

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MARCUS LUCAS  
ON HIS SELECTION TO THE 2010  
U.S. ARMY ALL-AMERICAN BOWL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Liberty High School senior Marcus Lucas on his selection to play in the 2010 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. The selection is a reflection of his hard work and dedication throughout his career as a Blue Jay.

Marcus is joining elite company. NFL players Adrian Peterson, Reggie Bush, Vernon Davis and Derrick Johnson are all alumni of the All-American Bowl. I join the entire Liberty community in expressing how very proud we are of this young man and wish him the best in both the upcoming game and as he heads to the University of Missouri in the fall of 2010.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending Marcus Lucas on his selection to the 2010 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

HONORING LENAPE HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

### HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the tradition of soccer excellence continues at a high school in the Third District of New Jersey. For the third year in a row, the Lenape High School Girls Varsity Soccer team has captured the NJSIAA State Group 4 Championship. I am also pleased to note that Lenape finished their season with an outstanding record of 23–1, capturing an American Division title and the South Jersey Coaches Invitational Tournament crown along the way. In their six playoff games, Lenape amassed 15 goals, by 10 different players, just one of many achievements that have made them the first team from South Jersey to ever win three straight Group 4 crowns.

The coaches who have led the state championship team to victory are Kevin Meder, Tony Guerrero, Mike Foley, and Dave New. These talented young athletes include the following Lenape High School students: Kelsy Evancho, Lizzie Duffey, Katie Rigby, Rachel Johnson, Nicolette Stoner, Becca Meyers, Allison Johnson, Caroline Rigby, Alexis Cooper, Carley Carmody, Marissa Slimm, Chelsea Cannon, Caroline Huelster, Courtney Kovac, Kelly Vanak, Nicole Curry, Carly Walters, Advia Campbell, Jill Hampton, Carolyn Wiley, Maggie Micinski, Jamie Kinkler, Morgan McDivitt, Francesca Roller, Devon Betsch, Tori Prager, Emmy Duffey. I commend the Lenape High School Girls Soccer team on their 2009

State Championship and hope you will join me in wishing each of its members great success.

HONORING ANNA MCKEE

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Anna McKee, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities in journalism by competing in the recent Journalism Education Association (JEA) and National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Convention in Washington, DC.

While competing, Anna and the Liberty High School broadcasting staff were honored as Pacemaker Award finalists for their KLHS broadcast. Anna and the team earned this distinct acknowledgement by conducting one of ten top broadcasts in the nation, a noteworthy achievement.

Anna has been very active with her endeavors in journalism and teamed up with fellow classmate Todd Swetnam to conduct a Public Service Announcement on Liberty's 20/20 program. This announcement earned the duo an honorable mention.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Anna McKee for her accomplishments in the field of journalism and for her efforts put forth in achieving such prestigious awards.

HONORING JOHN M. MELLA ON HIS  
RETIREMENT

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor John M. Mella on his retirement from the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Michigan after working at the facility for 34 years. His commitment to his work and to the veterans he serves is the definition of what it means to be a dedicated employee as well as a true patriot.

John is a native of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where he graduated from Calumet High School. His commitment to our Nation's veterans can be traced to his father, Russell Mella, who served with the U.S. Army 91st Infantry Division, 5th Army in North Africa and Italy. John followed in his father's footsteps, attending the Military Police Academy in Fort Gordon, Georgia. He then served in the United States Army Military Police Corps from 1972 to 1975, patrolling the city of Bamberg, Germany and surrounding communities.

In 1975, John was hired as a police officer at the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain. In 1983 he began working at the facility as a motor ve-

hicle operator, transporting veterans to the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Over the years he has gone from driving vans and sedans to motor coaches. For 27 years John's steady hand at the wheel has made sure veterans at the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain arrived at their destination safely, and with honor and dignity.

Both on and off the job, John is an active veteran. He is a member of the Uren-Cooper-Johnson American Legion Post #50 in Iron Mountain and has been a Legionnaire for 30 years. Over the years John has served as Post Commander, 12th District Committeeman, Commander of the Upper Peninsula Association, and Michigan American Legion State Commander. He also has served as membership director for the Michigan District and is currently serving as chairman of the Time and Place Committee for the Upper Peninsula Association.

John has served as chairman for the Dickinson County Office of Veterans Affairs, and is currently serving as finance officer. He is a 21-year member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of Elks Lodge #700 and a Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

In 2006, John co-chaired the Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial Committee, which raised \$106,000 to build a memorial site in honor of members of the armed services who served our Nation. This tribute placed on Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain is an especially fitting tribute to preserve the memory, dedication and the honor of our Upper Peninsula veterans who proudly served their country.

Madam Speaker, John is a friend, a patriot and has proven himself to be a man of distinction in his years of work at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Hospital. His service to our Nation and his commitment to the men and women who have served in the armed forces are a testament to his generosity and dedication. Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in saluting John M. Mella for his service to our veterans and congratulate him on his retirement.

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SIGNING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE  
PEACE AGREEMENT

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative FRANK WOLF to recognize an important milestone. January 9, 2010, marks the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended a decades-long civil war in Sudan. While this agreement represented a groundbreaking achievement when it was signed, many benchmarks are overdue as we approach two vital deadlines: April 2010 parliamentary and presidential elections (already pushed back from

• 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.

2009) and the 2011 referendum on independence for Southern Sudan. Sudan's democratic and geographic integrity hang in the balance—as do the lives of its people.

While the United States has consistently taken the lead on Sudan issues—from first declaring genocide in Darfur in July 2004, to playing a major role in brokering the CPA—we must once more engage at this crucial juncture. No one doubts that Special Envoy Scott Graton is earnest in his determination to seek peace for all of Sudan; however, the new U.S. policy articulated in October 2009 remains vague due to a lack of specifics on benchmarks, accountability, and sanctions. Ensuring security for the people of Darfur continues to be a struggle for UNAMID peacekeeping troops. Basic governance and infrastructure must be improved in Southern Sudan so that it can function either as a contributing region of Sudan or as a successful independent state, depending on the outcome of the referendum. Unfortunately, the outlook is bleak. Tribal violence in the South is increasing and must not be allowed to disrupt the process. We cannot afford to turn our attention away from Sudan at this crucial and dangerous moment. Instead, the U.S. needs to doggedly pursue CPA implementation while also doing our best to ensure that aid and diplomatic efforts target security, development, and reintegration programs wherever appropriate.

As we observe the anniversary of this landmark pact, we should note that the job is far from done and the U.S. bears a responsibility to the people of Sudan. Let us rededicate ourselves to this cause of bringing peace to Sudan.

HONORING TODD SWETNAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Todd Swetnam, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities in journalism by competing in the recent Journalism Education Association (JEA) and National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Convention in Washington, DC.

While competing, Todd and the Liberty High School broadcasting staff were honored as Pacemaker Award finalists for their KLHS broadcast. Todd and the team earned this distinct acknowledgement by conducting one of ten top broadcasts in the Nation, a noteworthy achievement.

Todd has also been deemed the best in the Nation in his field and given top on-air reporter honors based upon his exemplary journalistic skills. I join the Liberty community in congratulating Todd for his excellence in the field of journalism.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Todd Swetnam for his accomplishments and wish him good luck on all future endeavors.

HONORING JANE ELAINE CALLERY  
FOR RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mrs. Jane Elaine Callery of Ashford, Connecticut who was recently honored by President Obama and the National Science Foundation with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Mrs. Callery holds a B.S. in elementary education, an M.S. in general science, and a C.A.S. in administration and supervision from Central Connecticut State University. She also has a C.A.S. as a secondary science specialist from Southern Connecticut State University. In addition, Mrs. Callery is a member of the Connecticut Alpha Delta Kappa Society.

