings. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1958 where his love of music and singing deepened. He earned a bachelor's degree from Ripon College in Wisconsin in 1962, and a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He worked as a rehabilitation counselor for people with disabilities. Al Jarreau's full-time musical career began when he was nearly 30 and he could no longer resist the pull of jazz.

Al Jarreau was a versatile vocalist who recorded 21 albums, won seven Grammys and remains the only vocalist in Grammy history to win in the jazz, pop, and R&B categories. He was proud that his mix of styles prevented him from being easily categorized. Al Jarreau had a vocal style that was appealing and highly unusual. He could produce an array of vocalizations and was nicknamed the acrobat of scat because of this talent. Al reached a national audience with his second album *We Got By*, released in 1975. In 1965, he recorded his first album entitled "1965" belatedly released

in 1982 which is esteemed by jazz connoisseurs today. In 1981 he had his biggest hit with the song "We're in This Love Together." He won his first Grammy in 1978, for his album "Look to the Rainbow" and his last in 2007, for best traditional R&B vocal performance. He shared the award with George Benson and Jill Scott for their collaborative performance, "God Bless the Child." Among Mr. Jarreau's best-known recordings was the theme song for the television series, "Moonlighting."

Al Jarreau was proud of his hometown and at the beginning of most performances announced that he was from Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Foundation for School Music honored Jarreau with a Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2016, and established an endowment in his name for Milwaukee Public School music programs. He was concerned that children in Milwaukee and across the country would not have exposure to music and the arts. In fact, Al Jarreau's parting request to mourners was that contributions be made to children from his hometown in lieu of flowers and gifts.

He leaves behind many friends, admirers and family members to mourn his passing including his wife, Susan, his son Ryan and two brothers, Marshall and Appie; and a sister, Rose Marie Freeman. Al Jarreau made a positive impact on Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the world and I am proud that he hails from Milwaukee. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I rise to pay tribute to a man whose legacy will continue to benefit the Fourth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) JOSEPH A. RAHAIM

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi soldier Army Sergeant (SGT) Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim who gave his life while in service to our great nation February 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Rahaim lost his life when a roadway collapsed and his vehicle rolled into a canal at Forward Operation Base Iskandariyah, Iraq. SGT Timothy R. Osbey was also killed in the accident.

SGT Rahaim was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, MS.

Major General (MG) Harold Cross, Adjutant General of Mississippi, posthumously presented SGT Rahaim the Bronze Star Medal and the Mississippi Medal of Valor. During the funeral for the 22-year-old Magnolia, MS native, MG Cross described the medals as two of the nation's highest awards.

SGT Rahaim was remembered by many as a great storyteller. Soldiers from his unit said their guardian angel will probably be listening to his tall tales in heaven. Rev. Phil McMinn of the Brookwood Baptist Church in Lawrenceville delivered his eulogy. He said SGT Rahaim was destined to be a soldier from childhood, and that when Drew was a young boy, he kept his GI Joe toy close by.

SGT Rahaim will be remembered for his sacrifice and for demonstrating the qualities of a great soldier and American.

INTRODUCTION OF TAX RETURN  
PREPARER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced, along with my colleagues Reps. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT, CAROLYN MALONEY and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act of 2017, which would provide explicit authority for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous tax cheats masquerading as bona fide tax preparers.

As we near April 15th, millions of taxpayers will pay someone to help them fill out their tax returns. Many of these tax preparers are honest and trustworthy. But, unfortunately, too many of them take advantage of their customers or help their customers engage in tax fraud themselves.

In Memphis, my Congressional district, a company named Mo' Money Taxes was caught charging taxpayers deceptive and outrageous fees and cheating them out of their refunds. The company also helped some customers prepare fraudulent returns that claimed bogus deductions and cheated the public of needed tax revenue. Fortunately, the Department of Justice has shut down the tax preparer company but there are many businesses just like them cheating taxpayers and the government alike.

The IRS issued rules in 2011 regulating the tax return preparer industry by requiring them to register with the IRS and meet certain education and testing standards. However, a federal court held that the IRS did not have the authority under existing law to issue these regulations and they could not come into effect.

That's why I introduced the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act because it's important that anyone who assists in filing federal taxes is sufficiently trained and maintain a certain level of professional conduct.

