

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COURT
REPORTING AND CAPTIONING
WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the hard work of court reporters and broadcast captioners nationwide, as well as the recognition of the National Court Reporting and Captioning Week from February 17–23, 2013.

Court reporters and broadcast captioners have the unique skill of translating the spoken word into text to record history, preserve judicial proceedings, assist individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing with access to audio communications, and even capture the work of Congress in committees and on the floor of the House and Senate. They are truly the guardians of the record.

The profession of court reporting is thousands of years old; its roots can be traced back to 63 B.C., when Marcus Tullius Tiro created shorthand reporting to service the Roman philosopher, lawyer, and orator Cicero. Since the dawn of civilization, the desire to capture the spoken word and record our history has been the responsibility of the scribe, known today as the court reporter.

The scribe has been an essential part of history from times in Ancient Egypt, to the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation and the recording of our entire American history.

Since the advent of shorthand machines, these scribes are now known as court reporters and have played a prominent and invaluable role in courtrooms, state legislatures, and in Congress preserving Members' words and actions.

Court reporters and captioners are also responsible for the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at sporting stadiums and in other community and educational settings, bringing information to almost 40 million deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans every day.

Congress has continuously worked with the National Court Reporters Association to make increasing this access a reality and to ensure that every American has access to the spoken word.

Whether called the scribes of yesterday or the court reporters and captioners of today, the individuals who preserve our Nation's history are truly the guardians of our national record. They have a tough profession but continue to excel through their dedication and expertise. With that, it is my honor to acknowledge February 17–23 as National Court Reporting and Captioning Week across the country.

HONORING BENJAMIN JACKSON
MATT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Jackson Matt. Benjamin is 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 32 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benjamin has led his troop in various positions including Troop Guide, has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Benjamin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout Project. Benjamin led a team of more than 30 people in designing and constructing a trail at Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

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

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE
NONPROFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, Superstorm Sandy inflicted unprecedented damage on communities in the Northeast including my district in New Jersey. Congress and the President have responded by providing \$60 billion in emergency and recovery aid.

Today's debate and vote however isn't at all about whether or how much funding Congress appropriates to mitigate the impact of Sandy. We've had that vote.

Rather, it is about those who are being unfairly left out and left behind. It's about those who helped feed, comfort, clothe and shelter tens of thousands of victims now being told they are ineligible for a FEMA grant.

It is unconscionable that foundational pillars of our communities damaged by Sandy—synagogues, churches, mosques, temples and other houses of worship—have been categorically denied access to these otherwise generally-available relief funds. Current FEMA policy is patently unfair, unjustified and discrimi-

natory and may even suggest hostility to religion.

FEMA has a policy in place to aid nonprofit facilities damaged in the storm, but the agency has excluded houses of worship from this support. That is wrong. And it's time Congress ensures fundamental fairness for these essential private nonprofits.

The bipartisan Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013—H.R. 592—will ensure that churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other houses of worship are eligible for federal funds to effectuate repairs, restoration and replacement of damaged facilities.

Madam Speaker, it's worth noting here that FEMA's discriminatory policy of exclusion isn't prescribed by any law. Nothing in the Stafford Act or any other law including the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriations Act precludes funds to repair, restore or replace houses of worship. Indeed, congressional precedent favors enacting H.R. 592 as there are several pertinent examples of public funds been allocated to houses of worship.

For example:

FEMA grants were explicitly authorized by Congress and provided to churches damaged in the Oklahoma City terrorist attack;

Homeland Security Department and UASI provides funding to houses of worship for security upgrades;

Interior Department provides funding for grants for historically significant properties including churches and synagogues;

It is important to note that a controlling Justice Department Office of Legal Counsel Memorandum explains in detail the legal principles which make H.R. 592 constitutional. In a September 25, 2002, written opinion, the Office of Legal Counsel concluded it was constitutional for Congress to provide disaster relief and reconstruction funds to a religious Jewish school, along with all sorts of other organizations, following a devastating earthquake.

The same principles apply to protect religious organizations following a devastating hurricane. As the Office of Legal Counsel memo concluded "provision of disaster assistance to [religious organizations] cannot be materially distinguished from aid programs that are constitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent establishing that religious institutions are fully entitled to receive generally available government benefits and services, such as fire and police protection."

The Supreme Court handed down its first modern Establishment Clause decision in *Everson v. Board of Education*, which involved a program in my own state of New Jersey. In that case the Court held that religious institutions are entitled to receive "general government services" made available on the basis of neutral criteria.

The Court held that the Establishment Clause does not bar students attending religious schools from receiving generally available school busing services provided by the government. In reaching its decision, the Court

• 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.

explained that even if the evenhanded provision of busing services increased the likelihood that some parents would send their children to religious schools, the same could be said of other “general state law benefits” that were even more clearly constitutional because they were equally available to all citizens.

As examples, the Court cited “such general government services as ordinary police and fire protection, connections for sewage disposal, public highways and sidewalks,” concluding that “cutting off church schools from these services . . . would make it far more difficult for the schools to operate. But such is obviously not the purpose of the First Amendment. That Amendment requires the state to be a neutral in its relations with groups of religious believers and non-believers; it does not require the state to be their adversary. State power is no more to be used so as to handicap religions, than it is to favor them.”

As Nathan J. Diament, Executive Director of Public Policy for the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America notes in his excellent legal analysis which I will include in the Record “federal disaster relief is analogous to aid that qualifies as ‘general government services’ approved by the Court in *Everson*.”

That same Supreme Court also held that “[Government] cannot exclude individual Catholics, Lutherans, Mohammedans, Baptists, Jews, Methodists, Non-believers, Presbyterians, or the members of any other faith, because of their faith, or lack of it, from receiving the benefits of public welfare legislation . . . [W]e must be careful, in protecting the citizens of New Jersey against state-established churches, to be sure that we do not inadvertently prohibit New Jersey from extending its general state law benefits to all its citizens without regard to their religious belief.”

In *Walz v. Tax Commission*, the Court rejected an Establishment Clause challenge to a property tax exemption made available not only to churches, but to several other classes of nonprofit institutions, such as “hospitals, libraries, playgrounds, scientific, professional, historical, and patriotic groups.” As the Court stated in reference to *Everson*, if “buses can be provided to carry and policemen to protect church school pupils, we fail to see how a broader range of police and fire protection given equally to all churches, along with nonprofit hospitals, art galleries, and libraries receiving the same tax exemption, is different for purposes of the Religion Clauses.”

The bill before us today simply makes clear and clarifies that federal disaster relief includes religious entities along with every other sort of entity. As the Court later stated in *Widmar v. Vincent*, “[t]he provision of benefits to so broad a spectrum of groups is an important index of secular [that is, constitutional] effect.” And as it stated more recently in *Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock*, “[i]nsofar as [a] subsidy is conferred upon a wide array of non-sectarian groups as well as religious organizations in pursuit of some legitimate secular end, the fact that religious groups benefit incidentally does not deprive the subsidy of the secular purpose and primary effect mandated by the Establishment Clause.”

Significantly, Madam Speaker, when three churches in Detroit received taxpayer funded grants to repair and spruce up their buildings prior to the 2006 Superbowl, American Atheists sued the City of Detroit and lost. In a sweeping decision authored by Judge Sutton,

the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit unanimously held that the direct assistance to the churches did not violate the Establishment Clause.

Judge Sutton said: “Detroit sought to fix up its downtown, not to establish a religion. And as will generally be the case when a governmental program allocates generally available benefits on a neutral basis and without a hidden agenda, this program does not have the impermissible effect of advancing religion in general or any one faith in particular. By endorsing all qualifying applicants, the program has endorsed none of them, and accordingly it has not run afoul of the federal or state religion clauses . . . In the Establishment Clause context, that means evenhanded, neutral laws generally (though not invariably) will be upheld. So long as the government benefit is neutral and generally applicable on its face, it presumptively will satisfy the Establishment Clause.”

In sum, H.R. 592 exhibits no government preference for or against religion, or any particular religion, since it merely permits houses of worship to receive the same type of generally-available assistance in picking up the pieces after stunning devastation that many other similarly situated nonprofits receive. Thus, the bill not only passes the test of constitutionality, it passes the test of basic human decency.

Indeed, to do otherwise would be to single out churches for adverse treatment, which is itself constitutionally suspect. The Supreme Court held in *Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah*, that “[a]t a minimum, the protections of the Free Exercise Clause pertain if the law at issue discriminates against some or all religious beliefs.” And in *Employment Division v. Smith*, the Court held that under the Free Exercise Clause, the state may not “impose special disabilities on the basis of religious views or religious status.” Similarly, in *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia*, the Court held that “the government offends the First Amendment when it imposes financial burdens on certain speakers based on the content of their expression,” including religious expression. To continue to single houses of worship out for discrimination does not express government neutrality, it expresses government hostility. And there is no place for government hostility toward religion under our constitution.

The constitution clearly allows, and arguably requires, that religious organizations be treated equally when it comes to Congress’ providing for the well-being of Americans following the onslaught of Superstorm Sandy and other natural disasters.

The damage unleashed by Sandy has taken a huge toll on houses of worship. According to the N.J. Catholic Conference more than 145 churches suffered significant damage in my state alone. Another 125 churches in New York have been damaged and are seeking FEMA help with more to be counted as repairs and ongoing work are addressed and contracted out for completion.

Similarly, dozens of synagogues and temples in both states are now looking to see how they repair after spending months of providing goods and services—with no regard to religion—to those who needed it.

In testimony just last week before the New York City Council, Joseph Rosenberg of the Catholic Community Relations Council poin-

antly noted that when Sandy hit, the leaders of the churches, synagogues and other houses of worship did not first ask if their facilities would be eligible for federal assistance before providing food and shelter and relief to thousands of displaced persons.

Nor did these providers of assistance ask the religious affiliation of the victims. No, they went to work providing tangible, life-saving aid to all comers.

In his letter of support for H.R. 592, Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz concludes that “religious institutions may receive government aid if it is in the context of a broadly available program with criteria that are neutral toward religion and pose no risks of religious favoritism.”

Professor Dershowitz notes further:

Once FEMA has the policy in place to aid various nonprofit organizations with their building repairs, houses of worship should not be excluded from receiving this aid on the same terms. This is all the more appropriate given the neutral role we have witnessed houses of worship play, without regard to religion of those affected, in the wake of Sandy and countless previous disasters. Federal disaster relief aid is a form of social insurance and means of helping battered communities get back on their feet. Churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship are an essential part of the recovery process.

Religious liberty scholar Professor Douglas Laycock of the University of Virginia School of Law wrote a letter endorsing H.R. 592 and said in part: “Charitable contributions to places of worship are tax deductible, without significant controversy, even though the tax benefits to the donor are like a matching grant from the government. These deductions have been uncontroversial because they are included without discrimination in the much broader category of all not-for-profit organizations devoted to charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes. The neutral category here is equally broad. To include places of worship in disaster relief is neutral; to exclude them would be affirmatively hostile. There is no constitutional obstacle to including them.”

America’s houses of worship are an integral, irreplaceable part of the contour and fabric of our communities. Like any other private nonprofit organization, their recovery is essential to the recovery of neighborhoods, towns and states. They should not be excluded from federal programs that ensure community recovery, especially since they selflessly provide assistance to all in need.

H.R. 592 has been endorsed by several organizations including the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Council of Churches of the City of New York and the American Jewish Committee.

I would like to take this moment to submit one more additional letter of support for H.R. 592 from Carl H. Esbeck, Professor of Law, University of Missouri, and my full statement for the RECORD.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

SCHOOL OF LAW,

February 11, 2013.

Re Federal Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013.

HON. CHRIS SMITH,
Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

HON. GRACE MENG,
1317 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES SMITH AND MENG: I have been asked to give an opinion concerning the constitutionality of the Federal

Disaster Assistance Nonprofit Fairness Act of 2013. The bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on Friday, February 8, 2013. It would amend Sections 102(10)(B) and 406(a)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(10)(B) and 5172(a)(3)), to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for disaster relief and emergency assistance on the same terms as other nonprofit facilities providing certain defined essential services to the public. Stated differently, houses of worship that are otherwise eligible for relief and assistance are not to be discriminated against because of their religious character.

FEMA's current policy is set forth in its memorandum captioned "Houses of Worship—FEMA Public Assistance Eligibility." Concerning multiple-use facilities, FEMA denies relief and assistance to otherwise eligible houses of worship unless the primary use of the space in a facility is for essential services of a governmental nature. FEMA converts "primary use" into a simple fifty-percent (50%) rule, but it does not state the legal authority for the rule.