Mrs. Callery has taught science at the Capital Region Education Council, CREC, Two Rivers Magnet Middle School since 2002. In the 7 years prior, she taught middle school science, served as science and technology specialist for kindergarten through eighth grade, and taught science, mathematics, and language arts at various schools in the Newington Public Schools system. She taught sixth grade science, which integrates earth, life, and physical sciences, at CREC Two Rivers and is currently the science curriculum and instruction specialist for all 12 CREC magnet schools PK–12. She also serves on the Science Advisory Committee for the Connecticut Mastery Test Program and is a past board member of the Connecticut Science Teachers Association.

Mrs. Callery is an inspiration to her students, teaching them to generate hypotheses and test their ideas using the same methods as actual scientists. It is this approach that has endeared her to students, parents and colleagues alike. Mrs. Callery also encourages her students to practice the lessons they learn in the classroom when they go home. She has even helped to sponsor a “Super Saturday” for mathematics and science, during which students led visitors in science discovery experiences.

HONORING JOEY LOMBARDO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joey Lombardo, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joey has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joey Lombardo for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF LT. COLONEL  
ANTHONY T. GRESKI

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Lt. Colonel Anthony Greski, who has earned this year's Lifetime Achievement Award for his service with the United States Air Force. Mr. Greski is a member of my Military Academy Nomination Board and a worthy recipient of this distinguished honor.

Lt. Col. Greski officially joined the Liaison Officer Program in 1970 as an additional duty per the 913th AFRES, Willow Grove ARF Reserve Order 77. Even when he later became a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, he continued assisting the Liaison Officer Program. He was the first Liaison Officer Commander for Southern New Jersey, earning several honors and accolades for his work including “Outstanding LOC” for Region 1 in 1991.

He retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1996; though he has continued serving as an Admissions Liaison Officer through the present. Lt. Col. Greski's LOC area was composed of nine counties, containing over 150 schools. He has continued the area's tradition of holding an annual Falcon Festival honoring new USAFA appointees and AFROTC scholarship winners.

Lt. Col. Greski is now a member of my Academy Nomination Board and serves his community in various ways, such as organizing an overseas delivery of greeting cards made by students at a local elementary school. Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in congratulating this honorable man for his contributions to his community and to our Nation.

HONORING EVAN JOHNSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Evan Johnson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Evan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Evan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Evan Johnson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. RACHEL MILLER AND MR. JOHN ADAMOVICH ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR TWINS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Rachel Miller and Mr. John Adamovich who have just become the proud parents of twins Max and Jake on January 6, 2010. A former constituent, Ms. Miller served New York's 17th District as my energy and environment legislative assistant for many years before going on to work for Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

Both Rachel and John have built careers of service to their country and community: Rachel on Capitol Hill and John as a social worker. They are people of integrity and will make wonderful role models for their two sons. Max and Jake should know how lucky they are to be part of this new family.

As a proud father of three, I can truly say that I knew the best years of my life were ahead of me when we began our family. And I am confident that Rachel and John will experience the same. Raising children is such a rewarding experience, made double for them by the birth of their twins. I am confident that they will be wonderful parents, and I wish them the best for these exciting years to come.

**HONORING BRADLEY NELSON**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradley Nelson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradley has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Bradley has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bradley Nelson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**RECOGNIZING DR. SHELDON RUBIN FOR HIS FOUR DECADES OF CARING FOR AND TREATING THE ANIMALS OF CHICAGOLAND**

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Dr. Sheldon Rubin. This year, Dr. Rubin is retiring from the veterinary profession after

over four decades of caring for and treating the animals of Chicagoland.

Dr. Rubin graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1968, and from there his career accelerated rapidly. He is a member of a vast number of respected professional organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association and the Lincoln Park Zoo Medical Advisory Board. He has served as president of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association and is currently in that same position for the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association and the American Heartworm Association.

Shelly has also shown his dedication to his field through his membership in the Illinois Academy of Veterinary Medicine, an organization that requires 100 hours of continuing education a year. His endless pursuit to be on the forefront of veterinary medicine has earned him a myriad of prestigious awards, including the American Animal Association's Practitioner of the Year Award and a Lifetime Achievement Merit Award from the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association.

In addition to his numerous chairman positions and his Chief of Staff Emeritus at Blum Animal Hospital, Dr. Rubin often appears on local and national radio and television programs to promote responsible pet ownership and help teach Americans how to provide the best care for the fuzzy, furry, feathery and scaly members of our families.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Sheldon Rubin and his extraordinary career and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine.

**HONORING BENNIE RUDOLPH WENZEL III**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bennie Rudolph Wenzel III, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bennie has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Bennie has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bennie Rudolph Wenzel III, for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**HONORING AGUSTIN ROBERTO "BOBBY" SALCEDO**

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tragic loss to our community, Mr.

Agustin Roberto "Bobby" Salcedo, who was senselessly murdered on December 31, 2009, at the young age of 33 while vacationing with his family in the city of Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico. My heart goes out to his wife, Betzy; his brother, Carlos Salcedo; his mother, father and the rest of his family, as well as his students and colleagues in the El Monte City and Union School Districts.

Mr. Salcedo was an extraordinary citizen, a caring and dedicated educator, and a young leader and rising star in the El Monte/South El Monte community. He had dedicated his life to educating and enriching the lives of the youth of the very community he grew up in, serving as a football coach and vice principal at Mountain View High School, his alma mater, where he once was Student Body President.

But Bobby did not stop at being an educator, mentor and friend to his students. A son of immigrant parents, he knew he had potential to become a leader, to chart a better course for his entire community. In 2004, he was elected to the El Monte City School District Board. He was reelected just last November, and was sworn in by his brother Carlos, also a school board member. Those of us who knew him know that this was just the start of what could have been a prodigious political career.

Bobby Salcedo earned his bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Long Beach and later a master's degree in educational administration from Cal State San Bernardino. He was studying for his doctorate in educational leadership at the University of California, Los Angeles when he was tragically gunned down.

Mr. Salcedo was also a founding member of the El Monte Coalition of Latino Professionals, which encourages education, cultural awareness, civic participation and economic development, as well as past President of the South El Monte/Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico Sister City Organization.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Salcedo for his remarkable service and contribution to our community, and in recognizing the deep sorrow and profound loss that his death has caused to our entire community.

**HONORING BEN MILKS**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ben Milks, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ben has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ben has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ben Milks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KEWEENAW PENINSULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce on the organization's 50th anniversary serving Copper Country. Over the course of five decades the Chamber has fostered a vision of bringing communities on the peninsula together to promote the economic development of the entire region.

The Keweenaw Peninsula, the northernmost point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is surrounded by the majestic Lake Superior on three sides, and whether driving, biking, kayaking or snowmobiling the area provides some of the most scenic trails and waterways in the entire Nation. It served as the center of the Upper Peninsula's and the Nation's copper mining industry for generations, earning the region's nickname Copper Country. It is also home to Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, which has been named one of the "Best Buys in Education" by U.S. News and World Report.

The Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1959 when the Houghton Association of Commerce and the Hancock Chamber of Commerce were combined to form the Houghton-Hancock Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of this merger was to advance the civic, educational, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and tourist interests in the areas of Houghton, Hancock, and Portage Lake.

In 1978 the Houghton-Hancock Chamber of Commerce changed its name to the Copper Country Chamber of Commerce. The organization officially took the name of Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce on December 12, 1985. At this time Chambers from Lake Linden, Painesdale, South Range, and Copper Harbor, among others, fused into this single entity. This regional Chamber works to advance the general welfare of Houghton and Keweenaw Counties to ensure its citizens and businesses prosper.