I hope that Congress will quickly act on this bill to ensure that these dishonest business practices cannot continue, and protect the pocketbooks of middle-class families.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTHA E.  
POLLACK'S SERVICE ON BEHALF  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha E. Pollack, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan as she moves to the next chapter of her life. Ms. Pollack has led a distinguished academic career and helped the university effectively serve its students, faculty and the Ann Arbor community during her tenure with the school.

After receiving her doctorate in Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979, Ms. Pollack began her academic career with the nonprofit research organization SRI International. She then served as faculty for the University of Pittsburgh until 2000, when she joined the University of Michigan as a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering. Ms. Pollack distinguished herself through her outstanding scholarship and leadership. As a result, she was named chair of the School of Information in 2007 and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2013. As Provost, she oversaw academic and budgetary affairs for the entire academic enterprise, which includes the 19 schools and colleges within the university, as well as libraries, museums and other institutions in the University of Michigan system.

Ms. Pollack has received numerous accolades for her work as a leader and scholar at the University of Michigan. In 2007, Ms. Pollack received the Sarah Goddard Power Award for contributing to increased recognition and involvement of women in the sciences. She was also elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Computing Machinery for her pioneering research. Under her leadership, the university has made important strides in improving affordability for students and continuing to attract world-class scholars to the University of Michigan community. Her leadership and experience will be missed as she moves on to become Cornell University's president this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Martha Pollack and her years of service to the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor community. She has proven to be a capable and committed leader who has helped address the most challenging issues facing the university.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARC ARNUSCH

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Marc Arnusch on being selected as the 2016 Rising Star in Colorado Agriculture. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Arnusch has an extensive background in Colorado agriculture. After receiving a degree in Agricultural Economics, he returned home and began working the land adjacent to his father's farm. He now operates Marc Arnusch Farms, LLC which stretches across 2,400 acres in Prospect Valley. Mr. Arnusch is a member of the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee and the Colorado Farm Bureau, and has held various leadership roles within the Colorado Farm Bureau.

His attendance and participation in local forums, appearance in television commercials, and efforts on behalf of agriculture have helped make him a prominent figure in his community. He has become a powerful voice for agriculture in Colorado and I look forward to learning of his future endeavors.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr.

Arnusch pursues his future undertakings. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Marc Arnusch for his accomplishments.

HONORING MAE BETH PALONE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mae Beth Palone on her well-earned retirement from the Independent Bankers Association of Texas, after twenty-two years of dedicated service.

After graduating from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Palone's distinguished career began at the Texas Capitol in 1975 working for Representative Elmer Martin. She then faithfully served Representative Walter Grubbs, Representative Jimmy Mankins, Representative Foster Whaley and even assisted a newly elected Representative Rick Perry before he had his own staff, finishing her Capitol career in the service of Representative Robert Earley.

Nearly twenty years later, she joined the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) serving as IBAT's Government Relations Officer where she continued to cultivate her exemplary relationships with her legislative peers and promote the cause of community bankers in Texas. Palone's journalism degree was put to great use as the author of the script for IBAT's Annual Convention and other key IBAT events and communications. Palone was promoted to Vice President in 2000. She took the reins of the IBAT Leadership Division in 2004, the most treasured experience of her IBAT career, growing membership to over 590 and implementing a regional governance structure as she mentored the future leaders of the Texas community banking industry.

Despite her busy professional life, Ms. Palone also found time to give back to her community as a CASA volunteer as well as serving on the board of directors of her homeowners association. Palone is perhaps best known for her undying loyalty to her Texas Longhorns, attending every home football game and supporting them regardless of their ranking.

Palone's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence have greatly benefited those who depend upon the Texas community banking industry. She has earned the respect and admiration of her peers.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the tireless efforts that Mae Beth Palone has made to the people of the great state of Texas and Texas community bankers. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mae Beth Palone on her many years of loyal service.

RECOGNITION OF EDGAR JACOME GUZMAN SELECTION AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edgar Jacome Guzman, a student in San Ysidro, California, for his selection to represent the State of California as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The event will be held at the Tsongas Center at University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, MA, from June 29, 2017 to July 1, 2017.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program designed to motivate and direct the top students in our country who aspire to be scientists, engineers, and technologists and encourage them to stay true to their dream. All delegates are nominated by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Scientists based on proven academic excellence and a demonstrated desire to enter the scientific or technology professions.