The matter of interest is compliance with the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The United States Supreme Court has formulated a neutrality principle to assess general programs of aid to the nongovernmental sector. The principle requires: (i) that the program have a secular purpose, and (ii) that the recipients of the aid be eligible without regard to religion. Under the above-referenced bill, Section 102(10)(B) defines an eligible private nonprofit (PNP) as a facility that provides: (a) essential services; (b) while not by government, of that "nature;" and (c) available to the public. The three-part definition is secular in purpose. True, the bill expressly mentions houses of worship as eligible. But that makes sense and is secular in purpose, because in the past they were sometimes excluded by FEMA. So Congress, in passing this amendment, is just bringing matters back from a discriminatory situation to one of religious neutrality.

A parenthetical in 102(10)(B) gives several examples of such eligible PNP facilities providing essential services. If a private "museum" is an essential service in the "nature" of "governmental," the eligible recipients are not as narrowly limited as might at first appear. "Community centers" are expressly named as eligible, and this bill has "houses of worship" as a type of community center. The findings in Section 2(5) of the bill further help to define how houses of worship serve as a type of community center. The findings also help to explain how a community center provides "essential services," namely activities central to community rebuilding and reconstruction after a natural disaster.

Several U.S. Supreme Court cases prepared the way for the neutrality principle as we presently recognize it. In *Bowen v. Kendrick*, 487 U.S. 589 (1988), the Court upheld a congressional program funding counseling centers targeting adolescent sexuality that was available to religious as well as secular providers. In *Zobrest v. Catalina Foothills Sch. Dist.*, 509 U.S. 1 (1993), the Court held that a public school district had to provide the same special education services to a student when he switched enrollment from a public to a religious high school. In *Witters v. Washington Dep't of Servs. for the Blind*, 474 U.S. 481 (1986), the Court upheld a state vocational rehabilitation program, available without regard to religion, even when it resulted in aid to a student to attend a seminary.

The neutrality principle became fully grounded with the Court's decision in *Agostini v. Felton*, 521 U.S. 203 (1997). Agostini

involved the implementation of federal funding for K-12 special educational services in schools in the State of New York. The special educational services were rendered by special education teachers employed by the local public school district. For those special education students in religious schools, it was more effective and less costly to have the teachers travel to the religious school campus to deliver the services. But this had been barred by prior case law. In *Agostini*, the Court overruled its prior precedent and approved the delivery of services to all special needs students on a basis neutral as to religion. The services were secular, and there was no reason because of the Establishment Clause to discriminate against children enrolled in the religious schools.

The *Agostini* secular-purpose/religion-neutral analysis was carried forward by the Supreme Court in *Mitchell v. Helms*, 530 U.S. 793 (2000). The case involved a challenge to a part of the Primary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which provide educational materials and services to all K-12 schools without regard to religion. The challengers wanted the aid denied to religious schools. The nature of the educational materials was secular. Accordingly, the Court upheld the practice of treating all schools neutrally. These religious schools were intensely religious, but that was no reason to discriminate against them. Care should be exercised so that no governmental aid is diverted from its intended secular purpose, in particular that the aid not be diverted to an explicitly religious purpose.

It is my opinion that the above-referenced proposed amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act is consistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter opinion.

Sincerely,

CARL H. ESBECK,
R.B. Price Professor of
Law and Isabelle
Wade & Paul C.
Lyda Professor of
Law, University of
Missouri.

HONORING NATHAN CONRAD STAHL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Conrad Stahl. Nathan is 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 31 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has led his troop in various positions including Troop Guide and has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Nathan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout Project. Nathan built a handrail along concrete steps in the parking lot at Hillcrest Transitional Housing in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

RECOGNIZING TIME WARNER CABLE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Time Warner Cable for its Connect a Million Minds (CAMP) initiative. This program is designed to inspire the next generation of problem solvers by connecting young people to the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) outside of the classroom.

This campaign includes original public service announcements and programming, grants to support nonprofit organizations that introduce students to STEM, and the creation of "The Connector," a one-of-a-kind resource that allows parents to find kid-centric STEM learning opportunities in their own backyards. The CAMP initiative also encourages Time Warner Cable employees to volunteer at science fairs, robotics competitions, and local Connect a Million Minds events.

The STEM fields have become increasingly important for the development of our country as the world continues to modernize at a rapid pace. The performance of U.S. students in STEM subjects has fallen behind their international peers. Today, more and more employers report having a difficult time finding qualified applicants for STEM jobs. This problem will continue to grow as it is estimated that the number of jobs in STEM fields will increase 17% by 2018. Given this figure, it is difficult to understate the importance of STEM education for both our nation's collective economic future and the future of our nation's students.

The CAMP program has focused resources across several Congressional Districts, including the 23rd District of New York. With increased attention and support from community and industry leaders that will someday hire students in STEM fields, programs like CAMP are critical to building a pool of future qualified employees. I commend Time Warner Cable for its CAMP initiative; and I want my colleagues to understand the importance of such initiatives and their positive impact on all of our communities.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act. This bill would award Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A symbol of elegance and grace, Lena

Horne created a legacy by not only entertaining Americans for over 60 years, but by breaking many racial barriers as a singer, dancer, and actress. Ms. Horne passed away in New York City on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92.

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born on June 30, 1917 in Brooklyn, New York. Her path to international stardom began in Harlem's Cotton Club, where she was first hired as a chorus dancer at the age of 16. From there, her career continued in Charlie Barney's jazz band, where she became one of the first African-American women to tour with an all white band, to Hollywood and Broadway.

In the 1940s, Ms. Horne was discovered by a Metro Gold Mayer talent scout and moved to Hollywood to be an actress. She was the first black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio. Despite her beauty and talent, however, she was limited to minor acting roles because of her race. She was passed over for the role of Julie in the movie *Show Boat* because the studio did not want the film to star a black actress, and the Motion Picture Code did not allow the depiction of interracial relationships. Nonetheless, she dazzled audiences and critics in a number of films, including *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*.

The struggle for equal and fair treatment was an inseparable and increasingly political part of Ms. Horne's life. During WWII, she toured extensively with the United Service Organizations on the West Coast and in the South in support of the troops. Ms. Horne was outspoken in her criticism of the way black soldiers were treated. She refused to sing for segregated audiences or to groups where German prisoners of war were seated in front of the African-American servicemen.

During the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne was blacklisted as a communist for seven years due to her civil rights activism and her friendships with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. DuBois. Despite facing continued discrimination, Ms. Horne's career flourished in television and onstage throughout the country. It was during this time that she also established herself as a major recording artist. In 1957, she recorded *Lena Horne at the Waldorf Astoria*, which reached the Top 10 and became the best selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history.

Ms. Horne used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality. In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. She also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council for Negro Women and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Ms. Horne finally received the break she had been waiting for her in 1981, which was a one woman Broadway show. *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, was the culmination of her triumphs and struggles. The show enjoyed a 14-month run and earned her a Tony Award and two Grammy Awards.

Furthermore, she received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for her work in both motion pictures and recordings, as well as a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

Mr. Speaker, Lena Horne was an extraordinary woman who refused to give up her dreams and used her beauty, talent, and intel-

ligence to fight racial discrimination. I urge my colleagues to support the Lena Horne recognition Act, in order to honor her life and legacy with a Congressional Gold Medal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was unable to record my vote on H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act. I was detained by a very important meeting with Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber about issues critical to my rural communities and State.

I am a strong supporter of renewable energy and agree there's enormous untapped potential for hydropower. Reducing red tape, process, and cost to approve small, non-controversial hydropower projects is a no-brainer. I am pleased the bill passed 422-0 and would have voted "yea" had I been available. I look forward to supporting H.R. 267 in the future if the bill is amended and comes back to the House from the Senate.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY—REMEMBERING THOSE LOST ON FEBRUARY 14, 2008

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to ask the House to observe a moment of silence for the tragedy that occurred at Northern Illinois University five years ago. On February 14, 2008, we lost five very bright and energetic young students—students who had hoped to one day become the future of our nation.

Each year since that tragic day, members of the community gather to remember those students and to present the memorial wreathes. Gayle Dubowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, Ryanne Mace, and Daniel Parmenter will never be forgotten, for they will always be in our hearts. Their memories will live on through their family and friends, as well as Northern Illinois University.

"Forward, Together Forward," three simple words that stem from the University's Fight Song, teach us a lesson that we can all learn from. It reminds us that even in the darkest of situations, when all seems lost, if we come together as a community there is nothing that we cannot get through. It gives us the strength and motivation to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering those lost and to support all who were affected by this tragedy.

HONORING ALAN P. LESSENDEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alan P.

Lessenden. Alan is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING JANICE ATKINSON, COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER ASSESSOR REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague JARED HUFFMAN, to recognize Janice Atkinson, who is retiring as county clerk-recorder assessor and registrar of voters.

Janie Atkinson is a third generation Sonoma County native and comes from a long line of public servants. She began her public service career in election administration in 1972 with the Registrar of Voters Division of the County Clerk's Office. She worked her way up through the division, was appointed division chief in 1979 and assumed the position of assistant department head in 1995. She was elected to the position of County Clerk-Recorder Assessor of the County of Sonoma on June 6, 2006, and assumed office on January 8, 2007.

Ms. Atkinson's primary area of expertise is in the field of election administration. As Assistant Registrar of Voters, she headed the division responsible for the conduct of all elections in Sonoma County including city, school and special district elections. The division maintains the files of approximately 600 elected officials, 249,554 registered voters and the boundaries of all political subdivisions in the County.

Under Ms. Atkinson's leadership, Sonoma County removed barriers to participation in the democratic process by administering a highly successful vote-by-mail program. In November 2006, Sonoma County's voter turnout of 75.49 percent exceeded the statewide average turnout by almost 20 percent. Sonoma County's high voter turnout can be attributed to the high number of permanent absentee voters in the County (roughly 52 percent of the registered voters) and the efforts of the department to keep the voter files up-to-date. Ms. Atkinson implemented an accessible voting system for voters with disabilities, all while maintaining paper-based voting systems, assuring voter confidence in elections.

Ms. Atkinson was an active member in the California Association of Clerks and Election Official from 1976-2012. She served on the board of directors from 2002-2012, as Correspondence Secretary from 1988-2011 and

as a member of the County Recorder's Association of California from 2001–2012. She also was a member of the California Assessors' Association from 2007–2012 and the Bay Area Assessor's Association 2007–2012, serving as its president in 2010. She has been a member of the Sonoma County Historical Records Commission since 2000 and is recognized throughout the state for her knowledge of the California Elections Code and voting procedures.

Ms. Atkinson is a longtime supporter of the Cloverdale Boys and Girls Club and served as the lead public information officer for Sonoma County during disasters, providing vital information to those impacted by floods, mudslides and fires.

Mr. Speaker, Janice Atkinson has a long and distinguished career in service to Sonoma County and it is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her today and wish her well in her retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS ON ITS 100TH YEAR

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Intermountain Jewish News on its 100th year of continuous publication.

The Intermountain Jewish News has served as an important conduit of information for people of the Jewish faith across the Rocky Mountain West. With insightful reporting and a keen eye to the stories that matter most to its readers, it has provided the Jewish community with relevant news and a constant connection to the community.

Freedom of the press and freedom of religion are two of the pillars that have made the United States the beacon of light across the world. The Intermountain Jewish News is more than just the product of these freedoms; it is the medium through which these freedoms live on today.

I applaud the hard work and dedication of all who have contributed to this publication's success over the past 100 years and I wish them continued success in the future.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FORWARD ON CLIMATE RALLY FEBRUARY 14, 2013

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join President Obama and concerned citizens around the world to say it is high time we move forward on addressing climate change.

As President Obama said in his State of the Union address: "We can choose to believe that Superstorm Sandy, and the most severe drought in decades, and the worst wildfires some states have ever seen were all just a freak coincidence. Or we can choose to believe in the overwhelming judgment of science—and act before it's too late."

This weekend, tens of thousands of people—including 100 buses from over 30 states—will be traveling to Washington, DC to participate in Sunday's Forward on Climate Rally to demonstrate their support for action on climate change.