The Chamber is continuing its work to serve the region with an effort to unite with the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance and the Keweenaw Convention and Visitor Bureau to lead Houghton and Keweenaw Counties in the development and enhancement of tourism, economic development, and business related activities.

Madam Speaker, the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has served as a leader in improving civic life and economic development in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Chamber's commitment to both the traditions and to the future of Copper Country serves to benefit all who live in and enjoy the resources and beauty Keweenaw Peninsula has to offer. Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce on its 50th anniversary.

HONORING DELRAN BOYS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the tradition of soccer excellence continues at a high school in the Third District of New Jersey. For the fourth time in six years, the Delran Boys Varsity Soccer Team has captured the NJSIAA State Group 2 Championship. I am also pleased to note that Delran finished their season with an outstanding record of 21-2-2, ranking them as the fifth best team in the state by the New Jersey Star Ledger. Three members of the team, Garrett Erny, Dominic Nocito, and Ali Gocmez were named to the Star Ledger's South Jersey All Star Team.

The coaches who have led the state championship team to victory are head coach Mike Otto and assistant coaches Joe Griffith, Joe Chaccio, Kevin Romanik, and Mati Reinfeldt. They were aided by managers Stephanie Schmidt, Allyson Arroyo, Alyssa Kelly, and Athletic Director Andrew Estrada. These talented young athletes include the following Delran High school students: Captain Garrett Erny, Captain Brad Schmidt, Captain Dominic Nocito, Vincent Carollo, Ali Gocmez, Joseph Hackimer, Donald Irons, Michael Perreira, R.J. Ruff, Steven Smith, Cem Yilmaz, Mark Denny, Justin Dobrin, Richard Evans, Machado Jackson, Kevin Meldrum, Daniel Pak, Michael Reyes, Jared Ruff, Douglas Rocha, Laris Brkic, John Hansberry, Bryan Lodge, Dante Nocito, Bret Sanson, Kevin Sousa, Tyler Wiseman, Dylan Kitley, and Jordan Gale.

I commend the Delran High School Boys Varsity Soccer team on their 2009 State Championship and hope you will join me in wishing each of its members great success.

HONORING WILL QUARLES

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Will Quarles, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Will Quarles for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DANNY AND MILLY MITCHELL OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dan and Milly Mitchell of Plattsburgh, New York on the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Dan and Milly each have been a strong presence in our community, and nearly all of us in Clinton County have learned from them and benefited from their experience at one time or another. Milly has always been a strong presence in Clinton County, and Dan is well known to all of us through his work as a judge and an election commissioner. But, perhaps more than anything else, it is their commitment to one another that is so well known in our community. Dan and Milly's fifty years of marriage are a shining example of what a bond as strong as theirs can achieve, and I commend them on all those special years together.

I know I speak for all of Clinton County in wishing them a happy anniversary on this momentous occasion, and all the best of luck to them and their family in the many years ahead.

HONORING ITASCA ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF GREG McDONALD

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Itasca Fire Protection District Assistant Chief Greg McDonald on the occasion of his retirement. Assistant Chief McDonald recently concluded his loyal service to the community he has been faithfully serving since 1972.

Assistant Chief McDonald first volunteered for the Itasca FPD for 13 years and rose to the rank of captain. Following this period of service he was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1991.

Day in and day out Assistant Chief McDonald led the men and women of the Itasca Fire Protection District as they risked their lives to protect Itasca. His leadership is reflected in their bravery and courage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that it represents.

HONORING KINSEY KIRIAKOS FOR HIS SERVICE TO TENNESSEE'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Kinsey Kiriakos,

who has served as my Communications Director and has helped me to be a better congressman as I represent the people of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

While Kinsey grew up in southern California and far from the rolling hills of Tennessee, he quickly proved himself to be an ambitious and creative addition to the staff, with a clear passion for politics that rivals only his passion for the Los Angeles Dodgers. One of Kinsey's first tasks in the office was revamping my congressional Web site, and he put in long hours to get the job done well. His hard work and dedication on that project has made my Web site a more effective tool for communicating with my constituents.

Prior to joining my staff, Kinsey worked for Rep. BRAD SHERMAN and Sen. EVAN BAYH. Now, he is moving on to the next phase of his career. Kinsey departed my office on Friday for a new job as the Communications Director for the Joint Economic Committee, and I know he looks forward to being involved in efforts to get our nation's economy back on track. His experience with both the House and Senate, and his easy rapport with reporters will serve him well in this new position.

Madam Speaker, my staff and I have enjoyed having Kinsey with us over the last year, and we wish him all the best in his new position. He is young and talented, and I look forward to watching his professional skills continue to grow.

HONORING MRS. SUZANNE M. PILON FOR BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING AWARD

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Suzanne M. Pilon of Hilton, New York for being awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

A first and second grade science and mathematics teacher at Quest Elementary School in Hilton, Suzanne has been teaching at the Hilton Central School District for the past 14 years.

Known for her strong motivational skills, Suzanne also serves as a Teacher Leader for the Investigating Science program, is a Child Study Team Grade Level Leader, a Technology Committee Representative, an Administrative Team member, and a Parent-Teacher-Student Organization Team Representative.

Suzanne offers a daily science workshop to her students and tries to weave science into as many other subjects as she can. She continues to pursue many professional development activities and has previously been recognized as the District Teacher of the Year for Quest School of Choice.

Suzanne is an exceptional educator and Western New York is fortunate to have her teaching in our community. I'd like to once again congratulate Suzanne on this wonderful

accomplishment and thank her for her dedication to our nation's youth.

HONORING THE NEBRASKA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I rise to honor the Nebraska Firefighters Museum and Education Center in Kearney, Nebraska. In addition, I also want to thank Lindsay Schlutz and Wayne Olson for their energy, dedication and hard work in making the museum a reality.

The museum covers Nebraska's firefighting history from 1856 to the present and its exhibits feature restored fire trucks, uniforms, breathing equipment, fire extinguishers and other various firefighting implements.

Additionally, I'm proud to note a portion of the museum is dedicated to fire prevention education and features interactive exhibits targeted to school-age children.

Opened on August 14, 2009, the museum has seen more than 3000 visitors with many more expected to tour the facilities in the coming months. Later this year, construction will begin on a memorial garden featuring several granite tablets with the engraved names of Nebraska firefighters who have dedicated their lives and safety to protecting their communities.

It has been a great honor of mine to work with Nebraska's firefighters and other emergency personnel. The Nebraska Firefighters Museum is a reminder of the sacrifices and dedication these brave men and women make to our state.

HONORING DAVID M. BISSONETTE, EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR THE TOWN OF CLARENCE, NEW YORK

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I recognize Mr. David M. Bissonette, Emergency Coordinator for the town of Clarence, New York, for his dedicated service to the community, specifically his efforts on the evening of February 12, 2009.

On the evening of February 12, 2009, Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed into a home in the town of Clarence. Under the coordination of David, emergency personnel from throughout Western New York responded quickly to the scene of the accident and immediately went into action.

A fulltime safety professional for more than 30 years, David's experience and professionalism in handling incident coordination allowed emergency personnel to arrive on scene in a matter of minutes, as well as enabling residents living in homes near the crash site the ability to quickly move to safety.

A 27-year member of the Clarence Volunteer Fire Department, David served in various

leadership positions including Chief and Assistant Chief. Over his 17 years as Emergency Coordinator for the town of Clarence, David has been responsible for providing emergency support and guidance on a number of large emergencies including chemical releases, extremely heavy snow storms, a chemical plant explosion and fire, long term power outages and sadly, because of the events on February 12, 2009, a tragic plane crash.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to extend my appreciation to David Bissonette for his dedication to the town of Clarence, and for his actions on the evening of February 12, 2009, and the days following.