I want to congratulate Edgar Jacome Guzman in his success and leadership in the scientific field.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) NICHOLAS J. OLIVIER

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Nicholas J. Olivier who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 23, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SSG Olivier's final mission was to conduct a foot patrol in Baghdad, Iraq in order to find terrorist elements reported to be operating in the area. While on the patrol, enemy forces initiated a complex ambush with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire that resulted in the mortal wounding of SSG Olivier and the injury of several of his fellow soldiers.

SSG Olivier was described as a leader who made it a top priority to get the men under his command back home to their families and loved ones once their tour was complete.

SSG Olivier, of Jackson, MS, was assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, V Corps, Pineville, LA. He was the 15th member of the 256th from Louisiana to lose his life in Iraq.

SSG Olivier is survived by his parents, William and Linda Olivier and his wife, Angelle. In a statement issued by the National Guard, Angelle Olivier said her husband was committed to Operation Iraqi Freedom III and his country because he felt it was necessary to ensure America's freedom and to fight to abolish terrorism.

SSG Olivier gave his life to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

THE EVOLVING THREAT OF TERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the House Armed Services Committee held a full committee hearing on The Evolving Threat of Terrorism and Effective Counterterrorism Strategies. The hearing featured three witnesses, Professor Bruce Hoffman, Mr. Brian Jenkins, and Ambassador Michael Sheehan, all of whom are well-known counterterrorism subject matter experts.

There is no question that terrorism is a serious problem that requires holistic solutions, and there is no doubt that countering terrorism at home and abroad at times requires using hard power. This is a point that we can all agree. However, I am concerned that we have spent the overwhelming portion of our federal resources and national attention on the security dimensions of terrorism since 9/11 while largely ignoring the intangible elements, such as those requiring soft power solutions. This approach has led our government to adopt policies which only exacerbate the problem of terrorism rather than solve it.

President Trump's recent Executive Orders (EOs), in particular the Muslim ban and the virulent language being promulgated by senior officials, will only bolster the narrative which terrorist groups such as the Islamic State (IS) seek to spread, i.e. the West is at war with Islam. In his testimony in front of the House Committee on Homeland Security, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly called the EO barring individuals from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States a "temporary pause." While I will not question the sincerity of this remark, the vast majority of counter-terrorism experts, including Michael Leiter, the former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, agree that at best the EO completely "misses the point." At worst, the EO is "stupid," and "counter-productive," according to Patrick Skinner, a former CIA counterterrorism case officer.

As Skinner and other counterterrorism experts note, we currently rely upon local partners in Syria, Libya, and Iraq with whom we work side by side to expel IS terrorists from Mosul and Al Bab and other areas. With the Immigration EO, we are effectively telling our partners now that we won't need them and will abandon those who have sacrificed greatly for our cause. This is false. We do need them. It is also worrying that this EO supports the hateful West vs. Muslim World narrative terrorists are trying to propagate. As Jessica Stern, a counterterrorism expert, recently reported, "jihadis are already celebrating Trump's executive order as a 'blessed ban.'" Let me repeat that: terrorists are celebrating Trump's Immigration Executive Order.

It does not stop there. Late last month Reuters reported that the administration is moving away from using the neutral term, Countering

Violent Extremism (or CVE), to Countering Islamic Extremism. Reuters further reported that the administration is focusing the work of a CVE Task Force on programs solely tackling radical Islamic groups, although the evidence clearly shows that since right-wing extremists have killed more people in the United States than Islamic Extremists. The world is following these developments, and terrorist leaders are using them to rally supporters and garner recruits.

In late January 2017, the New York Times provided evidence of a leaked draft of an EO that would have revived C.I.A. prisons, also known as black sites, where terrorism suspects were detained and tortured following the 9/11 attacks. The draft EO was reminiscent of the immediate years following 9/11, when torture was condoned by some of the highest levels of our government. Torture did not work back then and it does not work now. Simply put, torture makes us less safe. In early January 2017, a group of 176 retired flag officers from all branches of the United States military signed a letter to then President-elect Trump calling torture "unnecessary" and "counter-productive because it undermines our national security." A few days ago the New York Times reported that although the idea of black sites seemed to have been dropped, the Trump Administration was finalizing a new EO draft that would bring future IS detainees to the wartime prison at Guantanamo Bay.