My home state of Maryland knows all too well the devastating effects of extreme weather events, and the threat that coastal flooding and sea level rise present to our coastal communities. In that regard, I'm proud that Maryland is tackling this issue head on by committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent below 2006 levels by 2020. In addition to restoring a healthy climate, this initiative will boost economic growth, create jobs and save consumers money.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Forward on Climate Rally to the nation's capital, and I stand with concerned citizens from across the country who say the time is now to address climate change.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REFORM THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the level of security provided by the Federal Protective Service, FPS.

Formed in 1971 as the uniformed protection service for the General Service Administration, GSA, the Federal Protective Service's mission is to safeguard the Federal buildings that Americans access every day across the country. FPS is charged with protecting over 9,000 Federal facilities, including many of our own Congressional district offices.

Since FPS was transferred to the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, a series of government audits have uncovered major breaches in the security services FPS provides and attributed these lapses, in large part, to slipshod oversight by the agency of its contractor workforce.

One glaring example of FPS's lapses in providing security occurred in February 2011 when contract guards failed to detect explosive material that was left undetected inside the Patrick V. McNamara Federal building in Detroit for 21 days.

Testifying on July 13, 2011 about this incident before the Committee on Homeland Security, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, stated that FPS needs to undertake a stronger role in overseeing contractor performance, to reevaluate its hiring and training practices for contract guards, and to implement a comprehensive risk assessment strategy.

On July 24, 2012, at a subsequent Committee on Homeland Security hearing, FPS's lack of a comprehensive risk management strategy was identified as a major obstacle to FPS' ability to safeguard Federal facilities and effectively serve as the lead agency charged with coordinating infrastructure protection government-wide.

Both hearings addressed the Federal Protective Service's pressing need to replace the failed Risk Assessment and Management Program, RAMP, to monitor the hours and duties

performed by contract guards—which has cost of over \$41 million—with an effective tool to implement risk assessment. As an interim step, FPS has since developed the Modified Infrastructure Survey Too, MIST.

Since May 2007, the Committee on Homeland Security has held five oversight hearings of FPS. Additionally, since 2008, GAO has issued seven oversight reports, at my request, on the agency that identified a wide range of challenges FPS faces in protecting Federal facilities. Among the areas for reform identified in these reports are the need for increased oversight of the contract guard program; the need for FPS to implement a risk management strategy to improve facility security; enhanced schedule and cost estimating practices to facilitate the transition of management functions; and a comprehensive approach to human capital management.

The legislation I am reintroducing today: (1) seeks to increase security at Federal facilities by adding 500 more Federal Law Enforcement Officers; (2) directs FPS to intensify its monitoring of contract guards; (3) requires national minimum standards for the training and certification of contract guard staff; (4) requires that security standards for Federal facilities established by the Interagency Security Committee be implemented; (5) directs FPS to conduct a 1-year pilot program to assess whether a Federal Security Guard that is a Federal employee would do a better job protecting the highest risk Federal facilities than a contract guard; (6) requires a law enforcement presence at the highest risk Federal facilities; and (7) directs the Government Accountability Office to investigate the adequacy of the fee-based funding system utilized by FPS and determine whether it prevents the agency from fully executing its security mission.

Under my legislation, the FPS' inspector corps would be increased to 1,350, thereby elevating the Federal law enforcement presence inside Federal buildings by offering "boots on the ground" security expertise.

I strongly believe that a more robust inspector workforce would, for the first time, provide FPS with a core of specialized security personnel with the training and authority required to create long-overdue change within the entire organization.

My legislation also calls for dedicated contract oversight staff to oversee the performance of contract guards; this would allow FPS inspectors focus on their security and law enforcement duties and not be bogged down in contract-management concerns.

Similarly, my legislation would require a law enforcement presence at the highest risk Federal facilities, which directly addresses a gap in the current system, where contract guards, who lack arrest authority are charged with protecting high-profile Federal facilities.

I introduced similar legislation in the 111th and 112th Congresses to ensure that the Federal Protective Service fulfills its responsibility to coordinate infrastructure protection across the Federal government, and to make certain that effective management procedures are implemented to hold contractors accountable for the hiring, training and certification of security guards who are charged with protecting Federal facilities.

It has been 18 years since the Alfred P. Murrah building was attacked in Oklahoma City. We have been fortunate that an attack of this magnitude has not occurred against a

Federal building in the intervening years. That said, we must do more to ensure that Federal buildings are secure and that the Federal Protective Service can effectively fulfill its mission.

Enactment of my legislation will bring about long-overdue and necessary reforms and help FPS become the agency that Congress envisioned and the American people deserve.

HONORING CONNOR JAMES DERRY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor James Derry. Connor is 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Connor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Connor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Connor has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Connor has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Connor led a team of 15 scouts in removing and reconstructing a swing set at Hillcrest Transitional Housing in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL (ABC) ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Access to Birth Control (ABC) Act with my colleagues DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, JOHN CONYERS, JR, GWEN MOORE, DAVID CICILLINE, BARBARA LEE, CHELLIE PINGREE, JANICE HAHN, SAM FARR, CHARLES RANGEL, JERROLD NADLER, KEITH ELLISON, DIANA DEGETTE, JAMES MORAN, RUSH HOLT, and SCOTT PETERS. Special thanks go to Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG for introducing the Senate version of the bill.

This legislation ensures women's timely access to basic, preventative health care and ensures that women of age will not be denied birth control or emergency contraception by their pharmacist. The ABC Act also requires pharmacies to help a woman obtain medication by her preferred method if the requested product is not in stock and protects women from being intimidated when requesting contraception.

Family planning is central to women's basic health care. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act

women can receive contraceptive coverage and other preventative services without a copay. While this is great news to the millions of women using some form of birth control, barriers to contraceptive access still persist. According to the National Women's Law Center, at least 24 states across the country have reported incidents where pharmacists have refused to fill prescriptions for birth control or provide emergency contraception to individuals who do not require a prescription. Furthermore, six states permit refusals without patient protections such as requirements to refer or transfer prescriptions and seven states allow refusals but prohibit pharmacists from obstructing patient access to medication.

Denying contraception to women represents an erosion of a woman's constitutional right of access to contraception and a threat to women's basic health care. Access is especially important for women living in rural areas who may not have multiple pharmacies near them and low-income women who lack the resources to find an alternative pharmacy in the appropriate time frame.

The use of birth control is widespread, with 99 percent of women having used contraceptives at some point in their life. Now that insurance plans are required to cover birth control, Congress must act to make sure that women receive timely access to both prescription and over the counter contraception at the pharmacy counter.

TRIBUTE TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR NAMIK TAN AND TURKISH EMBASSY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, in the early 30's the Turkish Embassy began a journey to heal racial integration through jazz in our Nation's Capital. Today, I wish to pay tribute to the continuing efforts of Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan and the Turkish Embassy for proudly telling this great story of racial integration in Washington, DC's history. This story involves an intriguing combination of jazz music, a foreign embassy, and race relations in the Nation's Capital in the 1930s and 1940s.

In 1934, Mehmet Munir Ertegun was named Turkish Ambassador to the United States. He moved to Washington with his family, including his sons Ahmet and Nesuhi, who were then 17 and 11 years old, respectively. Ahmet would eventually become the founder of Atlantic Records, while Nesuhi would run the Atlantic Records jazz department, producing albums for such legendary figures as John Coltrane, Ray Charles, Bobby Darin, and Roberta Flack.

In those early years after moving to the District of Columbia, the Ertegun brothers became active in the local jazz scene and eventually invited local performers to the Embassy for what would later be described by a 1943 Newspaper article as "Washington's most famous private jam sessions." In a 1979 interview with the Washington Post, Nesuhi described the mindset behind these sessions, "You can't imagine how segregated Washington was at that time. Blacks and whites couldn't sit together in most places. So we put

on concerts . . . Jazz was our weapon for social action."

Despite the complaints from certain "outraged southern senators" to the Turkish Ambassador, the jam sessions at the Embassy continued for several years, playing to a racially diverse audience and featuring such performers as Johnny Hodges, Harry Carney, and Barney Bigard from the Duke Ellington Band, Lester Young, Benny Carter, Meade Lux Lewis, Leadbelly, members of the Count Basie band, and many others.

To commemorate this tradition, the Turkish Embassy initiated the Ertegun Jazz Series in March, 2011, and has hosted ten performances since that time that have featured both up-and-coming artists and well-established performers such as Roy Hargrove and Jonathan Batiste. This series will continue in 2013 with a concert on February 26th at the Embassy. As we celebrate Black History Month, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Tan and the Turkish Embassy for recognizing the important role that Ahmet and Nesuhi Ertegun played in advancing racial integration and bringing jazz music to the world.

HONORING MR. VYRLE DAVIS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Vyrle Davis. His contributions to education and social reform in the Tampa Bay community and throughout the state of Florida are worthy of recognition by all.

Mr. Davis, a native of the Tampa Bay community, attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, before beginning his teaching career at 16th Street Elementary and Junior High School in 1960. Inspired by both his grandfather, a teacher who established the first school for African-American children in Jackson County, and his mother, who taught African-American students in a one-room schoolhouse within the Citrus Park community, Mr. Davis broke both racial and social barriers within his profession.

In 1971, Mr. Davis was named assistant principal at Gibbs High School and two years later he became principal at St. Petersburg High School. In 1986, he overcame countless obstacles to become Pinellas County's first African-American superintendent, a position he held for nine years.

Mr. Davis was also an advocate for social reform. In 1984, he established the Ebony Scholars program, providing institutional and financial support to high-achieving African-American students. Not only did Mr. Davis participate in raising money for his organization, he also contributed a significant amount of his own time and money. To date, the program has allocated over \$500,000 to students.

By 1990, Mr. Davis had left an indelible mark by reforming the role of African-Americans in political office. He founded multiple organizations, such as the African-American Voters Registration and Education Committee, that advanced both the political and educational causes of African Americans. He formed a coalition of other activists, whose mission was to help minorities attain elected

positions within their neighborhoods. Specifically, he played a momentous role in the campaign of Mary Brown, a woman who became the first elected African-American Pinellas County School Board member.

Although he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2004, he never let his illness deter him from doing that which he truly loved. He was admired by the Tampa Bay community, and those who knew him, revered him.

As I join with Mr. Davis's family and friends in mourning the passing of an outstanding individual, I know they are incredibly proud of the contributions he has made to the Tampa Bay area. The entire Pinellas County community honors and remembers the 76 year life of Vyrle Davis. Mr. Vyrle Davis molded the lives of generations of students through his dedication to education and to the community as a whole. His example will continue to live through those that worked with him and those who learned from him. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community and our State.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB"
ABRAMSON OS SONOMA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to recognize and honor the life and tremendous social contributions of my late friend, Mr. Robert "Bob" Abramson of Sonoma County, California.

Mr. Abramson was an exemplary and outstanding member of his community and a longtime resident of the Northern California region. After his extraordinary, storied career as a B-29 bomber pilot during WWII, flying as many as 30 missions over the Pacific, he would be decommissioned from the military in 1945.

He would go on to graduate from University of California, Berkeley with a Masters in Philosophy and Social Welfare. He then worked as a parole officer in Oakland before taking a job at the University of Southern California through which he was stationed in Pakistan for a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. This led to larger diplomatic posts with the United Nations and the World Bank.

Mr. Abramson cared deeply for his community and the people in it. He was an open book and loved talking to new people, always looking to learn new things and always going into every conversation with an open mind. He was especially active with the World War II Pilots Association, the Prostate Cancer Support Group and the Democratic Clubs of Petaluma and Santa Rosa. He was liked by all who knew him in the community.

Mr. Abramson never lost his love for international public service. Despite retirement and an extremely active role in his local community, he accepted special consulting contracts in Maldives and Sri Lanka. He consistently represented the American people with grace and civility.

His family however, always came first. Mr. Abramson is survived by his wife Barbara, his

son Bruce, his daughter Julie Morrison, his brother Albert, his sister Carol, and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Abramson served his country with distinction both as a member of the armed services and as a civilian. He was an active, vital member of his community and it is therefore appropriate that we celebrate and honor his life and committed service and extend our deepest condolences to his friends, family and community.

HONORING SPENCER HARRISON
GRANGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Harrison Granger. Spencer is 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Spencer has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer constructed nine disc golf tee boxes for a public disc golf course at Fox Hill Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

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

HONORING JERRY PRICE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Jerry Price, an important figure in Central Valley law enforcement, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jerry graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 1983 and was assigned to service in his hometown of Santa Ana. In 1986, he was transferred to Bakersfield where he patrolled the eastern part of the city and began aggressively seeking DUI drivers.