BANKRUPTCY NOT BAILOUTS

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, Americans have one word for Congress when it comes to more bailouts: "No!" Taxpayers want to hold accountable those who wrecked American companies and our economy—not give them new, federal checking accounts.

The Obama administration does not get the message. What was its Christmas "present" for taxpayers? A Christmas Eve gift of unlimited bailout billions to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

House Democrats don't get the message either. Just before Christmas, they rammed through a partisan financial "reform" bill to institutionalize bailouts—not bury them.

There is a common thread in the Democratic gift-giving. It is Chicago-style patronage politics, rung up by the billions. Fannie and Freddie's patrons gladly drain taxpayer coffers to preserve these tools of liberal social policy. Meanwhile, as the latest academic study shows, politically connected banks get the most bailouts. Little does it matter that these were the institutions that brought us to the edge of ruin.

Republicans and the American people have a better solution. Send the institutions that have failed us to bankruptcy. There, accountability will carry the day—not patronage politics.

REPORTED WALL STREET BANK BONUSES

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I come from Missouri—the Show-Me State—where people conduct their lives with a sensible skepticism and a great devotion to common sense and patriotism.

Missourians pride themselves in being straight shooters. They work hard and play by the rules. They look at issues with a pragmatism that more Americans should possess. They, like I, have been angered by the greedy behavior of Wall Street tycoons who helped get our country into its current economic mess.

Their anger is amplified when they hear news stories, as all Americans have in the

past few days, about how some of Wall Street's biggest banks are planning to give millions of dollars in bonuses. I am outraged by this. I have to ask myself, "Where is the common sense of these Wall Street bankers? Where is their patriotism? Where is their shared sense of sacrifice?"

I grew up during World War II. When this Nation was in trouble then, all Americans stood together; all Americans made sacrifices—the working men and women of this country and the barons of industry. This current crowd on Wall Street just doesn't seem to get that. And that is a shame.

It was important for the government to help save the American financial system from ruin. It was close to going off a desperately high cliff in the autumn of 2008. That would have been devastating for the Missouri families I represent. Was I angered that the government had to take emergency action? You bet I was—as were the folks in whose shoes I stand each day in Washington.

Action was needed in large part because Wall Street tycoons had gambled with risky mortgage backed securities and because the government was not shining its regulatory light fully on these risky investments. And, many Wall Street firms rewarded employees with exuberant pay packages based on get-rich-quick financial transactions.

In February 2009, Congress directed Treasury to review and set strict guidelines on executive compensation at financial institutions receiving assistance under the 2008 Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. Treasury has been doing that under the direction of Kenneth Feinberg, who runs the Office of the Special Master on executive compensation at the department.

I am saddened that Congress would have to create a special office to help this greedy bunch find their moral compass. And, I am even more saddened that Wall Street banks would continue to think it appropriate to cut enormous bonus checks when so many American families are out of work and many others are very deeply concerned about their economic future. Can't the Wall Street crowd see how their pay schemes are interpreted in middle America? Can't they understand that their profits are occurring because the American people made serious sacrifices to right the Nation's economic ship?

I am not yet convinced that the Treasury Secretary, the Federal Reserve Chairman, or the President have worked hard enough to press this compensation issue with the Wall Street community. That is why Congress has been working on several bills to establish more sensible policies in this area and in financial regulation more broadly.

I fully realize that American companies must retain good workers to be competitive in the global marketplace and it takes pay to do that, but I am angered that executives at firms that received federal taxpayer assistance do not possess the common sense to share in the sacrifices being made by the American people during this tough economic climate. I urge them to take a step back and to reconsider their actions.

HONORING ROBERT AMMON FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CORFU FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to Mr. Robert Ammon for his 50 years of service as a member of the Corfu Fire Department in the village of Corfu, New York.

Over his five decades of service with the Department, Bob has held numerous leadership positions with the volunteer Department, including President, Vice-President, Trustee, Chairman of Carnivals and Parade Chairman.

In addition to his various official leadership roles, Bob has also been instrumental in numerous other community and fundraising events, including raising funds for the original building that housed the Corfu Fire Department and also for finalizing the sale of the Department's current facility.

Bob is a true hero who has risked his life countless times over the course of his service to the department and community. The village of Corfu is fortunate to have the Corfu Fire Department serving the community, and to have had Bob as part of the department for the last 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing Bob Ammon's 50 years of dedicated service to the community.

### HONORING RUTH ARDEN

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruth Arden, the longtime Executive Director of St. Paul's Community Center. Ruth was a passionate advocate for the homeless, the impoverished, and for the welfare of the entire Toledo community. She first became involved with the center in 1975, when, as the outreach director for St. Paul's United Methodist Church, she took on the role of the center's first director. Although the job was initially supposed to have been temporary, Ruth's innate kindness, combined with the state of Ohio's decision to close mental hospitals, meant that her stay at the center turned out to be much longer than expected. Those discharged from the hospitals "hovered into the doorways" at the center, noted St. Paul's co-director Marcia Langenderfer, and in the face of such pressing need, Ruth simply could not turn people away.

Over the next 34 years, Ruth transformed St. Paul's from a small operation in a church basement into a \$1.2 million organization that served 100,000 meals annually and supervised 12 transitional apartments as well as a 30-bed homeless shelter. "I think she would have worked forever," Ms. Langenderfer said, adding that Ruth "was very strong-willed and always determined to help this population."

Yet Ruth's desire to make this world a better place was not limited to those whom she

served at St. Paul's. An enthusiastic art lover, she participated in the Toledo Museum of Art's Children's Program and, from 2003 to 2007, served on the board of the Toledo Artists' Club. Additionally, Ruth belonged to the Rotary Club of Toledo and was on the board of the Coalition for Housing and Homelessness in Ohio from 1983 to 2003. In 1991, Inc. Magazine named her a finalist for the publication's prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year award.

I first met Ruth in 1983, and was floored by the way in which this remarkable woman seized every opportunity to remind others to be both grateful and kind. "We would go to church," her daughter Kimberly Arden Chandler recalled, "and on the way home, she would drive us through neighborhoods where people didn't have as much as we did and told us how lucky we were." It was a valuable lesson for Kimberly and her two siblings, and Ruth dedicated her life to teaching it to everyone she encountered. Yet she never asked for praise. She helped others not for her own self-satisfaction or for recognition from the community, but because it was simply the fair and noble thing to do. The size and success of St. Paul's Community Center is a shining testament to her perseverance, her zeal, and her overwhelming compassion. Ruth amazed me as a freshman Congresswoman, and her achievements continue to amaze me still. It is only right that she should now receive America's wholehearted gratitude and appreciation for her outstanding accomplishments and extraordinary life.

Ruth will be greatly missed in Toledo: she grew up there, raised her children there, and spent decades working to improve her hometown. A graduate of Waite High School, the University of Toledo, and Baldwin-Wallace College, Ruth was preceded in death by her son, Kris Kontak. We offer our heartfelt condolences to her daughters, Kimberly Arden Chandler and Karen Kontak; son, K. Reynold Kontak; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her dear friend Jim Gottron.

I know that Ruth's family and friends are deeply comforted by the legacy she left behind and the memories they share. She helped so many people over the course of her rich and full life, and her efforts are ones for which all of us are profoundly grateful. May she be blessed with a restful peace, and may we always remember the life and good deeds of Ruth Arden.

Her achievements on behalf of our community benefited others too often forgotten in our technologically pigeonholed society. She painstakingly bestowed on our community a lasting endowment of vision and institutional capacity to serve the homeless and forgotten in the heart of Toledo. Indeed, Ruth gave this community heart. What was even more amazing was that she was of a position in life where this pursuit was not necessary to her existence. Her conscience and spiritual mission impacted thousands of people for the better. Her life stands as a bright star whose light points the path for those wise enough to follow its gleam.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD  
T. WAX

**HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness by the passing away of a native Mississippian, Mr. Richard T. Wax. Mr. Wax, 83, died Monday, January 4, 2010, at his home.