In the years following the 9/11 attacks, Americans were forced to confront our policies of torture, black sites, the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, and the wartime prison at Guantanamo Bay Cuba. These policies not only left a stain on our conscience and America's moral standing, but they also led to the radicalization of countless of individuals. It is well known that Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, the leader of IS, spent significant time at American detention centers in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca. It was there that he and other future leaders of IS first met. Former prison commanders, analysts, and soldiers all reported that these prison sites "provided a unique setting for both prisoner radicalization and inmate collaboration—and was formative in the development of today's most potent jihadist force."

Mr. Speaker, it is plain to see the means this administration will use to counter terrorism will only lead to further radicalization, the birth of more terrorist groups, and increasingly strained relations with the Muslim world. I hope that we in Congress do everything we can to ensure that our counter terrorism policies live up to our values, and that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL MARKHAM

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Markham on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Throughout his life, Mr. Markham has contributed to the agricultural industry. His dedication to educating the youth in Colorado about

the importance of agriculture inspired him to donate his time and resources to the Colorado Young Farmers Educational Association, serving as state president and national secretary. He was also a member of the Colorado Livestock Association and Colorado Corn Growers Association. Throughout the years, he has won various awards for his commitment to agriculture, and even appeared in a Coors television commercial.

Despite Mr. Markham's accomplishments within his community, he is most proud to hold the title farmer. Mr. Markham is the owner of M&M Farms, where he has spent countless days growing Rocky Mountain Barley for Coors Brewing Company.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Bill Markham. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bill Markham for his accomplishments.

#### HONORING OAKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL AS FUTURE CITY FINALISTS

### HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the students of Oakwood Middle School, finalists in the Future City competition.

Each year, more than 40,000 students from 1,350 schools across the country compete in the Future City competition, which challenges students to create futuristic cities and solve sustainability issues within the city. Thirty-four eighth-grade students from Oakwood Middle School in Canton, Ohio participated in this year's competition under the guidance of their teacher, Ms. Vanessa Board.

This year's competition tasked the students to create an efficient, eco-friendly city set 100 years in the future. These talented students used their knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to create the city of Skotgeta, an Icelandic city powered by geothermal energy, which harnesses sustainable natural resources and utilizes technology to cure cancer. Their hard work earned them First Place at the regional competition and qualified them to compete in the national Future City competition.

The achievements of these students demonstrate the same ingenuity and determination of other Ohioans like Neil Armstrong, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers. I am confident in the future of our nation when Oakwood Middle School's Future City team represents the next generation of American leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this accomplishment is a testament to the students and their teacher's dedication to academic excellence. I am proud of each of these individuals, and I wish them much success in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2017, I missed four votes as a result of personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 609, YES on H.R. 512, YES on H.R. 244, YES on H.R. 974.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER SERGEANT FIRST CLASS (SFC) WILLIAM C. SPILLERS

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant First Class (SFC) William C. Spillers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SFC Spillers died of a non-combat related injury in Baghdad, Iraq.

SFC Spillers worked at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Jackson, MS. He was assigned to the 230th Finance Detachment, 15th Finance Battalion, 13th Finance Group, Jackson, MS. Twenty-one members of his unit were mobilized in May 2006. They arrived in Iraq in August 2006.

SFC Spillers, a Terry, MS native, was described by Major General Harold Cross as a model soldier who was always attentive to his duties, Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard. At the time of SFC Spillers's death, at least 47 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties had died in action since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SFC Spillers devoted his life as a full-time soldier in service to our nation. He is survived by his parents Robert E. Spillers and Sharon Johnson, his wife Kim, his daughter Hailey, and sons Daniel and Myles.

#### BOOSTING RATES OF AMERICAN VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 13, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 974, "Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act." "BRAVE Act" authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to give preference to companies with high concentrations of veteran employees when awarding VA contracts.

I support this bipartisan bill because it provides an incentive to companies to actively hire veterans.

H.R. 974 will spur the hiring of veterans into coveted positions within large government contractors.

The BRAVE Act also gives the VA authority to debar contracting for at least five years of any company determined to have willfully and

intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of its employees.

One of the biggest problems facing our veterans right now is finding good jobs in civilian life, especially those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our veterans have received the best training in the world.

They have unique skills and experience that cannot be acquired anywhere but in the United States military.

They have what it takes to excel in the civilian workforce; they do not need charity, just opportunity.