In 1988 Jerry transferred to Hanford, where he served for 24 years. Jerry was appointed the PAO/Court liaison in 1997 and held this position until December of 2012.

Jerry was a member of the county's first gang task force established in 1998, where he served as an Intelligence Agent.

Jerry has a passion for education and was instrumental in the establishment of many educational programs for local students. He is

credited with reorganizing high school senior ethics days in all local high schools and starting "character conferences" in junior high schools. He also helped launch "Every 15 Minutes" programs in high schools across Kings County to educate young people about the dangers of drunk driving.

Jerry enthusiastically spread this safety message at Lemoore Navy Air Station for over 18 years. He led more than 550 safety presentations for approximately 200,000 Navy personnel.

In addition to his CHP service, Jerry has been heavily involved in numerous community service commitments including Relay 4 Life, the March of Dimes, and the Central California "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive. He has coached several youth sports teams and taught at Kings Christian High School, College of the Sequoias, and West Hills College.

Most recently Jerry assisted the co-founders in organizing the "Buckle Up for Itzy" Fest, an event to raise seat belt safety awareness.

Jerry has mentored many local youths and has dedicated his life to improving the safety of the people of Central California. He has given his time and effort to numerous nonprofits and charities over the decades. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Price on his invaluable service to the Central Valley, as he retires from the California Highway Patrol.

HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY, MISS
ROSE RUSH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Miss Rose Rush of Clintwood, Virginia, who celebrated her 108th birthday on Thursday, February 7.

Miss Rush was born in 1905 in the house her father built in Dickenson County, the very home she lives in today. She was valedictorian of her graduating class at Honaker High School, and attended the University of Virginia, Emory and Henry College, my alma mater, and she also attended Vanderbilt University so she could receive her teaching license.

Miss Rush taught various subjects in different school systems in Virginia until her retirement. She didn't rest for long, though—the year after she "retired," Miss Rush returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher.

To this day, Miss Rush remains up to speed on current events and politics. I have been told Miss Rush is a huge fan of our political system, and that she particularly enjoys voting on the new voting machines.

She has never been seriously ill or hospitalized, nor has she been married or had children. Some in Clintwood even say that's the secret to her longevity!

Miss Rush has been approached from time to time for interviews or photos since she turned 100. The Coalfield Progress notes that she has refused them all, "stating with a sense of humbleness that she has done nothing to receive recognition."

Well, here's to Miss Rose Rush, and to her family, friends, and students in Virginia whose lives she changed. Happy 108th birthday, Miss Rush.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT-ELECT PARK GEUN-HYE ON HER INAUGURATION AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, President-elect Park Geun-hye will be inaugurated as the eleventh President of the Republic of Korea on Monday, February 25, 2013. Madam Park will then become the first freely elected woman leader among the nations of Northeast Asia and the first woman President of the Republic of Korea.

Madam Park has shattered the glass ceiling for Korean women by attaining the highest elected office in the land, achieving this remarkable feat before the United States has elected a woman to lead our Nation.

In the traditional Land of the Morning Calm where the slogan "men first, women behind" was the watchword only a generation ago, Park Geun-hye's election is historic. President-elect Park will serve as a role model for women—young and old—not only in Asia but around the world as they seek to achieve their full potential unfettered by the gender limitations of the past.

Madam Park also raises the possibility of a new beginning in the complex and often hostile relationship that has evolved between the two Koreas since the tragic division of the Korean peninsula at the end of the Second World War. A daughter of a mother slain by a North Korean agent in 1974, Madam Park chose to put this painful family tragedy aside and travel to North Korea in 2002 and meet the very man, Kim Jong-il, who was likely responsible for the murder of her mother. She did this for the good of her country, for those numerous divided Korean families who have not seen nor heard from their loved ones in sixty years, and for a people with a common culture and heritage suddenly torn asunder by Cold War politics.

The Korean people have an old saying that "when whales fight, shrimp get broken" recognizing the victimization of a small but proud nation surrounded by colossal and often hostile neighbors. The healing process after sixty years of this externally imposed division symbolized by the stark frontier of the DMZ will not be easy. But, as was once said in reference to the unfreezing of Sino-American relations, that "only Nixon could go to China," so it may one day be said that "only Park Geun-hye, the daughter of an anti-communist general and a martyred mother, could reconcile the two Koreas."

This coming summer, on July 27th, we will commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of an Armistice which silenced the guns but brought no permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. Our aging Korean War era veterans, who include four Members of the U.S. House of Representatives including the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL, the Honorable JOHN CONYERS JR., the Honorable HOWARD COBLE, and the Honorable SAM JOHNSON, often speak of our steadfast friendship with the people of South Korea as being one which was forged in the crucible of war.

The Korean War Memorial, located not far from this House, serves to remind us all of the

brave men and women of our country "who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met." The election of Park Geun-hye symbolizes the achievement of those democratic values for which these veterans fought and died.

I am also certain that America's almost two million strong Korean-American community who have contributed so much to their adopted country are justifiably proud of the democratic and economic miracle of their ancestral homeland. The alliance between their old and new countries, strengthened by the recent adoption of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, will only be further invigorated under Madam Park's presidency.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to the service, often at great personal sacrifice, that President-elect Park Geun-hye has rendered for and on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea. I join my colleagues in looking forward to welcoming Madam Park when she makes her first official visit to Washington, DC later this year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATES' MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with a bipartisan group of cosponsors, I am introducing the States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act, legislation that will allow medical marijuana patients and businesses—who are complying with state law—the ability to access and distribute marijuana free from federal interference.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana for people suffering from conditions such as cancer and severe nausea. As a result there are now hundreds of thousands of medical marijuana patients nationwide. Despite these laws, at the federal level marijuana is currently listed as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that it is considered a substance with a "high potential for abuse," with "no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States." This means that the 19 jurisdictions that permit medical marijuana are operating in a patchwork of inconsistent local and federal laws.

These inconsistencies create significant challenges for both patients and the businesses working to provide access to medical marijuana. Because of federal tax and banking laws, marijuana businesses—despite operating in compliance with state or local law—are not allowed to deduct their legitimate business expenses and are often unable to make deposits or maintain bank accounts. Simultaneously, the federal government has continued to enforce federal law, and many medical marijuana facilities across the country have been raided by the Drug Enforcement Administration or otherwise targeted by the Department of Justice.

The federal government maintains a monopoly on access to marijuana for research, currently run by the National Institute on Drug

Abuse (NIDA). The mission of this Institute is to "lead the Nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction," and many researchers have found it difficult to obtain marijuana for research into the potential therapeutic or medicinal effects of marijuana.

The States' Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act would provide for the rescheduling of marijuana under the Controlled Substance Act to a listing other than Schedule I or II, which would mean the federal government recognizes an accepted medical use. It would also ensure that neither the Controlled Substances Act nor the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act would restrict individuals, doctors or businesses from consuming, recommending, producing, distributing or otherwise operating in marijuana in compliance with state or local laws. Finally, it would require that access to marijuana for research into its potential medicinal and therapeutic uses be overseen by an entity in the government not focused on researching the addictive properties of substances.

Nineteen jurisdictions have passed laws recognizing the importance of providing access to medical marijuana for the hundreds of thousands of patients who rely on it. It is time for the federal government to respect these decisions, and stop inhibiting safe access.

HONORING JACE C. PINE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jace C. Pine. Jace is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jace has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jace has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jace has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

HONORING WILLIAM ASHFORD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. William Ashford, who is entering in my office with the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for more than a decade and I am happy to be a host again this year.

Will comes from the University of Wollongong and is studying engineering and

commerce. Over the past month, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and going above and beyond our expectations. He has attended committee hearings, drafted constituent correspondence, and assisted me as well as my staff with research. His Australian accent has garnered the attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Will's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 13 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federer, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to thank Eric Federer for the opportunity to host Will over the past several weeks. To date, over 130 interns have come through his program representing 8 different universities over the program's lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come and enlighten those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals that are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Will in our office and I wish him the very best in the future. Will, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF
PRESIDENT NIXON'S BIRTH

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the legacy of President Richard Nixon in this centennial year of his birth.

President Nixon took the oath of office at a time of domestic upheaval and far-reaching social, economic, and political change. I doubt there was ever a day when he did not wake to an agenda of pressing challenges and difficult decisions.

But his true legacy lies in foreign policy.

Few Presidents have entered the White House with a deeper understanding of international affairs, and we are very fortunate that he did. For when he first walked into the Oval Office, he inherited a world in which the U.S. was faced with enormous difficulties and problems that seemed to have no solution, from our grinding engagement in Vietnam to an increasingly emboldened Soviet Union.

He understood from the first that the old ways of doing things simply would not work in a new and dangerous world and repeatedly astonished his admirers and opponents alike with a surprisingly flexible and sophisticated, albeit tough-minded, approach.

That was most famously demonstrated by his stunning reaching out to China.

For decades this action has been the subject of much discussion and comment, and it is commonly cited as a model for similarly bold action today.

But there is danger in easy comparisons. It is of key importance to stress that he did not suffer from an illusion that Mao's dictatorship was reforming itself or that our mutual hostility was primarily the fault of the United States. Or that a handshake could somehow transform conflicting goals into a broad partnership.

Instead, it was based on a clear-eyed understanding of how the world actually works and that a rigid adherence to ideology can blind one to inconvenient facts and potential options. Only someone deeply confident in his beliefs could have done so. But he did not take unnecessary risks, he did not leap into the dark, hoping for the best. Instead, he took deliberate steps on a well-thought-out path to specific goals.

Even then, his eyes were not focused on China, but on a much larger purpose, namely reordering the international system to give the U.S. new options that it otherwise would not have had, including an ability to exploit divisions among opponents that rendered each eager for improved relations with the U.S.

What a contrast to today's world, where the U.S. often goes hat in hand to professed enemies in the illusion that they can be bribed to abandon their fundamental goals, that unilateral concessions will generate good will, or that they can somehow be convinced to become good international citizens through pleas or lectures.

Nixon knew that peaceful outreach and negotiations were possible only when the other side had no doubts of your toughness. Sometimes a smile is helpful, but often a stick is more convincing. No one ever doubted that Richard Nixon understood the difference.

His no-nonsense view of the world can be seen in the aftermath of the murder of Israeli Olympians in Munich by PLO terrorists on September 27th, 1972 when he warned that if we want safety, we must not seek "accommodations with savagery, but rather act to eliminate it."

That was written twenty-nine years before the devastating 9/11 terror attacks, but it remains a crucial guide to action today.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I deal on a daily basis with the many problems the U.S. faces around the world. Some would be familiar to President Nixon; many are quite different. But the deep understanding, the commitment to basic principles, the pragmatic flexibility that characterized his approach are as essential today as they were then.

I met him once when he spoke before the House Republican Conference in March, 1993, shortly after I first entered Congress. The subject was Russia in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet empire, but even after many years out of office, and only a year before his death, his understanding of the range of issues and problems facing that country and ours impressed everyone in the room. He was masterful to the end.

Afterward, the President mentioned his old House seat to me, and he asked me to join him for a meeting with members of the Senate, organized by Senator Patrick Moynihan. There he spoke of the future challenges and opportunities with respect to China, Eurasia, Africa, and Latin America. As usual, he spoke without using notes.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is what any student of his accomplishments can see for themselves: that the United States has no choice to be a leader in the world if we are to secure the safety and interests of the American people, that passivity and a surrender to events can bring only disaster, that refusing to recognize that the world is often a dangerous and unforgiving place is to live in illusion, that foolishly acting as though our resources were unlimited with no need to prioritize our goals is a certain road to defeat.

So it gives me pride to recognize President Richard Nixon during the centennial of his birth. We owe him our respect for what he accomplished on behalf of the security of the United States in a turbulent world.

HONORING JOHN BRENKLE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsignor John Brenkle on the occasion of receiving the Jefferson Award for his work in the Napa Valley community.

The Jefferson Award is a national award given to those serving the community at a national and local level, which Monsignor Brenkle has done for the past three decades. He is known throughout the Napa Valley as a mercenary who goes above and beyond to ensure the well-being of those in the community.

Monsignor Brenkle attended St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, and was ordained on June 14, 1958 through the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He received his Doctorate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of America in 1962. He served as Chancellor of the Diocese in Santa Rosa until 1971, followed by two years of teaching in Zambia.