Mr. Wax was President of the Wax Company, founded in 1898 by N.T. Wax. The Wax Company was built on the foundation of serving Mississippi farmers. Mr. Wax joined the company in 1948. He was elected President in 1972 and spent over 50 years of service to the Mississippi agricultural industry. Mr. Wax was also former president of the Southern Seedsmen's Association, the Southern Field Seed Council and was appointed by the American Seed Trade Association to the Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association.

Mr. Wax was a devoted husband to Lewellen, and father to Barry, John, and Terry. Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I along with the citizens of Amory, Mississippi, sadly mourn the death of such an inspirational Mississippian. I want to personally thank him for his contributions. His memory will live on.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JON AND  
CRYSTAL TAETS

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jon Taets, my legislative director, and his wife, Crystal, on the birth of their second child. On Sunday, January 10, 2010 Jon and Crystal welcomed John Patrick "Jack" Taets to their family. Little Jack was named in honor of Jon's late grandfather, Jack Gillespie.

At birth, Jack Taets weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and measured 20 inches long, and will be welcomed home by his older sister, Elizabeth.

COMMENDING ZACH BONNER

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zach Bonner, one of my young constituents whose humanitarian work has earned him the Most Inspiring Person of the Year award from Beliefnet.com.

Zach created a charitable enterprise, the Little Red Wagon Foundation, when he was eight years old to help children in need. Zach has been doing humanitarian work since he was just six years old, handing out water from his red wagon after a hurricane. He has raised money to help provide meals to needy families during the holidays and has donated needed school supplies to children from lower-income families.

Zach recently began a walk across America to raise awareness about the problem of youth homelessness in our country. Zach will be walking 2,225 miles to raise money to help homeless kids. He previously walked nearly 1,000 miles from Tampa to Washington D.C. for the same purpose. If he successfully completes his walk across the country—and I do not doubt that he will—Zach will become the youngest person to do so.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such a fine young man who has dedicated himself to helping underprivileged children. It inspires me that he has done so when he is only twelve years old himself. His age certainly belies his maturity. I want to commend this fine young man to all of our colleagues and hold him as an example of the good that can be done by one dedicated individual.

HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 623  
OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN ON  
ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Boy Scout Troop 623 of Southwest Michigan, on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. Boy Scout Troop 623 is among the oldest in the nation with the earliest records reporting a December 1919 founding, only three years after Congress chartered the national organization.

While the United States is home to many accomplished and dedicated Boy Scout Troops, Troop 623 remains among the most distinguished. The Troop has weathered several difficulties including a 1931 fire that destroyed their camp on Lake Madron. The camp was rebuilt during difficult economic times and has thrived ever since. Camp Madron is still among the finest Scout camps in the United States.

In the summer of 1961, Boy Scout Troop 623 became the first troop from West Michigan to serve as the Governor's Honor Guard and Ft. Mackinac guides when they took the first of their annual weeklong trips to Mackinac Island. The summer of 2010 will mark the 49th consecutive trip the troop has taken, making Troop 623 the longest serving troop in the state. This trip is the highlight of a scout's career.

Scouting is a tremendously rewarding activity, something which I have learned firsthand from my time as a Troop 623 Scout. For the hundreds of former members of Troop 623, their experiences with Scouting have equipped them to become responsible citizens and leaders in the communities that they now call home. The values learned as a Scout are irreplaceable, and the lives of those who have Scouting training bear tribute to their training.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
ALTERNATIVEPRESS.COM

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The AlternativePress.com as it celebrates its one-year anniversary.

The AlternativePress.com was launched in October 2008 and currently serves as New Jersey's all-online alternative to local print newspapers.

In my congressional district, The AlternativePress.com serves residents in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Summit and Westfield and features a wide array of news and information, from video streaming of local high school sports events to real estate listings and restaurant reviews, to objective local, regional and state news.

The AlternativePress.com is led by lifelong New Jersey resident and Rutgers University graduate Michael M. Shapiro, who serves as the outlet's chief executive officer and editor.

I would like to congratulate Michael Shapiro and the entire AlternativePress.com team as it celebrates its one-year anniversary. I commend the whole team for its tremendous service to the public.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER FORT  
WORTH MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
JR. HOLIDAY COMMITTEE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Greater Fort Worth Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee, for its work on promoting and honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Since 1985, the Committee has held a Scholarship Awards Banquet, as well as a Fort Worth March/Parade, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

This organization is one of the oldest in our country that has a commitment to promoting the legacy of one of our nation's greatest civil rights leaders. In fact, the first Fort Worth Parade honoring Dr. King was held one year before the national holiday was observed.

This year, the Committee has several activities planned around the holiday, including a Scholarship Banquet, a Gospel/Jazz Social, and a Parade and High School Band Exhibition. All events are scheduled to be held during the weekend of Saturday, January 16, through Monday, January 18, 2010.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and recognize the Greater Fort Worth Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee for their commitment to upholding the legacy of Dr. King. I am proud to represent this charitable organization and the City of Fort Worth in the United States House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO ART PRICE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS 28 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Arthur Price for his 28 years of service.

Art Price was born in Escondido, California, October 13, 1951 to Arthur and Betty Price. He graduated from Ramona High School in 1969, then Grossmont Jr. College and California State University, Sacramento—earning a B.A. in Criminal Justice.

Art met Kathryn Price and was married on August 18, 1974. He graduated from P.O.S.T. in 1980 and was hired as a District Attorney Investigator for the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. On June 15, 1981, he was hired as the Chief Investigator for the Amador County District Attorney's Office, and has faithfully served five District Attorney Administrations as Chief Investigator since then.

Art played a key role in assisting the District Attorney in receiving the Auto Insurance Fraud, Workers' Compensation Fraud, and Elder Abuse grant programs, and Art's influence was critical in forging an alliance between the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Services to combat welfare fraud in our community.

In 2002, Art was recognized by his peers as the Amador County Peace Officer of the Year. At the time of his retirement, Art was the longest serving District Attorney Chief Investigator in the State of California, recognized statewide as a leader in law enforcement. Art has also been active in the state law enforcement community through his work with the California District Attorney Investigator's Association, serving as president in 1999–2000.

Art's greatest legacy is his service to the community, having served as soccer coach, President of the Mother Lode Youth Soccer League, fundraiser for the Amador Polar Bears swim team and the Amador High School Volleyball team, Project Leader for the Sierra Eagles 4–H, Food Chairman for Sober Grad, member of the Jackson Lions and other positions for worthy causes.

Art is a devoted family man and father to five children—Arthur, Janice, Cheryl, Victoria, and John—and grandfather to four—Arthur, Kaitlyn, Timothy, and David.

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Art Price for his dedication towards the District Attorney's Office, local law enforcement, and the citizens of Amador County.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DAVID R. NORDEL OUTSTANDING SERVICE AT FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Chief Master Sergeant David R. Nordel for his outstanding service while stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base.

Chief Nordel was assigned to serve as Chief Master Sergeant of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington in July 2008. He serves as the senior enlisted advisor to five group commanders and 16 squadron commanders concerning the force management and combat readiness of over 1,900 Airmen.

During his time at Fairchild Air Force Base, he has improved the overall well-being and morale of Airmen. Chief Nordel has worked hard for the Airmen at Fairchild by holding the first-ever Single Airman's Summit. In addition, he played a key roll in working with the Department of Defense and Congress to secure funding for a physical training center which will improve quality of life for installation's Airmen and provides a means to repair a snow damaged structure. Finally, Chief Nordel has helped pave the way for a successful BRAC mandated Total Force Integration initiatives between the 92nd Air Refueling Wing and the 141st Washington Air National Guard.