With this bill, we urge private companies to hire highly-trained, highly-skilled veterans who know how to get the job done, whatever job it may be.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 974.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. BILL WEBSTER

### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Webster on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Webster has had a tremendous impact on agriculture in Colorado. He started Webster Land and Cattle Company at a young age and managed the company for over thirty years. After his retirement, Mr. Webster served in the Colorado State Legislature and as the Weld County Commissioner at Large. He has continuously been a leader in his community, serving on multiple boards and participating in various organizations. Today he is involved in the Greeley Rotary Club, T-Bone Club, First Congregational Church, and the American Legion.

In addition to being a leader in his community, Mr. Webster served his country for two years in the United States Army. After his many years of public service, Mr. Webster returned to Colorado State University to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. Mr. Bill Webster has set an exceptional example of leadership and public service, and it is a great honor to call him a dear friend and my father-in-law.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Bill Webster. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Bill Webster for his accomplishments.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to my attendance at the White House for the signing ceremony for H.J. Res. 41 on Tuesday, February 14,

2017. Had I been present for roll call vote number 88, ordering the previous question of H. Res. 99, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 89, Adoption of H. Res. 99, the combined rule providing for consideration of H.R. 428—Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act and of H.J. Res. 42—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 90, ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 116—I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 91, Adoption of H. Res. 116—The combined rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 66—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees and of H.J. Res. 67—Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, I would have voted yea.

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN  
NETANYAHU VISIT

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump warmly welcomed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House today on his first official state visit of the new Administration. Under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE, I am confident that this visit will leave no doubt that the United States stands firmly with our ally, Israel.

Throughout his campaign and since being sworn in as President, Donald Trump has made it a priority to stand up for Israel and promote peace in the Middle East, specifically, by opposing growing Iranian aggression. Just last week, the President swiftly imposed strong sanctions on Iranian officials for testing yet another intercontinental ballistic missile to threaten American families with death.

I look forward to working with President Trump to show our support for Israel and I appreciate that he has appointed Governor Nikki Haley as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, where she will be a strong voice for American families.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. God Bless Benjamin Netanyahu, a dynamic leader of peace through strength.

TRIBUTE TO BILL C. HUNTER

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to Bill Hunter, the father of one of my long-time staff. I did not have the privilege of knowing

Bill personally. However, I know how deeply he was loved and how greatly he is missed. I offer my condolences to his family as they both mourn his loss and celebrate his life after his home-going on January 17th of this year.

Known to many as Hunter, Bill was raised in West Texas and embodied many classic American traits—independent, driven, and fiercely loyal. His childhood was not easy, and it engendered in him his lifelong drive to work hard, fight for the underdog, and aid those in need. Bill lost his father when he was only 5, causing him to grow up early to help his mother pay the bills, whether as a paperboy, grocery clerk, or telegram courier. He recalled how it was cold in West Texas and his family couldn't make the gas payment. So, at only 7, he biked a paper route around 5 in the morning and then wore his cold, wet shoes the remainder of the day at school just to do his part. Bill put himself through college at Texas Tech and law school at Southern Methodist University. Key accomplishments for a boy from Monahans, Texas.

Bill lived, loved, and practiced law for over 50 years. Legal adversaries and allies agree that Bill was a brilliant attorney and a formidable opponent who earned the respect of his peers for his innovative legal arguments and his vigorous advocacy for his clients. Bill was tough as nails but soft as a kitten. He could aggressively fight a bully in court or quietly teach Sunday school or speak in silly voices to show his pets how much he cared for them. Bill deeply enjoyed providing high-caliber legal assistance to those who couldn't afford it. However, he didn't announce his efforts to help others. Rather, his family and friends learned of his extensive pro bono work when community members would share how much Bill had helped, be it the staff of his favorite restaurant or the workers at his retirement village.

Dallas was Bill's true home. He was President of the Dallas School Board, a member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, a part-owner of the ABA basketball team the Dallas Chaparrals, a frequenter of Dallas' wonderful museums, and an avid Cowboys fan. He loved God and his family. He was very proud of his children and delighted in watching his grandchildren and step-grandchildren grow.

Bill leaves behind many who loved him: his wife, Pati, her 5 children and 5 grandchildren; his three children—Sam, Chris, and Jill, and his 9 grandchildren; and hundreds of attorneys, judge and friends who know that Dallas and the legal community lost an important member.