Monsignor Brenkle has worked tirelessly to help low-income families and farm workers. He played a pivotal role in creating housing for migrant farm workers, and assisted in the decision to build low income housing sites in the valley. He serves on numerous local boards, including Catholic Charities, the Board of Directors of Justin-Siena High School, Catholic Community Foundation, California Human Development Corporation, and the St. Helena Mayor's Multi-cultural Committee.

It is because of all his hard work that he was recognized to receive this outstanding award. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Monsignor John Brenkle on this joyous occasion.

COME AND TAKE IT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was fall of 1835. Mexican President Santa Anna had dissolved the Constitution and made himself dictator. Tensions began to flare between his oppressive government and the liberty minded desires of Texians and Tejanos. To suppress

the rumblings of unrest and revolution the Mexican military leaders began their quest to quietly disarm the Texians. One of the first actions was to retrieve a cannon lent to the Texian colonists at Gonzales. The famous bronze cannon was loaned to the Gonzales colonists by the Mexican government in 1831 to defend themselves from hostile Apaches and Comanches. Mexican Corporal Casimiro De León and a few soldiers were sent to reclaim the cannon. That task was easier said than done.

The feisty Texians said they were keeping the gun and took the soldiers prisoner. The ladies of settlement even made a flag bearing the words "Come and Take It!" to be flown over the cannon. The cannon had been buried in a peach orchard near the Colorado River for safety, but was retrieved shortly after and readied for battle and mounted on cart wheels. The Mexican government responded by sending Lieutenant Francisco de Castaneda of the Mexican Army and 150 troops to put an end to the dispute. They were met by a militia of frontier Texians and Indian fighters who simply said, "There it is—come and take it." After a few shots were fired by both sides the Mexican army left the engagement. The Battle of Gonzales went on to be known as the "Lexington of Texas". It was Act I of the Texas War of Independence. It was similar to Lexington because sixty years earlier the British had tried to seize the weapons of the colonists at Lexington and Concord. The Texas War, like the American War of Independence, began because oppressive government tried and failed to disarm the people. The citizens of Texas would not surrender their arms to appease the overbearing Mexican regime. History has an odd way of repeating itself.

Flash forward 200 years. One night I was at a town hall meeting in Spring when a local preacher came up to me to share his concerns about where our country was headed. It is always refreshing for me to hear from normal people in Southeast Texas after spending all week long in the land of the bureaucrats. I will always remember this particular neighbor because of his strong opinions and his shirt. It had a photograph of the Bible and two .45 Colt revolvers with the words "I love my Bible" and "I love my guns". Naturally, they were in the right order. God then guns. Leave it to a Texas preacher to keep it all in perspective. You wouldn't see that shirt up in Washington, DC. Some elites outside of our Great State fear "us southerners" and our colt 45s, and ridicule those who cling to their guns and religion. In Texas we have a rich tradition of proudly celebrating the right to bear arms. The elites seem to forget that not only do we cling to guns and religion, we cling to the Constitution that protects these rights. Many Texans believe the call for gun control is really a call for more government control.

Texans aren't the only ones who have historically defended this right. During the birth of our nation, the Founding Fathers were very concerned—almost paranoid—that a strong Federal Government would trample on the rights of the people. Their concerns were warranted because that is exactly what happened to the colonists, and that's what governments historically do—trample on individual liberty. So after the ratification of the Constitution, the Framers purposely included a list of inalienable rights that are endowed by our Creator, not from government. One of them being the

individuals' right to bear arms. They knew from their experiences in the American War of Independence that an armed citizenry and a citizen militia were not only needed for personal defense, but were also the best safeguard against the tyranny of government.

But here we go again. Today some in government once again fear the freedom of its citizens and are now calls to round up all the guns. Ironically, each day in the U.S. Capitol there are guards with guns by the doors—to the north, to the south, to the east, to the west—on the roof, on all of the entrances, and by the steps. Many elitist politicians and life-long bureaucrats expect protections for themselves while advocating for more restrictions on guns for the people of America—hypocrisy at its highest. Most citizens don't have government guards protecting them 24/7. Many people feel defenseless. In fact, one of the proposals for more gun laws mirrors the stringent DC. gun laws. If the DC gun laws worked, DC would not be such a violent city. If DC gun laws worked, why are there so many armed guards at the Capitol?

The elites want more government power and control while taking away liberty from the rest of us. They want to punish the guns, not the people who commit crimes with guns. They want to keep their special government protection while redlining the Second Amendment for the people. They say, "Protection for me but not for thee". Not much has changed since the days of the Santa Anna. Oppressive governments will always seek to limit the freedom of their citizens. Mexico eventually lost Texas and Great Britain eventually lost America. Both wars started because those in charge wanted to take guns away from the citizens. Those who seek to take guns away from Texans should open a history book. Those early Texans defied Santa Anna, hoisted the flag "Come and Take It", and the rest they say is Texas history.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JACKSON ANTHONY
CARRIZZO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Anthony Carrizzo. Jax is 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jax has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jax has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 33 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jax has led his troop in various positions including Patrol Leader, has earned the rank of Foxman in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow. Jax has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jax redesigned, cleared and constructed a 70 foot stretch of walking trail in the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri, connecting a new bridge to the

walking trail and adding new approaches to the bridge.

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

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL
HIGGINS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael Higgins, a professional staff member for the House Armed Services Committee, on his retirement after over 40 years of public service.

Mike's dedication to the personnel and families of the U.S. Armed Services began in 1970, when he joined the U.S. Air Force as a career personnel officer. His assignments in the Air Force included the Military Personnel Center, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, and a variety of unit personnel positions. After retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1990, Mike joined the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, where he served for most of his 23 years on Capitol Hill. His work has affected the lives of millions of active, reservist, retired, and civilian Department of Defense men and women and their families. His expertise on all policy and fiscal matters related to the sustainment of the morale, welfare, and recreation programs of the military services, including the commissary system and military exchanges, helped ensure a high quality of life for all who have served in the military.

Mike's tireless efforts to protect and enhance the quality of life for service members resulted in many notable achievements. His early advocacy and shaping of statutes that required the military services to consider and address individual service members' deployment time helped lead the Services to recognize that frequent back-to-back deployments, combined with extensive training even when not deployed, were a detriment to readiness. His recognition of the special challenges and needs of service members also led to the drafting of the critical skills retention bonus—a very flexible tool that allowed military leaders to target bonuses and bonus amounts at retaining people with crucial military skills, such as senior special operations non-commissioned officers and intelligence analysts.

Mike also helped transform the environment supporting our service members. His oversight of the initial implementation of the Military Child Care Act of 1989 resulted in the world-class military child care system that exists today. He helped make subsistence and housing payments more consistent with the real-world conditions faced by service members and their families, and eased compensation penalties for military widows and disabled retirees. More importantly, Mike established himself as an honest broker and listener to all parties, including advocacy groups, particularly in managing the committee's response to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy from its inception until its repeal in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Michael Higgins. Mike personifies

the ideal of public service to his fellow citizens. I wish him the best in his retirement.

THE HOUSE PASSAGE OF H.R. 592

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the House passage of H.R. 592 by the large margin of 354–72 is a substantial statement of support for the houses of worship that have done so much for those suffering in the wake of natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy. It is also a strong affirmation of the constitutionality of the bill.

RECOGNIZING WEGMANS FOOD
MARKETS, INC.

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and long-standing success of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. Recently, Wegmans was named 5th in Fortune Magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" in 2012.

Since opening their first store in 1916 in Rochester, New York, Wegmans has experienced sustained growth for nearly a century, with a total of 81 store locations and a workforce of over 43,000 Americans. Even during trying economic times, Wegmans continued to grow and has plans to open additional stores, which will add more than 1,500 new jobs to the economy in the near future.

Wegmans exemplifies the American dream of entrepreneurship, and the core reason for the sustained success of this company is their workforce. By providing employees with a positive work environment with opportunities to learn and contribute to the organization, Wegmans is able to share in the success and growth of their employees.

This recognition from Fortune Magazine is just one of many accolades received by Wegmans throughout their long history and I trust there are many more to come. I hope new business owners and entrepreneurs will look to the business practices of Wegmans as an example. Additionally, I would like to thank Wegmans for not only their services to consumers, but also for their contributions to the economy and communities in my district.

HONORING CHARLIE DANIELS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Charlie Daniels, a Tennessean who, through his dedication to supporting our military, has touched the lives of countless servicemembers, veterans and their families.

As an American entertainer, he needs no introduction. As an advocate for our military, he

has no equal. Daniels unites his devotion to those serving our country with his passion for music by visiting our troops wherever they may be stationed around the world to perform concerts at military bases.

In recent years, he has teamed with Lipscomb University in Nashville to salute those who serve through his annual "Scholarship for Heroes" tour. This concert raises awareness and funds for Lipscomb University's Yellow Ribbon Enhancement Program, through which the university offers a tuition-free college education to post-9/11 veterans. His support has helped the school grow its veteran student attendance from 10 to 182 in just over three years.

Today, I join the citizens of my district in honoring Charlie Daniels for his tireless commitment to honoring those who serve and working to ensure that though freedom isn't free, an education for our veterans should be.

HONORING TYLER KURT WHEELER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Kurt Wheeler. Tyler is 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 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 32 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tyler has led his troop in various positions including Senior Patrol Leader and is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Tyler has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout Project. Tyler designed and led the construction of a walking bridge over a creek in the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICHARD
H. STULEN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Richard H. Stulen, vice president of Sandia National Laboratories' California laboratory and the Energy, Climate, and Infrastructure Security Mission based in Livermore, California. Dr. Stulen, who recently retired after 36 years of service, spent his career helping to make critical advances in areas of scientific research crucial to our nation's interest and security. Under Dr. Stulen's leadership, Sandia National Laboratory in Livermore has been tasked with conducting research

aimed at ensuring the stewardship of our nation's nuclear weapons, defending the homeland against weapons of mass destruction, and has engaged in hydrogen fuel cell research that has the potential to revolutionize how our nation's transportation system is powered.

Dr. Stulen joined Sandia National Laboratories in 1976, and during his tenure at Sandia Dr. Stulen has played a critical role in the evolution of the research landscape in the Bay Area. In the early 1990s, Dr. Stulen helped initiate one of Sandia's first cooperative-research-and-development agreements (CRADAs) under the Department of Energy's Technology Transfer Initiative. This CRADA led to the formation of the Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography (EUVL) Program and an industry-funded \$300 million, three-lab CRADA with Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley national laboratories. This consortium agreement between the three Bay Area national laboratories helped spur further innovation and growth in these research fields within our region.

Before serving in his current role, Dr. Stulen served as Sandia National Laboratories' chief technology officer, as well as chief scientist for Sandia's Nuclear Weapons Program. Dr. Stulen's extensive contributions to science were honored with Lockheed Martin's prestigious NOVA award for Technical Excellence in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Stulen has provided outstanding leadership in a variety of research fields that are incredibly important to our national security. I am honored to recognize his decades of leadership in service to Sandia National Laboratories, the research landscape of the San Francisco Bay Area, and to the nation at-large. I wish him the best of luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE BUSINESS AL-
LIANCE FOR COMMUNITY
HEALTH (BACH)

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Business Alliance for Community Health (BACH), a membership organization of the Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) which is located in my district. Through its initiatives and extensive corporate partnerships, BACH supports health programs in eastern Connecticut that benefit individuals and families and businesses as well as lower the costs of health care delivery.

Since inception, BACH has helped businesses in my district promote health-related education, including health and wellness and workplace safety. The Alliance has also served as an educational resource to the community on health care changes in the pipeline from the Affordable Care Act. BACH's efforts have also focused on increased awareness of the services and programs of ECHN and its affiliated physicians, which have and continue to provide high quality, cost-effective care. Of additional note, BACH has helped promote local business networking, which has supported a "buy local" campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize BACH's continued contributions to eastern

Connecticut. Our nation continues to face challenges in lowering health care costs and organizations like BACH are providing leadership to meet these challenges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 38, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOB BONDURANT SCHOOL OF HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVING

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bob Bondurant School of High Performance Driving in Phoenix, Arizona on their forty-fifth anniversary.