Madam Speaker, Chief Master Sergeant David R. Nordel's selfless dedication to his country is honorable and worthy of recognition. I thank Chief Nordel, his wife Pat, and their two children Dave and Dominic. They are a true Air Force Family and I salute the entire family for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation. I wish Chief Nordel and his family great success as they continue their Air Force journey. They will all truly be missed at Fairchild Air Force Base.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANITA THETFORD

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Anita Thetford of Hurst, Texas. After twenty-nine years of dedicated service, she will be retiring from her current post for the City of Hurst.

Anita has devoted her time to the City of Hurst since December 1980, and has since held designations as Certified Governmental Finance Officer and Registered Tax Assessor and Collector. For the past 19 years, she has served her community as the Director of Finance and has provided expert guidance in the financial arena during her tenure. Under her leadership, the City of Hurst has earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 19 consecutive years and is one of only five cities in the United States and Canada to receive a rating of "Especially Notable" in three budget award categories for a single year.

Anita's efforts are known to have maintained the City of Hurst's financial ratings, earned lower bond interests ratings and reduced property tax rates. This has bolstered Hurst's growth of new and existing businesses.

Anita graduated cum laude from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has also earned her Associates degree through Tarrant County Community College. Currently, Anita is completing a Master of Arts in Christian Education and Childhood Ministry from Dallas Baptist University.

Anita has been a member of the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas for the past 27 years. She has served the association as President, Board Newsletter Committee Liaison, Ethics Committee member, Texas Municipal League Board Representative, North Texas Representative, and Newsletter Committee Chair. She also received the prestigious Outstanding Service Award and was recognized as Outstanding Finance Officer in 1998.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford, she has served as the Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She was also awarded the Outstanding Service award for this organization in 1999 and was named Rotarian of the year during 2005–2006.

Anita has received many awards based on her knowledge, merit, commitment and integrity as a public servant and humanitarian.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and recognize Anita Thetford for her years of dedication and selfless service to the City of Hurst. I am proud to represent her and the City of Hurst in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING JIMMIE JENKINS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary public service of Jimmie Jenkins, whose leadership and contributions in the field of wastewater management made him a vital resource to local governments in Northern Virginia and across the nation.

Jimmie Jenkins is retiring as director of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, capping a 33-year career in which he helped shaped the county's building, environmental and inspection services. This actually is the second time Jimmie has retired from Fairfax County. He originally retired in 2001 from the county's wastewater division, but he returned in 2004 to oversee the entire public works agency.

I had the great pleasure of working with Jimmie during my 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including 5 as chairman. When retirement notices would come before the board, my colleagues and I often would say in good humor that someone should pass a law prohibiting such decisions because we could not bear to part with such dedicated and talented people. We actually succeeded in Jimmie's case by luring him out of retirement once, but it looks like he is serious this time.

Jimmie built a reputation in Fairfax as a charismatic "can do" manager, known for his direct "tell-it-like-it-is" style and his unabashed support for his alma mater, Virginia Tech, as evidenced by his large collection of maroon and orange ties. Jimmie began his career in the former Department of Environmental Management in 1973 as a structural engineer, reviewing plans for compliance with the building code. He has held several positions within the wastewater management area, including the

director of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the position of director of the Systems Engineering and Monitoring Division, from which he retired in 2001. After returning to Fairfax County in 2004, Jimmie successfully steered the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services with his extensive institutional knowledge.

During my tenure as chairman of the county board, Jimmie was instrumental in advancing major initiatives to establish Green building standards and expand storm water management efforts. We dedicated the value of one penny on the local tax rate to address critical needs, including stream and dam restoration, rehabilitation of our aging infrastructure and master planning of our 30 watersheds to protect them for future generations. Jimmie also played a major role in laying the foundation for implementing the board's bold 20-year Environmental Vision.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the many accomplishments of Jimmie Jenkins as he brings his distinguished career with Fairfax County to an end. The efforts of Jimmie and those who work with him largely happen behind the scenes, but the tangible benefits can be seen throughout our community on a daily basis, from the sophisticated treatment of wastewater to the more frequent use of low impact development practices to the improving health of the stream near your home. I am proud to have worked with Jimmie and thankful that our community will benefit from his contributions for years to come.

HONORING MINNESOTA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUCCESS AT WEATHERIZING HOMES

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the many workers and contractors who are part of Minnesota Community Action Partnership weatherization programs. Minnesota is being honored this week by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of the top five States in the country for its work utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to weatherize homes.

The installation of blower doors, energy efficient water heaters and furnaces, improved insulation, and energy efficient windows is vital work that saves energy, saves money, and helps low-income households. During the last year, Minnesota Community Action Partnership organizations have used American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to help weatherize an additional 17,000 homes. These investments are saving families an average of \$350 in energy costs this year and keeping them warm during Minnesota's coldest months.

I have seen the benefits of this work firsthand through the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties, CAPRW, which serves a majority of my constituents. Under the guidance of Executive Director Clarence Hightower, CAPRW has been able to serve over 200,000 low-income households each year, and over the past 30 years

has completed energy improvements on over 13,000 homes. CAPRW invested funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand the number of homes weatherized in our community by more than three times. As a result, the community benefited from new jobs, a cleaner environment, and lower energy costs for working class families.

These Recovery Act investments are strengthening our community by allowing Community Action Agencies to build on the legacy begun in 1964 as part of President Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act, which served as a major step in the war on poverty. Today, Community Action Agencies continue to provide a wide variety of services to those living in poverty. In addition to weatherization efforts, local agencies also offer energy assistance, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, training programs for job training, financial literacy, and education, as well as senior nutrition programs. These efforts build stronger communities by providing opportunities for families to work towards economic independence.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the recognition by the U.S. Department of Energy of Minnesota's Weatherization Programs as one of the top in the Nation, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing this achievement and the hard work and dedication of our Community Action Agencies in fighting poverty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, the House electronic voting system recorded the insertion and removal of my voting card for rollcall vote No. 977, on motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1472, the Human Rights Enforcement Act of 2009.

However, it did not record my vote of "aye" on this bill.

I have long been a fervent advocate for human rights and want to ensure the recording of my support for this important measure.

IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM SANCTIONS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act offers the Iranian regime a clear choice; either Iran can discontinue its nuclear weapons program or the Iranian economy will be severely disrupted by these tough new economic sanctions. As we have seen over recent months, the Iranian regime has proven to be openly and appallingly despotic. After falsifying election results, the Iranian leadership crushed the political opposition with brutal violence which was broadcast to every corner of the world. We have seen what this regime is capable of, and these

tyrannical leaders cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons. Now, as this brutal regime comes ever closer to the development of a nuclear weapon the international community, acting through the United Nations Security Council, must use sanctions to pressure Iran to stop their nuclear program. This is in the self-interest of all the permanent members of the Security Council. The stability of the entire region would be threatened if Iran were to develop a nuclear weapon as other leaders would certainly decide that a nuclear Iran on their doorstep would necessitate a nuclear program of their own. Iran has been given until the end of this year by President Obama to negotiate in good faith. The clock is ticking down, and when we reach midnight on December 31st, billions around the world will celebrate the dawning of a new year. For the brutal Iranian regime, it will mean that their window of opportunity has slammed shut. They will have sealed their fate. Either they will have joined the nations of the world to create a more peaceful 21st century, or they will be facing the political and economic consequences of their own actions.