Although I did not know Bill personally, I know how much his family and community miss him. I imagine that his family can take comfort in knowing that Bill can still enjoy many of his favorite past times in heaven—engaging in some healthy arguments with St. Peter, listening to country music, whistling some tunes to pass the time, working challenging crossword puzzles, laughing at clever comic strips, or, most importantly, watching his beloved Cowboys.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 89, 90 and 91 on February 14, 2017.

I missed these votes while attending the swearing-in ceremony at the White House for VA Secretary Shulkin.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89, YEA on Roll Call No. 90, and YEA on Roll Call No. 91.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT  
MILLER

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Miller's retirement after a lifetime of service to the state of Colorado and the United States.

Bob Miller has dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice and order in our country. Bob received his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado in 1965. He then worked 51 years in the legal profession as the first full-time District Attorney of Weld County, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, and an equity partner at Perkins Coie LLP. In addition to his work in the legal profession, he also served our nation as a member of the United States Air Force.

Besides his incredibly successful career, Bob Miller is most proud to have raised his family in Greeley, Colorado. In fact, his fondest memory is of watching his son, now Assistant District Attorney of Weld County, succeed in cracking a horrendous murder cold case.

Though he is stepping down as a partner at Perkins Coie LLP, Mr. Miller will continue to serve the people in a consulting role with the firm. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Robert Miller for his accomplishments.

HONORING THE NAACP FOR 108  
YEARS OF REMARKABLE SERVICE  
AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE NATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the oldest, largest, most historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, known to all simply as the NAACP.

The NAACP is the oldest, largest, most historic and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States.

First organized in 1905, the group was known as the Niagara Movement when members began meeting at a hotel situated on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls.



Members of the group had to meet in Canada because American hotels in Niagara Falls were segregated.

Under the leadership of the Harvard-educated scholar, the great W.E.B. Du Bois, the group would later be known as the National Negro Committee before finally adopting the name by which it has been known for the last 106 years—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP—at its second conference in 1910.

The first official meeting was held in 1909 exactly 108 years ago this past Sunday: February 12, the centennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

The mission of the association was clearly delineated in its charter:

To promote equality of rights and to eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States;

To advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and

To increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for the children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before law.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a century, the NAACP has stayed true to its charter and championed the cause of justice and equality in America.

It has fought valiantly and tirelessly on behalf of African-Americans and others to secure their civil rights and liberties and the full measure of justice and equality for all.

At a time when African-Americans were treated as second-class citizens and the scourge of slavery was still rampant, the NAACP emerged to ensure that the rights, interests and voices of African-Americans did not go unheard.

During World War I, the NAACP successfully campaigned for African Americans to be commissioned as officers in the army, resulting in President Woodrow Wilson commissioning 600 African American officers.

During World War II, the NAACP persuaded the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt to issue an executive order banning racial discrimination in war-related industries and federal employment.

In 1948, President Harry Truman became the first president to formally address the NAACP and he worked with the NAACP in appointing a commission to study and offer ideas to improve civil rights and equality of opportunity for all persons in the United States.

The NAACP's close relationship with President Truman helped to influence him to issue Executive Order 9981, which desegregated the United States Armed Services by announcing the new "policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin," and that this policy be put into effect as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP was perhaps the leading member of the "Big Six"—the coalition of religious, labor and civil rights organizations that organized and staged on August 28, 1963 the historic March on Washington, the most famous act of peaceful protest in our nation's history.

Other members of the Big Six were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); the National Urban League; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car

Porters; and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

The March on Washington was a seminal event in our nation's history and awakened Americans of goodwill to the urgent need to rededicate ourselves to the great unfinished task of making real the promise of America for all Americans, especially African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the current president of the NAACP is Cornell William Brooks and the Board Chairman is Roslyn M. Brock; through the years, the NAACP has been led by some of bold, visionary, and effective leaders, including:

Walter White;

Roy Wilkins;

Benjamin Hooks;

Benjamin Chavis;

Merlie Evers-Williams, widow of Medgar Evers;

Kweisi Mfume;

Bruce S. Gordon; and

Benjamin Todd Jealous.

Mr. Speaker, America would be a very different place were it not for the brilliance of the NAACP's Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., the legendary Director of the Washington Bureau from 1950 to 1978.

So effective was Clarence Mitchell in the campaigns to win passage of civil rights laws, including the 1957 Civil Rights Act, the 1960 Civil Rights Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, that his sobriquet was the "101st Senator."