After racing since a teenager, Bob Bondurant was in a tragic accident during a race flipping his car eight times, injuring his ribs, legs, feet, and back. Determined to help drivers of all levels avoid accidents like his own, Mr. Bondurant took his passion of racing and turned it into an opportunity to advise and instruct others. On February, 13, 1968, he opened the Bondurant Driving School with three cars and three students. From this small start, the Bondurant School grew and in 1990 opened their purpose-built driver training facility in Phoenix, Arizona—the Firebird Raceway.

The world-famous Bondurant School established a name for themselves by sticking to their core principle and driving motivation to offer professional and everyday drivers with the best track-intensive training in the world. Throughout their forty-five years in operation, the Bondurant School has trained more than four-hundred thousand people to become safe and effective drivers both on and off the race-track.

This milestone is a shining reminder of how core principles, hard-work, close friends, and a passion for your work produce lasting results. Today, I am pleased to call on my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bondurant racing family on their impressive accomplishment and core ethos of driver safety.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SPC. TRAVIS RYAN VAUGHN FOR HIS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today, I am here to honor and celebrate the life of a brave American patriot, United States Army Specialist Travis Ryan Vaughn. Travis left us on February 18, 2007, when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was in, lost power and crashed while conducting operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in south-eastern Afghanistan.

Travis, a proud Iowan, was born on September 1, 1980 in Waterloo, and grew up in Cedar Falls, graduating from Cedar Falls High School in 1999. He joined the Army in 2003 and went on to earn various medals and decorations, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

Travis' memory lives on through his family, who every year collects food and household items from residents of Northeastern Iowa which are donated to Iowa veterans. Travis has also been honored with a memorial marker at Cedar Falls High School which was donated by Flags for Freedom Outreach.

As we come upon the 6th year of Travis' passing, we are reminded of the sacrifice our young American men and women make in service to their country. His family's efforts and the generosity of Northeastern Iowans ensure that Travis is 'never forgotten.'

HONORING JACOB B. HODSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob B. Hodson. Jacob is 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 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

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

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY'S WASHINGTON PROGRAM IN NATIONAL ISSUES CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kent State University's Washington Program in National Issues, known as WPNI. On April 23, 2013 WPNI will celebrate its 40th Anniversary. This anniversary marks not only WPNI's 40th year in Washington, DC, but also symbolizes the impressive achievements of faculty, staff, alumni, and students who are and have been dedicated to the success of WPNI. Dr. Lester Lefton President of Kent State University has been a very strong supporter of the program and has contributed significantly to its continued success.

WPNI has three primary objectives: (1) to facilitate learning of the U.S. political system and policy issues and its policy issues; (2) to develop and understanding of the interrelationship of public issues and structures of government; and (3) to encourage individual initiative and provide for experiences and research. Dr. Lefton and Dr. Richard Robyn the program's director have worked extremely hard to ensure that these objectives are met.

WPNI is a full 15-week academic program offered each spring semester by Kent State University since its creation in 1973, WPNI has sent more than 600 selected juniors and seniors from various backgrounds and academic disciplines to Washington, DC to live, work, and study. Throughout the course of the program, students are required to participate in the academic curriculum and maintain an internship position in government, a company, or an organization of their choice. The academic and professional benefits this program brings to its students are extraordinary. At the same time government agencies, companies, and organizations benefit enormously. I know this first-hand because I have had the good fortune of having several students intern in my Washington office over the years.

I commend Dr. Lefton, Dr. Robyn and those at Kent State involved in the continuation of this meaningful program. I also congratulate the students who have in the past 40 years taken part in this wonderful experience. I am certain that with continued support the Washington Program in National Issues will celebrate many more anniversaries to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE BELOVED VISIONARY AND ADVOCATE SUZANNE ROSENTHAL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the beloved visionary and advocate, Suzanne Rosenthal who passed away on Sunday, February 10, 2013. Suzanne was a fearless, determined and courageous woman who turned her diagnosis of Crohn's disease in 1955 into a legacy that has gone on to help hundreds of thousands of people over the years. She dedicated her life to spreading awareness about Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, supporting and educating patients and funding research to find cures. In 1967, along with her husband, Irwin M. Rosenthal, William D. and Shelby Modell, and Henry D. Janowitz, MD, she founded the National Foundation of Ileitis and Colitis, now known as the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA).

Suzanne held many key volunteer positions at CCFA. She was a former president of the Greater New York Chapter and served as National Chairperson of the Board from 1987 to 1991. She served as Chairperson Emeritus of CCFA's Government Affairs Task Force and champion in all advocacy efforts of the Foundation. Suzanne received CCFA's distinguished Public Policy Pioneer Award for her tireless advocacy efforts on behalf of IBD patients everywhere. The award was presented at CCFA's First National IBD Advocacy Conference, held in Washington, D.C. in June

2003. Keeping in line with her tireless support of IBD patients and their families, as President of the Greater New York Chapter, she initiated the support group model that has since been implemented as CCFA's national network of support groups.

Suzanne was also the Founder and past President of the Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC). The DDNC comprises more than 32 patient groups and professional societies, representing the research and healthcare legislative interests of people who suffer from digestive disorders. In addition, she was an active leader in many digestive disease-related health forums and committees, holding the following positions: member of the Advisory Council, National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health; chair of the Workgroup on Education of Public and Patients and Supporting Resources of the National Commission on Digestive Diseases; and member of the Advisory Committee and Executive Committee of the National Digestive Disease Information Clearinghouse.

Under Suzanne's direction, CCFA and DDNC have been consistent and effective voices for digestive disease research within the National Institutes of Health, including funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and other related institutes and agencies within the Public Health Service. She is recognized by the research community, CCFA and the DDNC as a loyal ally and a valuable resource in creating public awareness of digestive diseases, as well as a strong partner in the effort to develop new treatments and improve medical understanding of these conditions.

Most recently, with Suzanne's guidance, I worked along with CCFA to establish the Congressional Crohn's and Colitis Caucus. In memory of Suzanne's contributions, CCFA and DDNC will continue to work together to improve the lives of patients with digestive diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in this very special congressional salute to this leader and advocate, Suzanne Rosenthal.

IN HONOR OF THE OPENING OF
PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the opening of Pinnacles National Park, the 59th National Park in the United States. I want to thank Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar for joining us to celebrate the opening of Pinnacles National Park on February 11, 2013.

Pinnacles truly is a special place. There are few words that can describe the feeling of watching a California condor spread its massive wings as it soars high above the volcanic spires or the beauty of the Park's wildflowers painted upon the landscape by the springtime sun.

Native Americans were the first to discover the cliffs of Pinnacles. The Chalon and Mutsun

groups of the Ohlone people lived here thousands of years ago. This place was more than just a home to these native tribes; it was the center of their community. As our nation spread west and homesteaders began to settle on the Central Coast, they too were drawn to this spot. Led by Schuler Hain, who the wilderness of Pinnacles is now named for, they would hike into the park to explore the Talus Caves or picnic in the open meadows. Realizing that this was a special place worthy of protection for generations to enjoy, Schuler Hain gathered the community and preservation efforts were launched. Then, in 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt established Pinnacles National Monument. A century later, understanding the economic potential of a National Park designation, surrounding counties again turned to Pinnacles as a means to support their communities.

I would like to thank Representative JEFF DENHAM, who co-sponsored the bill, Senator BARBARA BOXER for championing the bill in the Senate and President Obama in making Pinnacles a national park thus achieving the dream of Schuler Hain and President Theodore Roosevelt.

I can't help but think of the pride my father, who as a state Senator protected so many special places here in California, would have felt if he were alive to see the creation of the ninth national park here in his home state. I also think of my friend and my first campaign chair, Ansel Adams, whose iconic photographs captured the unbelievable beauty of this country, inspiring a whole new generation of Americans to experience our other great parks. Finally, I think of the Ansel Adams of this generation, Director Ken Burns, a supporter of elevating Pinnacles to a national park, whose documentary series National Parks: America's Best Idea captured the story of our country's efforts to set aside land for protection.

He and his business partner, Dayton Duncan wrote:

"National parks are truly 'America's best idea,' an idea that for nearly 150 years has kept evolving and expanding, not just in the United States but across the entire world. It is the Declaration of Independence written upon the landscape, a statement that a nation's most majestic and sacred places should be preserved for all time and for everyone . . .

"Pinnacles National Park, like so many in our history, is the result of the dedication of individual citizens who worked tirelessly to save a special place they loved, so that others could love it and appreciate it as well. It has a deep history that matches its beauty . . .

"We cannot think of a better way to express our feelings than to quote John Muir, who had this to say about the people responsible for the birth of a new national park: 'Happy will be [the ones] who, having the power and the love and the benevolent forecast [to create a park] will do it. They will not be forgotten. The trees and their lovers will sing their praises, and generations yet unborn will rise up and call them blessed.'"

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to call Pinnacles a national park. I encourage all Americans to come visit this truly special place and be inspired to go home and preserve the special places in their own communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AFRICAN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF
QUAKERTOWN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the State of Texas' Historical Commission with the placement of an Official Texas Historical Marker on behalf of the African American Community of Quakertown.

In the early 1880s, Quakertown emerged as a thriving African American community in the heart of Denton, TX. Quakertown flourished through 1920, its growth due in part to its location near the city square and the opportunities it provided for African Americans. The community was bounded by Withers Street on the north, Oakland Avenue on the west, Bell Avenue on the east, and by Cottonwood and Pecan Creeks on the South. Although many residents worked for businesses on the nearby city square, at the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University), and as servants for white households, Quakertown prospered as a self-supporting community. Several churches, a physician's office, lodges, restaurants, and small businesses joined homes to line the streets of the community. The neighborhood school, the Fred Douglass School, burned in Sep. 1913 and was rebuilt along Wye Street in Southeast Denton in 1916, foreshadowing events to come.

By 1920, the proximity of Quakertown to the growing College of Industrial Arts and the civic-minded interests of Denton's white residents threatened the future of Quakertown. Many believed that it was in the best interest of the College and the Denton community to transform Quakertown into a city park. In Apr. 1921, with little input from its residents, the City voted 367 to 240 in favor of a bond to purchase Quakertown. More than 60 families lost their homes. The majority of the displaced residents relocated to southeast Denton on 21 acres of land, platted as Solomon Hill, sold to them by rancher Albert L. Miles. Others, including many Quakertown Community leaders, chose to leave Denton altogether. By Feb. 1923, Quakertown had disappeared in the midst of the new park's construction.

The Texas Historical Marker commemorating the site was approved by and paid for by the Texas Historical Commission as one of a select group of applications made each year to recognize untold stories. The selection was a result of a successful 2010 application by the Denton County Historical Commission, supported through the efforts of the Denton Public Library and the Denton Parks and Recreation Department.

It is my honor to recognize these organizations and the efforts of the individuals involved and to represent Denton County and the City of Denton in the House of Representatives.

HONORING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
CHRIS KYLE

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I solemnly stand today to honor and pay respect to a true American patriot, a devoted father, and a loving husband, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle. Sadly, on February 2, 2013, Chris and close friend Chad Littlefield were tragically killed on a remote ranch in Texas while attempting to help a troubled veteran who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Chris leaves behind his lovely wife Taya, and their two children.

Born on April 8, 1974 in Odessa, Texas, Chris began shooting and hunting with his father when he was eight years old. After an accident ended a short-lived career as a professional bronco rider, Chris was moved from within to satisfy his life-long desire to serve his country and join the military. Chris enlisted in the United States Navy, and ultimately worked his way to becoming a member of the United States Navy's Sea, Air, Land Teams, also known as the U.S. Navy Seals, one of our nation's most elite group of special forces units.

From 1999 to 2009, Chris served four tours in Iraq as a member of SEAL Team 3 where he was involved in every major battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his time in Iraq, Chris' courage and heroism in battle earned him the title and honor of the most elite sniper in U.S. history.

Fearing for his deadly accuracy, Chris was nicknamed The Devil of Ramadi by insurgents, and recorded a record 150 confirmed kills—one of which was a 2,100-yard strike, 1.2 miles away. More importantly however, Chris is most remembered for his selfless and unwavering ability to protect American troops while perched on rooftops. In fact, despite being shot twice and directly involved in multiple IED explosions during his tours, Chris always made doing his job and his fellow teammates his top priority. For his bravery, Chris was awarded two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation.

In 2009, Chris retired from his military career in order to dedicate more time to his wife and family. Shortly after, he released his New York Times bestselling autobiography, *American Sniper*, which shares his battle experiences and sheds light on the true sacrifices that service members and their families endure. Unprepared for the books immediate success, Chris ultimately donated proceeds from the book to the families of fallen service members. For those that knew Chris personally, this was nothing out of the ordinary.