HONORING THE 2009 CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor three principals from public schools in my district: Ms. Debra Lane of Rolling Valley Elementary School; Mr. Sal Rivera of Flint Hill Elementary; and Mr. Dwayne Young of Centreville Elementary School. These principals have shown a remarkable commitment to environmental education, actively incorporating it into their own curricula and seeking to promote it across Fairfax County. All three have increased outdoor learning opportunities for students and teachers in their schools and were instrumental in establishing a teacher professional development program focusing on the Chesapeake Bay for Fairfax principals and teachers.

They are helping to teach children new ways to engage academically and behaviorally, while fostering a stronger sense of community and connectedness to their surroundings. Through their efforts they have increased environmental awareness and promoted stewardship in younger generations, benefiting the Chesapeake Bay by educating about the dangerous effects of pollution.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation recognized their dedication by naming them 2009 Environmental Educators of the Year. This annual award, dating back more than a decade, recognizes individuals in the field of education within the Chesapeake Bay watershed who have contributed significantly to our understanding of the Bay ecosystem through an academic program.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and my constituents, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Lane, Mr. Rivera, and Mr. Young for this recognition and thanking them for their service.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
JOANN C. TADLOCK

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the wonderful people of the third district of North Carolina, which includes hundreds of military families and civilians that work for our military.

Today, I would like to honor one such civilian—Mrs. Joann C. Tadlock will retire from the Naval Air Systems Command, Fleet Readiness Center East, Cherry Point, North Carolina on February 3, 2010.

Mrs. Tadlock's distinguished government career spans over 31 years, a career that is full of achievements and accolades that greatly reflect upon her and upon the organizations with which she has served.

In April of 1978, Mrs. Tadlock began her Federal career as a Clerk for the Department of the Interior, holding progressively responsible administrative positions within the Department of the Interior and the Naval Air Systems Command.

Mrs. Tadlock returned to school and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and became a Personnel Management and Equal Employment Opportunity Intern.

Mrs. Tadlock subsequently served as the principal classifier for the Human Resources Office, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and has most recently served as Total Force leader and Navy's Multi-Trade expert in supporting the Fleet's best interests.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of Mrs. Joann Tadlock and I thank her on her many years of service to our great Nation and our military. Her contributions to the Department of Navy will be missed as she moves forward to new and exciting opportunities.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Joann Tadlock on such an extraordinary career.

Mrs. Tadlock epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that make our Federal Government a model all over the world.

God bless Joann, all of our troops, and may God continue to bless America.

TRIBUTE TO THE USASOC

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, USASOC, which celebrates 20 years of service to the Army and Nation. Having been at war for over one-third of that time, the men and women of USASOC continue to make great contributions worldwide with an operations tempo that has never been greater. Operating with a strong roadmap for development, USASOC remains committed to maintaining the world's finest ground special operations force. USASOC's personnel take quiet professional pride in executing each mission with excellence, honor and valor.

Since its inception on December 1, 1989, the pace of USASOC's operations has been

extraordinary; operating around the world, often behind-the-lines, in some of the most remote and hostile regions on the planet. The command's operations and range of military contributions reads like a travel guide to America's foreign policy; Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Rwanda, Haiti, the Philippines, Somalia, Columbia, Afghanistan and Iraq—to name just a few.

At more than 27,000 personnel, USASOC is only 5 percent of the U.S. Army. However, USASOC is the largest of the service components that make up U.S. Special Operations Command, USSOCOM, and provides approximately 70 percent of the special operations personnel in Central Command's theater and approximately 63 percent of America's total overseas military commitments. USASOC provides trained and ready Army special operations forces to support the Geographic Combatant Commanders, GCC, the Theater Special Operations Commands, TSOC, and Ambassadors throughout the world.

Today the operations tempo for Army Special Operations has never been greater, and is unlikely to decrease in the near future. USASOC currently has soldiers deployed on 103 missions in 56 countries around the world, and is operating across the spectrum of lethality and influence. On any given day elements of 3 of the 5 active duty Special Forces groups, units from the 2 National Guard Special Forces Groups, 1 ranger battalion, some 36 special operations aircraft, and more than 35 civil affairs teams and 35 Psychological Operations Teams and Sustainment Brigade logistics units are deployed around the world.

Currently 222 of the Army's 228 CONUS-based Special Forces operational detachments "A", ODA, are committed to supporting operations worldwide, either deployed or preparing for deployment. USASOC's ability to manage the high operations tempo is directly attributable to the caliber of its personnel, currently the best the Nation has ever seen and at the heart of Army Special Operations' extraordinary capabilities.

That range of skills within USASOC is embraced by a spectrum of Army unconventional units, with legendary bloodlines running back to Roger's Rangers, the Devil's Brigade and the OSS, among others. The seven principle units that make up today's USASOC include the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, U.S. Army Special Forces Command, 75th Ranger Regiment, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, 4th Psychological Operations Group, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, and the 528th Sustainment Brigade.

President Barack Obama has stated in his agenda for defense, "We must build up our special operations forces, civil affairs, information operations and other units and capabilities." The demand for special operations personnel, skills and training remain high. Faced with often desperate, unconventional enemies our approaches for defeating them involve unwavering commitment combined with unique unconventional skills.

That range of USASOC's expertise ensures the Army's special operations forces can execute the most lethal, highly complex and sensitive special operations, wage unconventional warfare, conduct high risk helicopter operations, or prosecute civil military and influence operations.

Few commands can match USASOC's contributions over the past two decades, its count-

less mission most often quietly executed and unheralded. For those in today's USASOC, the pace is fast, the challenges great, and morale and job satisfaction have seldom been greater. The command's motto, "Without Equal", captures the spirit of its personnel and their commitment to maintaining the world's finest ground special operations force.

The command's missions, however, have not come without a sizable cost in lives lost. In the eight years since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, 244 of USASOC's personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their names are cast in bronze on a wall in USASOC's Memorial Plaza at Fort Bragg, NC.

In summary, the performance and contributions of Army Special Operations Forces in the Central Command theater of operations and around the world have been nothing short of magnificent. Whether in the combat theaters, Iraq and Afghanistan, the Philippines, Trans-Sahara Africa or wherever friends and partners find themselves challenged by the forces of disintegration, oppression and extremism, Army Special Operators from across the Command's formations are unquestionably among America's most relevant answer to the threats our Nation faces.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command is honored to play its role within the finest, most capable Army and Joint Special Operations Force ever to serve our great Country. May God bless them all.

BRIAN J. HAUG IS PROMOTED TO  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian J. Haug on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Haug earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, AFROTC, program at Southeast Missouri State University. He began his Air Force career as a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile crew commander/instructor at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming. There, he was responsible to national command authorities for the positive control, operation, and security of 50 ICBMs maintained on constant 24-hour nuclear alert status.

From 1999 to 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Haug was the assistant professor of aerospace studies and commandant of cadets for the AFROTC program at the University of Southern California. Lieutenant Colonel Haug was directly responsible for the selection, education, and professional development of Air Force officer candidates. His comprehensive unit program developments earned him "Education Officer of the Year" distinction for the AFROTC Southwest Region, which includes thirty-two major colleges and universities.

In September 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Haug joined the "Schreiber Team" as a member of the 2d Space Operations Squadron at Schreiber AFB, Colorado. As a global positioning system crew commander, he captured back-to-back "Crew of the Quarter" titles before assuming command of the operations

support flight. In January 2004, he was hand-selected to serve on the 50th Space Wing's staff as deputy inspector general where he developed a detailed compliance inspection program to enhance operational warfighting readiness.

In 2005, Lieutenant Colonel Haug was requested to be the chief, GPS Operations Branch at the Pentagon. In this assignment, he was responsible for the GPS and nuclear detection system future year defense program funding, which helped define current and future space-based navigation systems requirements. In 2007, Lieutenant Colonel Haug was selected to the Air Force Legislative Fellowship program where he served in my office as an advisor on military and veteran issues.