The NAACP is perhaps best known for the practice pioneered by the legendary Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall of "impact litigation," the strategy of bringing carefully selected cases to court to establish legal precedents of beneficially affecting thousands, and frequently millions, of persons beyond the immediate parties to the case.

Among the historic victories won by NAACP lawyers are:

1. 1940—*Chambers v. Florida*, which established that confessions obtained as the result of police coercion are inadmissible at trial;

2. 1944—*Smith v. Allwright*, which outlawed the South's "white primary";

3. 1948—*Shelley v. Kraemer*, which ruled racially restrictive covenants and unconstitutional and legally unenforceable;

4. 1950—*Sweatt v. Painter* and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, which, held that separate law and graduate school are inherently unequal and thus unconstitutional;

5. 1954—*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, landmark case overruling separate but equal doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*; and

6. 1956—*Browder v. Gayle*, which outlawed the practice of racial segregation on buses and led to the end of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair for the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am especially concerned with fair access to quality education for today's youth and am personally grateful to the NAACP for its leadership in winning the greatest legal victory for civil rights in American history, the 1954 landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), in which the Supreme Court struck down de jure segregation in elementary schools.

NAACP General Counsel Thurgood Marshall, who would later become the first African American Solicitor General and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, forcefully argued

and persuaded the Court to rule unanimously that in the field of public education, "separate but equal" was inherently unequal.

That decision gave hope to millions of Americans that their children might enjoy the full promise of America that had been denied their forebears for more than three centuries.

Mr. Speaker, the NAACP remains committed to achieving its goals through non-violence, the legal process, and moral and political suasion, and through direct actions such as marches, demonstrations, and boycotts to give voice to the hopes and aspirations of African-Americans and others who lack the power to make their voices heard.

There is still a need for justice and equal treatment for African Americans and other vulnerable populations in our country, and thankfully, we still have a vibrant NAACP to advocate their cause and fight for their interests.

I am grateful for the many battles for equality that the NAACP organization has fought and won, and thankful that the NAACP will be there in the future to wage the fight for justice wherever and whenever justice needs a champion.

Happy 108th birthday, NAACP, and thank you for all you have done to make our country better.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLE HEIGHTS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND  
GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD some very special words of advice for our nation's 45th President, Donald Trump. These are words of welcome and advice from the students of Eagle Heights Elementary School's second grade class in Clinton, Iowa.

As their teacher Wendy Jennings notes, "My second grade class has been following the election and your road to becoming our new president. They were interested in the important things: the name of your son, the color of your ties, if you would use the bowling alley in the White House, why other grown-ups made mean faces when you were speaking and the fact you always smile. It has been fun to watch all of this through their eyes."

These following letters I include in the RECORD were hand written by each group of the seven and eight year olds in the class. I regret that I cannot include the wonderful artwork each student drew at the top of their notes. They drew American Flags, airplanes, hearts, houses, bowling alleys, and some pretty good drawings of our new president.

Please enjoy the wisdom and advice of these students, in their own words.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT TRUMP

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I watched you become President. You have a beautiful wife. My teacher loved her blue dress. What does it look like in the White House? Is it beautiful? If I was President I would fix cancer.

Love, LILLIAN ASAY.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: My class watched your speech last week. When I watched your speech one man did not like what you said. I still love you. Oh! Your family is so sweet.

Love, VENELEA DUNCAN.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am glad you are President. I like you. I know you are nice because you are always smiling. I like you.

Love, RAYHNE BOWMAN.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I know that you will be the best President ever. You are very very smart because you know a lot of math problems. You are brave to tell the law.

Love, ANTHONY BOVIS.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: My class would like it if you came to Eagle Heights. The kids in my class are smart. My teacher loved the dress your wife was wearing. I like that you always smile. Is Air Force One loud?

Love, PAYTON EGGERS.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: What is it like being President? You should come to our class. We have very good kids. You are very nice. If I was President I would say no smoking.

Love, NOAH SEXTON.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I know you will make a great President. Do you like your job? If I was President I would help the United States. I hope you make friends.

Love, JAMES BLOOMQUIST.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: My class wants you to come to Eagle Heights. I liked your speech. Do you like being President so far? If I was President I would help sick people.

JAKOB GEESTMAN.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: How hard is it to be President? Good job on being President. If I were President I would make more laws because I would make the world a better place.