Chris was not just an exemplary soldier; he was a successful businessman, a trusted friend and team member, and a devoted husband, father, and son. He lived by the professional motto, "It is our duty to serve those who serve us." This principle became the driving force behind his decision to found Craft International, a military and law enforcement training and security company, as well as help create Fitco Cares Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps veterans overcome post-traumatic stress disorder and adjust to civilian.

As a former veteran myself, I truly understand the sacrifices Chris and his family made for our great country. Chris' devotion to a higher calling and his commitment to God, Country, and Family should serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. We all owe a debt to men and women like Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Chris Kyle, a true American hero and a man of great principle. I extend my deepest condolences to Chris' family, and my thoughts and prayers are with them as they move forward in Chris' honor.

RECOGNIZING SIX GRADUATING
SENIOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS
AT BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six outstanding members of the senior class at Buffalo State College. Four members of the men's varsity basketball team, Anthony Hamer, Jake Simmons, Seth Runge, and Ken Owusu, and two members of the women's basketball team, Erica Derby and Alicia Bowman, will graduate this spring. I commend each of these students for their contributions to Buffalo State, and congratulate them at the culmination of their illustrious collegiate athletic careers.

Scholar athletes have the unique challenge of balancing the academic demands of undergraduate work with the physical demands of a collegiate sports program. Full participation in each requires incredible discipline and commitment. Each student athlete is accountable not only to themselves, but to their teammates, coaches, and greater campus community.

Despite such great expectations, Anthony, Jake, Seth, Ken, Erica and Alicia have excelled. Each will earn their bachelor's degree. Jake has the distinct honor of scoring the most points in the history of Buffalo State men's basketball. As an alumnus of Buffalo State College myself, I will be proud to call them fellow alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing my colleagues to join me in recognizing these exceptional Buffalo State Bengals and wishing them the best as they complete their undergraduate careers. I have no doubt their work ethic and determination will bring them success in all their future endeavors.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 2013 will mark the 10th anniversary of a unique and historical gathering of scientists from 15 Middle East countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. In 2003, the

first conference, "Frontier of Chemical Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East—A Bridge to Peace," was held on the Mediterranean island of Malta. These conferences later came to be known as "The Malta Conferences."

In each of the conferences, scientists meet for five days with six Nobel Laureates to work on scientific issues of importance to the region: Air and Water Quality, Alternative Energy Sources, Nanotechnology and Material Science, Medicinal Chemistry, and Science Education for All Levels. Since 2003, five conferences were held. By invitation from UNESCO, Malta V was held at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris in December 2011. The conference was opened by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and followed by a speech by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan on his vision for the new Middle East.

Although acts of war and terrorism have destabilized the political and economic climate in the Middle East and around the world, it remains possible for scientists from opposing sides of the political and cultural conflict to meet in an attempt to forge relationships that bridge the deep chasms of distrust and intolerance.

In the Middle East, it is especially important that stable, mutually respectful, personal relationships be created that will enhance research interactions and collaborations, contribute to a more peaceful atmosphere, encourage international development, help establish a more favorable environment for regional peace and security, and foster further growth in regional scientific and technological cooperation. This is the goal of the Malta Conferences.

In 2012, the Malta Conferences Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization and my great friend and constituent Zafra Lerman was elected its president. Like other people who foster social change, she too had a dream. The fulfillment of this dream was the Malta Conferences.

Zafra Lerman is a world-renowned scientist and science educator. She received her Ph.D. from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and conducted research on isotope effects at Cornell University, Northwestern University, and at the Swiss Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland. Professor Lerman developed an innovative approach of teaching science to non-science majors by integrating science with the arts, and with students' personal interests and cultural backgrounds. These methods have received national and international recognition. She has been invited to lecture on her methods all over the U.S. and around the world.

For the past 25 years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of dissidents all over the world. She chaired the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights for the American Chemical Society (ACS). At great risk to her personal safety, she has worked within the Soviet Union, China and other countries and has succeeded in preventing executions, releasing prisoners of conscience from jail and bringing dissidents into freedom.

Professor Lerman has received many national and international awards. In 1999, she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Clinton. In 1998, she received the Kilby Laureate Award for extraordinary contribution to society through science,

technology, invention, innovation and education. In 2003, she was the recipient of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Parsons Award in recognition of outstanding public service to society through chemistry. The Royal Society of Chemistry in England awarded her the 2005 Nyholm Award, and the New York Academy of Sciences presented her with the 2005 Heinz Pagels Human Rights for Scientists Award. She received the 2007 George Brown Award for International Scientific Cooperation from the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF). In 2011, she received an award for Stimulating Collaborations and Ensuring Human Rights by the International Conference on Chemistry for Mankind in India.

The capstone of her career is her work on the Malta Conferences. The Malta Conferences are the only platform where scientists from 15 Middle East countries are collaborating and cooperating on scientific issues as well as developing professional and personal relationships with each other. The common language of science is used for science diplomacy, which serves as a bridge to peace, tolerance and understanding in the Middle East and improves the relationships between the Muslim countries and the U.S., and between the Arabs, Iranians and Israelis.

IN HONOR OF BOBBY MOEGLE

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bobby Moegle, a coaching legend from Lubbock, Texas. Coach Moegle was recently inducted into the 2012 Class of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame for his outstanding coaching career and contributions to the community.

Coach Moegle was the first baseball coach Monterey High School hired and he kept that title for the next 40 years. His career record was an astounding 1,115–267. He won four state championships in 1972, 1974, 1981 and 1996. Additionally, his teams won 33 district championships. In 1972 he was named the National Baseball Coach of the Year.

Players respected Coach Moegle both on and off the field. More than 100 of his players made it to the collegiate level and 20 signed professional contracts. Coach Moegle built a baseball program on the High Plains that was the envy of the region. His teams were usually considered to be among the best mentally and physically prepared on the baseball field. Their intense practices and weight training programs paid dividends in the form of consistent winning seasons.

Beyond his winning record, Coach Moegle was a great mentor for his players and students. He is still very highly respected in the Lubbock community and across Texas. Many of his former players acknowledge the skills and habits they learned under Coach Moegle prepared them for the many challenges of life that came after high school.

Mr. Speaker please join me in recognizing Coach Moegle for his outstanding coaching career. Monterey High School and the City of Lubbock were truly blessed to have someone of the character and integrity of Coach Moegle

to teach our kids the lessons of baseball and life for so many years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LLOYD ANDRE ROLLINS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lloyd Andre Rollins of Columbus, Ohio. A true American hero, Mr. Rollins' service here on earth came to a close on January 30, 2013. An Ohioan and veteran of the United States Air Force, he is among the countless number of fearless warriors and veterans who have devoted their lives to serving our great nation.

In 1957, Mr. Rollins began his service in the United States Air Force. He was later transferred to the Department of State and sworn into the U.S. Foreign Service, where he served for 27 years. Mr. Rollins was awarded a Medal of Valor after he was taken hostage during the 1979 siege of the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran.

Mr. Rollins is survived by his wife, Judy, and his two daughters, Patricia and Terri. As I pray for the family and friends of Mr. Rollins, I ask that all Members of Congress join me in offering our deepest appreciation and gratitude for his life and service to this country.

THE MEDICAL RESEARCH PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Research Protection Act of 2013. This bill will protect our national investments in biomedical research from impending automatic federal budget cuts. If we do nothing, these automatic budget cuts or "sequester" will cancel \$85 billion in federal spending between March 1 and September 30, including roughly \$2 billion from the National Institutes of Health budget. That amounts to a failure to fund or renew funding for some 2,000 grants at America's research universities, where the world's top scientists are discovering treatments for diseases like cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and HIV/AIDS. This bill would ensure that NIH's budget is protected for the balance of this fiscal year.

I have opposed the sequester—a senseless and irresponsible approach to deficit reduction—since day one. I voted against the bill that put the sequester in place, and I have sponsored a bill with my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus to remove the entire sequester, to protect critical programs like Medicare, Head Start, Community Health Centers, and so many other priorities.

That said, Seattle's economy relies uniquely on federal funding for biomedical research. Science and technological innovation is the lifeblood of our local economy and a source of tremendous civic pride. The University of Washington receives more federal funding than any other public university in the nation,

and is the state's third largest employer. The great majority of the UW's federal funds come from the NIH. This academic hub creates a spillover effect in the private sector that has made Seattle one of the brightest destinations for scientists the world over. It is no exaggeration to say that sequestration of research funding threatens the heart of Seattle's economy, which is why I am introducing a standalone measure today to stop cuts to the NIH.

To be clear, this bill will turn off the sequester for NIH from the period of March 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, and reduce the amount of the sequester by that amount to avoid deeper cuts to other programs.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF PAUL WOODS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and service of Paul Woods as he prepares to celebrate his 90th birthday on February 20th, 2013.

Paul Woods was born in Basemore, Alabama, to Nora Fiels Woods and Anderson Sherman Woods. From an early age, the foundation of Paul's life was his family. Paul's family included six brothers and sisters in addition to seven half-brothers and sisters through his father. Sadly, Anderson Woods passed away when Paul was seven years old. Surviving relatives split up the seven children in order to care for them, leaving Paul to be raised by his wealthy Uncle Henry.

In 1941, at age 17, Paul enlisted in the United States Army. He was immediately deployed to the Philippines to fight in World War II. Despite the Army's imposed racial segregation, Paul cared for his fellow soldiers like family, believing "a bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield."

Paul took great pride in his service, and often told his children of landing on the Philippine shoreline in LST990 boats. Paul earned three Bronze Stars in the Philippines for his actions in combat. After his tour of duty, Paul served in the Military Occupation Specialties, delivering ammunition across the continent of Australia. In 1945 he was granted an honorable discharge.

After returning home to Birmingham, Alabama, Paul met Mary T. Lucas, the love of his life. In 1953, the couple moved to Buffalo, and would reside in Western New York for the rest of their 59 year marriage. Paul began a 31 year career at Bethlehem Steel in July 1954, often working 16 hour days and nine shifts a week to support his family. In 1966, the Woods family moved to Angola, New York, but Paul continued to commute to Bethlehem Steel until the plant closed.

Paul and Mary's family expanded to fourteen children over the course of their 59 year marriage. A true patriarch, Paul's greatest joy came from building his beautiful, thriving family. Paul believed in education as a tool to foster love and acceptance, and raised his children to value the same. All fourteen children attended college, and five followed their father's footsteps in the armed forces. As Paul's children had children of their own, Paul helped

raise his nineteen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, often commuting from Angola to Buffalo to pay them a visit.

In addition to their biological family, Paul and Mary opened their door and hearts to countless foster children. As licensed foster care providers for Randolph Child and Adolescent Services, Paul and Mary were honored as "Foster Parents of the Year" in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Paul Woods. I am inspired by his boundless capacity for love and devotion to his family, and I am proud to celebrate his life here today. I am proud to celebrate his 90th birthday here today, and I wish him good fortune for many years to come.

HONORING KEN BERRY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of my constituents, Ken Berry of Richmond, Indiana.

Ken was a loving husband to Debbie Berry, a vital member of my congressional staff who previously served in the office of former Representative Mike Pence. Ken brought joy, love, and laughter to those around him and was a wonderful partner in life for his entire family.

A longtime member of Oak Park Church in Richmond, Ken enjoyed singing and gospel music. He was a small business owner and known around the region as an impressive auctioneer with a matching personality—warm, friendly, and instantly approachable.

Ken and his family's dedication to the people of Indiana will be forever appreciated. I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to keep Debbie, son Matt, and the entire Berry family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL WALLING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Russell Walling. Russell passed away on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. A long time resident of Riverside, California, he was a pillar of the community and he will be deeply missed.

Russell was born December 7, 1917 in Douglas, Arizona, the son of Luther and Francis Walling. His family relocated to Riverside in 1927, where he attended Lowell Elementary School, Riverside Polytechnic High School and Riverside Community College. Following graduation he worked as a draftsman for the noted architect G. Stanley Wilson, and later moved to Los Angeles to work for a large architectural firm. Russell met the love of his life, LouElla Scott, at See's Candy where she worked and the two were married in 1941. Russell served his country honorably as a Lieutenant in the Navy Seabees during World War II.