Lieutenant Colonel Haug was tasked to the Air Force Global Strike Command, provisional staff in January 2009. As deputy director of plans & programs, he was instrumental in establishing the programmatic framework for the Air Force's first new major command in 27 years. Today, Lieutenant Colonel Haug is the chief, Space Force Programming Branch, Space Superiority and Global Integrated Intelligence, under the deputy chief of staff, Strategic Plans and Programs at the Pentagon. In this job, he evaluates, analyzes, and integrates space capability requirements, while providing resource prioritization recommendations for the Air Force space portfolio to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Brian J. Haug for his promotion in the United States Air Force. Lieutenant Colonel Haug has been an asset not only to the United States Air Force but to the people of Washington State, and it has been an honor and privileged to work with him. I wish him great success as he continues his Air Force journey.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT  
RICK SMIEDENDORF

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Rick Smiedendorf of the St. Joseph Police Department who is retiring after 31 years of outstanding service. Sergeant Smiedendorf has had a deep and lasting impact on the St. Joseph community, especially in his work with young people.

A native of Niles, Michigan, Sergeant Smiedendorf is a graduate of Western Michigan University and began his career in St. Joseph in 1979. Rick was a tireless advocate in the area of crime prevention. He started a number of programs in the department, including the Crime Prevention Unit, the Neighborhood Watch program, the Dedicated Officer Program in the elementary schools, and the Community Child Watch. Generations of children knew him as Officer Rick, or Sergeant Rick, or McGruff the Crime Dog.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Rick connected prevention and law enforcement programs to the residents of Southwest Michigan. He helped organize the local National Night Out program, and the Community Emergency Response Team. He was named Officer of

Year twice by the Benton Harbor St. Joseph Exchange Club, and was recently named Outstanding Crime Prevention Practitioner of the Year by the West Michigan Crime Prevention Association.

Southwest Michigan is very fortunate Rick Smiedendorf stayed close to home. Thousands of people have been impacted by his hard work and commitment to crime prevention and keeping the public safe. I salute his efforts and thank him for his service in my hometown of St. Joseph. I wish Sergeant Rick all the best in the future.

H.R. 3590, THE SERVICE MEMBERS  
HOME OWNERSHIP TAX ACT

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on August 17, 2009, I became a cosponsor of H.R. 3590, the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act. This legislation, which passed the House of Representatives on October 8, 2009, by a vote of 416 to 0, was designed to make certain changes in the tax code to assist members of the military in becoming homeowners. Thankfully, the legal changes envisioned in H.R. 3590 were included in a different bill to extend the first-time homebuyer tax credit that received bipartisan support and was signed into law by the President.

After the military tax issue was resolved, the Senate Majority Leader used H.R. 3590 as the legislative vehicle to pass health care reform. On December 23, 2009, the Senate adopted a manager's amendment to H.R. 3590 which removed the provisions of the bill as it passed the House and replaced them with provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The amendment also changed the title of the bill.

A public search of legislation I have cosponsored in the 111th Congress shows that I am a cosponsor of the original H.R. 3590. I take this opportunity to clarify that I cosponsored and voted for the Service Members Home Ownership Tax Act, not the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

HONORING VERDIA L. HAYWOOD  
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of the finest public servants in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia's history for a 32-year career in which he shepherded regional efforts to provide for the basic needs of children and families throughout our community.

Verdia L. Haywood will retire Jan. 19, 2010, from his role as deputy county executive for human services, but his legacy—in terms of services, mentoring and partnerships—will endure. I had the great pleasure of working with Verdia during my 14 years of service on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including

five years as chairman. When retirement notices would come before the board, my colleagues and I often would say in good humor that someone should pass a law prohibiting such decisions because we could not bear to part with such dedicated and talented people, and that certainly is the case here.

Verdia began his career in Fairfax in 1978 as Executive Assistant to the County Executive, which made him the primary liaison between the county executive's office and the Board of Supervisors. He soon began working with the county's human services agencies and in 1981 was appointed to his current position as deputy county executive. During a career spanning more than three decades, Verdia oversaw the expansion and delivery of a wide array of services to meet the diverse needs of Fairfax County's population. Verdia was responsible for every facet of the human services portfolio, which included the departments of health; community and recreation services; housing and community development; family services; juvenile and domestic relations court services; human rights; community services board, which includes behavioral and mental health; homelessness; and much more. He was the architect of a coordinated service delivery system that has become a regional and national model.

During his tenure, the county's population doubled, increasing the demands for new and basic services. Verdia was one of the first to recognize that the county alone could not meet the multitude of needs, and he led a successful effort to cultivate the network of nonprofit, faith, business, school and other local partners that now comprise the safety net of our community. Behind his soft-spoken leadership was an unwavering passion for people, which along with his infectious optimism and laughter, motivated people from all sectors of the community to want to be a part of improving the lives of others and maintaining the critical investments we made in Fairfax County.

When I was chairman of the county board, Verdia was instrumental in advancing major initiatives to address the lack of affordable housing, the needs of our growing senior population and the challenges of homelessness. In each of these cases, we hosted community summits, assembled task forces of community stakeholders and developed action plans with measurable outcomes. We preserved more than 2,000 affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income families that otherwise would have been lost to redevelopment pressures from the marketplace. We opened a new family homeless shelter, initiated a 10 year plan to prevent and end homelessness using the "housing first" model, and created a new office to oversee its implementation. We expanded the mission of our Agency on Aging with a 50+Action Plan that laid out more than 60 recommendations for improving the quality of life for our exploding senior population—including expanded health and transportation services and volunteer opportunities. Also during this time, Verdia oversaw a complete redesign of our Community Services Board model, through which we provide mental health, mental retardation, and alcohol and drug prevention and intervention services. These are just a sampling of Verdia's accomplishments that will have a profound and lasting impact on our community.

Prior to his service in Fairfax County, Verdia spent a few years working with the City of

Richmond, where he helped establish the city's Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse System. In addition to his work with the city, Verdia served as an adjunct professor at Virginia Union University, where he helped develop an Urban Studies Program. He received his bachelor's degree with honors in 1970 from Alcorn State University in his native Mississippi. While attending Alcorn State, he received a Ford Foundation grant to study economics at Tulane University. He later earned a national urban fellowship to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois, where he received his Master's in Public Administration.

His tremendous work on behalf of Fairfax County and Northern Virginia have been recognized by the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, the American Society of Public Administrators, Leadership Fairfax, the Fairfax Bar Association, the Service Source Network, New Hope Housing, the Human Services Coalition of Northern Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the many accomplishments of Verdia L. Haywood as he brings his distinguished career with Fairfax County to an end. He has set a high standard for public service, and I am proud to have worked with him during my time in Fairfax County. We will miss him terribly, but, thankfully, our community will continue to benefit from his work and innovation in the delivery of human services for many years to come.

---

THANKING THE HRUBY FAMILY  
FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO  
RURAL AMERICA

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I want to take a few moments today to con-

gratulate the Hruby family—Tim, Stephanie and daughter Sophie—who recently earned the Excellence in Agriculture award.

The award is part of the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, which recognizes young farmers and ranchers who are contributing to their local communities, the agriculture industry, and our state through their involvement, leadership, and participation.

My district, like many rural areas throughout our country, faces a “brain drain” as we lose young people to more urban areas. If we are going to reverse this trend, we need more Nebraskans like the Hrubys to step up and take the lead.

Agriculture isn't an occupation. Rather, as Tim and Stephanie can tell you, it is a way of life and I thank them for their dedication to their community and our state.