Love, COOPER BELITZ.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: I really like how you smile in your pictures. How big is your family? I watched your inauguration with my class.

Love, JUSTIS WELCH.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: We watched your inauguration together in our class. I'm happy that you were running for President. Good job for running for President. I can tell that you are nice because you always smile.

Love, DARREN SCHEMERS.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: I watched your speech last week. I like your speeches. How fast is Air Force One? If I were President I would say no drugs because it is bad for you.

Love, JACOB NASH.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: How late did the inauguration go? I know you're going to be a great President. If I were President I would make school break longer. I watched you on TV and I thought you did good.

Love, ANDREA STEWART.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: We watched the inauguration in my class. You write good signatures! How do you start to be President? If I were President the law would be no saying bad words in school.

Love, DANIEL SCHEMERS.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: I watched your inauguration. I think you are going to be an excellent President. How do you think you are going to do? If I were President I would get rid of all the guns except for cops.

Love, JHARIA KNOX.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I watched your inauguration last week. You are a really good President. Do you always smile? I know you are smart because you became President.

Love, JAYDA SKIFF.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Great job for becoming President! I hope you like being President! Do you like being in the White House? Presidents are good, so be good!

Love, EMERSEN JENSEN.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday my class and I watched your inauguration. What was it like in New York? I like your tie. If I were President, I would probably make up a new fun world like in the book Frindle.

Love, STEPHANIE ROLLINS.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I like your job. Is your job hard? If I were President I would change the law of no smoking. Your family looks like they are nice.

Love, JORDAN HELLWEG.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We watched your inauguration speech. Do you like Hillary Clinton? You are the best President in the world because you will make good laws.

Love, GRIFFEN MANGELSEN.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: You always look really good on TV. You should come visit our school because Hillary Clinton came and you should too.

Love, EMMA RODRIGUEZ.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Congratulations on being our new President. Do you like your new home at the White House?

DONOVAN MATOS.

#### ADVICE FOR OUR PRESIDENT

Buy your wife lots of pretty dresses so she looks good on TV.—JUSTIN WELCH.

Even if people are mean to you, keep being yourself.—VENELEA DUNCAN.

Keep the Secret Service with you at all times to keep you safe.—NOAH SEXTON.

Ask if you can take a tour of the White House so that you know where you will be living. There is a bowling alley and a movie theater there you will like.—LILLIAN ASAY.

Don't run away from the Secret Service. They are fast and everywhere.—EMERSEN JENSEN.

Don't give up and always remember to smile.—DANIEL SCHEMERS.

Make sure your son brushes his hair everyday so he looks good on TV.—JACOB NASH.

If someone makes a mean or mad face at you just ignore them.—DARREN SCHEMERS.

If someone makes a face at you keep standing tall.—PAYTON EGGERS.

Make sure you are always smiling when you are on TV or giving a speech.—JHARIA KNOX.

I think that good advice is to make school break longer because then more families have more time with their kids.—GRACE STEWART.

Make your family do chores each day even though you have help.—JAKOB GEESTMAN.

When you fly on Air Force One always wear your seatbelt.—JAYDA SKIFF.

If you have some money left you should donate it to people who are poor.—RAYHNE BOWMAN.

Do your best at work or you might get in trouble.—COPPER BELITZ.

If you have extra time, go have fun! Play in your bowling alley.—JORDAN HELLWEG.

Make sure you use the tennis court and your gym. Let the Secret Service come with you to protect you. They could work out too.—GRIFFEN MANGELSEN.

If I were President and I couldn't fall asleep I would get a drink and a snack and do some work or read a book.—STEPHANIE ROLLINS.

Always wear a red, white, or blue tie when you are on TV.—EMMA RODRIGUEZ.

If someone bothers you, tell the Secret Service.—DONOVAN MATOS.

Make sure you remember to spend time with your family.—ANTHONY BOVIS.

Have the White House chef cook your favorite meal.—TYCE RICHARDSON.

Always wear a red, white, or blue tie to stand for our country.—JAMES BLOOMQUIST.

Take good care of our country.—JAMES BLOOMQUIST.

#### 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, February 16, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 28

2 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

SD-G50

MARCH 1

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

SD-G50

MARCH 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission.

SH-216

MARCH 9

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations.

SD-G50

MARCH 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations.

SD-G50