After the war he returned to Riverside to work with his father, forming L.A. Walling &

Son. Together they built many homes in the Wood Streets area, including Prince Albert Estates, the first exclusive custom tract homes in Riverside. In the mid-1950s Russell started Russell Walling, Inc. to continue residential building. His first commercial project was an A&W restaurant on University Avenue in Riverside. Over the years he built many large commercial buildings in Riverside, such as DeAnza Chevrolet, Caddock Electronics and Johnson Tractor. Russell's proudest accomplishment was the construction of an extensive complex of buildings for Bourns Incorporated, which won Building of the Year in 1962. In the early 1970s he built Los Amigos, the first private upscale condominiums on Victoria Avenue. In the late 1970s he purchased the original Security Pacific Bank building on the corner of University & Main, now known as the Walling Building.

It is hard to imagine that Russell would have any free time on his hands yet he always found time for his community. He had served as President of Riverside's Chamber of Commerce and Citizen of the Year; President of the Riverside Rotary Club; President of the Riverside Community Hospital Board; and President of the Monday Morning Group. A longtime member of the Victoria Club where he was first a caddy in his early years, and later an avid golfer, Russell and George Champion spearheaded a major three year renovation of the Victoria Club in the 1990s. Russell loved the outdoors and spent many years with his family at their trailer on the beach at El Morro near Laguna. He loved and cherished his time with family, especially his children and grandchildren. Russell and LouElla traveled extensively throughout Europe, Asia and South America. They spent many happy years doing annual fishing treks to Whaler's Cove off the rugged coast of Alaska's Admiralty Island.

Russell was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 69 years, LouElla; his brother Foster and sister, Mary. He is survived by his daughter Lee Walling Good of Grants Pass, Oregon; his son Terry Walling and daughter-in-law Cathleen of Riverside; grandchildren, Karen Lalonde of Greenwood, South Carolina; Tracy Cauble and Susanne McGee of Grants Pass, Oregon; David Good of Greenville, South Carolina; great grandchildren, Marissa, Kaitlyn and Steven Franquez, Shelby and Caden Morrison, Madalyn and Gregory Cauble, and Jakob and Lukas McGee; and great great granddaughter Mya Franquez.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2013, a memorial service honoring Russell's life was held at the First Christian Church in Riverside. Russell will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. His dedication to his family, work, and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Russell's family and friends; although Russell may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

THE NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD BECOMES THE NATIONAL RUNAWAY SAFELINE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Runaway Safeline, which changed its name last month from the National Runaway Switchboard.

The NRS was established in 1971 to fill a need for comprehensive crisis intervention for young people in Chicago. It was conceived as a centralized organization with free 24-hour services, expertise in all youth-related issues and as an information clearinghouse of youth services.

In 1974, NRS received an eight-month federal demonstration grant to establish a national hotline for runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth. The need for the service was clearly demonstrated over the eight-month period, during which time 11,000 calls were received. Since then, its capabilities and services have grown considerably, now handling over 100,000 calls each year.

Since its founding, NRS grew into a national organization and expanded its crisis intervention offerings to include bulletin boards, crisis emails, and live chat. Recognizing that the term "switchboard" does not reflect the various ways youth in crisis can connect with its services, the organization has changed its name to the National Runaway Safeline.

The organization maintains its holistic and expert crisis intervention model focused on addressing at-risk issues immediately. Its services remain confidential, anonymous, and available 24/7, providing a comprehensive connection to more than 10,000 different organizations and resources for at-risk youth and their families. The organization continues its service as the federally-designated communication system for runaway and homeless youth.

As a strong advocate of helping homeless individuals and as a long-time supporter of the organization, I am pleased that the NRS will continue its mission to help keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. We are proud to have this nationally-recognized effort housed in Chicago, and I congratulate Maureen Blaha and her staff for their vision and leadership.

I welcome this opportunity to celebrate the growth, progress and impact that the National Runaway Safeline has had in the last 42 years and will continue to have in the decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I write to inform you that I was detained on February 6, 2013, and was unable to be on the House floor for the vote on H.R. 444. Had I been there, I would have voted a "yea" on rollcall 38: Final passage of H.R. 444.

ENDANGERED TEXAS TREASURES—TEXAS COURTHOUSES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, no matter where I go, I always meet someone who wants to share a memory about my former life as a criminal court judge in the Harris County courtrooms. Most times, people reminisce about some of the creative punishments that I handed down or about the time they served jury duty in my courtroom. But, sometimes the conversation turned to the courthouse itself, or as I call it, the Palace of Perjury.

I presided over more than 25,000 criminal cases in the Palace of Perjury for 22 years. My particular courtroom was massive. Paneled in a dark wood, it gave off an ominous, serious mood. As it should—some of the worst and most horrid crimes were tried within its walls.

That courthouse—now the Juvenile Courthouse in Harris County—was just one of 235 courthouses in Texas. Each is a symbol of our state's rich history and a symbol of our promise to follow the law and pursue justice. Courthouse construction began in Texas after it won independence from Mexico in 1836. Counties were formed and courthouse construction began in each. Because the counties were booming and populations were increasing, many courthouses served multiple purposes: schools, churches, dancehalls and meeting places, not just a place to settle legal issues. Courthouses became the heart of the town—or the “square” of the town. Here Main Street businesses grew, and communities were shaped. Trials, elections, marriages, parades and festivals are forever linked to our historic courthouses.

At times as a judge, I traveled to other counties to try cases. Along the way, I began to photograph Texas' historic courthouses. I was drawn to their impressive and varied architecture. Built with bricks, stone, and stained glass, some have clock towers; others have domes. Each is unique. I like the Renaissance Revival style of the Anderson County Courthouse and the Romanesque Revival style of Fayette County Courthouse in La Grange. Some like the Newton County Courthouse known for its Second Empire style, while others like the La Salle County Courthouse known for its Moderne-style structure.

Along the way, I learned that other Texas officials shared my love and admiration for our State treasures. In 1993, my friend and then-Governor George W. Bush, together with the Texas Historical Commission, established the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, a plan that provided \$200 million in matching grants to communities working to repair and restore these structures. By the end of 2012, 63 Texas counties have received full funding for their construction project. That includes the Harris County Courthouse—“the Jewel of the South.” Built in 1910, restoration on the courthouse was available through funding from the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program and was completed last year. There's a lot of history in our great State, and it's our responsibility to preserve this rich heritage for future generations.

In 1998 and again in 2012, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named all his-

toric courthouses in Texas to its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Some of those historic courts are located in rural counties with limited funds, but are in need of insurmountable repairs. Unfortunately, some are on the brink of abandonment or demolition. Budgets are tight all around, but I think these treasures are worth saving.

This spring break and summer, as you pack up the family and head across our great state, get off the interstates and drive downtown to any Main Street. There you can share a little Texas history with your kids and grandkids. On each Main Street is a Texas treasure. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CAREER OF DR. SAMUEL LAMAR WRIGHT, SR.
HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of achievements and career of Dr. Samuel Lamar Wright, Sr. Dr. Wright's desire to help others, along with his achievements and service to the Tampa Bay community is worthy of recognition by all.

A native Floridian, Dr. Wright grew up in Boynton Beach. In 1974, he graduated, with honors, from the University of Florida with a degree in Psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences and a degree in Psychological Foundations from the College of Education. He later continued his studies at the University of South Florida where he completed his doctorate in Special Education Administration and Supervision.

After serving as the first black City Councilman in Boynton Beach, Dr. Wright moved to Tampa in 1985. He was hired by the University of South Florida to plan, create and coordinate student programming for minority students. At the time, black students accounted for less than 5 percent of the student population. He made it his mission to improve student enrollment for minorities. He later served for 13 years as the university's assistant director for multicultural admissions, allowing him to recruit, enroll, mentor and retain minority students, fostering diversity on USF's campus. After serving as associate dean of student relations and director of multicultural affairs at USF, Dr. Wright is now the USF student ombudsman, a position where he cherishes the opportunities to mentor students through the challenges of college and cheer on their successes.

Aside from his accomplishments with the University of South Florida, Dr. Wright's commitment to the Tampa Bay community has been unwavering. In 2001, he organized the first Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival, a multicultural celebration, now held annually, in honor of black history and culture in the Tampa area. Dr. Wright also serves as the vice president of the Hillsborough County NAACP and has served as a Board member with the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau. In addition, he is actively involved at the state level as a member of the African American Task Force and, in 2010, he was

appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to serve as a board member of the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Glazer's Children's Museum.

After 27 years with the University of South Florida and countless contributions to the Tampa Bay community, Dr. Wright is retiring. It is clear that he has contributed to the growth and diversity at USF in countless ways, while also influencing and effecting students on a personal level. While his contributions to USF will be missed, his impact on the Tampa area will no doubt continue for years to come.

The Tampa Bay community is proud to recognize Dr. Samuel Lamar Wright, Sr. for his steadfastness and desire to enrich the people of our community. His outstanding career and significant contributions have made him an inspirational leader. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community and our state.

HONORING PAT GILARDI**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Pat Gilardi for her many years of visionary leadership on the Cotati City Council, as she is stepping down from her Council duties to accept a position in county government. Ms. Gilardi has been an outstanding leader for the City of Cotati during her 15 years of service, and her hard work and dedication is reflected in the many projects and improvements she nurtured and brought to fruition during that time.

The city and people of Cotati have benefited immensely from Ms. Gilardi's contributions since the start of her career in public service in 1997, when she was appointed to the Cotati Planning Commission. Among the numerous projects Ms. Gilardi spearheaded was the Multi Modal Transit Village, now known as the Santero Way Specific Plan.

Ms. Gilardi would go on to be selected from a large group of applicants to fill a vacancy on the Cotati City Council in October 2000. She was elected to her first full term in November 2002. She was reelected in 2006 and 2010, and she was selected as Mayor in both 2006 and 2008. Ms. Gilardi has worked to guide the City of Cotati to fiscal sustainability, strong environmental policy, transportation alternatives, and quality community services.

In addition to her service on the city council, Ms. Gilardi served on a number of commissions and boards in Sonoma County, including her time as the Director of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA). While a member of the Board at SCTA, Ms. Gilardi represented the City of Cotati's interests for the Highway 101 widening project and other transportation related issues including securing funds, project oversight and long-term planning.

In addition to her public service, Ms. Gilardi is also the co-founder of the 4-H Club of Cotati, a former two-term president of her local Parent Teacher Association, and sat on the Board of Directors for the Cotati According Festival.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Ms. Gilardi for her invaluable service to the City of Cotati and for the numerous projects she has overseen and led to completion. Her exemplary leadership has left a legacy for our community that will extend far into the future as she moves on to her new role with the County of Sonoma.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
LOUIS C. DEBERGALIS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Louis C. DeBergalis, who passed away on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at the age of 69.

A proud member of Ironworkers Local 6 who shared a family-owned small business, Mr. DeBergalis exemplified the American Dream. Along with his brother, Rocco Jr., he co-owned Rod Placing, a steel reinforcing company started by his father, Rocco.

Mr. DeBergalis was a family man. In addition to his role and pride in the family business, he loved his daughters, Tonya Balash and Jacquelyn Criola; son, Jeffrey; mother, Olympia; sister, Mary Rose Gaughan; and three brothers Joseph, Paul, and Rocco Jr.

Mr. DeBergalis lived most of his life in Bufalo's Lovejoy neighborhood. He took pride in his heritage and community, holding membership in the Big Timers Italian-American Club. In his down time, he enjoyed a variety of activities including gardening, cooking, and stone carving.

Mr. Speaker, I kindly ask you to join me and our colleagues as we stand in this moment to honor the life of Mr. Louis C. DeBergalis and offer our deepest condolences to his family.

CONGRATULATING JARRED AND
SHELBY RAMBO

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate two elementary students from Ouachita Parish who participated in a national art exhibit opening in Washington, D.C. Eight-year-old Jarred Rambo and 10-year-old Shelby Rambo, children of Judge and Mrs. Wilson and Christine Rambo of West Monroe, La., cut the ribbon on the U.S. Department of Education's Student Art Exhibit Program.

This wonderful program is now in its 10th year and strives to highlight student accom-

plishment in the arts. This year, the exhibit featured works from the 2012 national PTA winners. Jarred won the PTA Reflections Award of Excellence for literature in the primary division for pre-K through second grade and Shelby won the PTA Reflections Award of Merit for dance choreography in the intermediate division for third grade through fifth grade. Both students were honored in the U.S. Department of Education's ceremony along with other winners from around the country.

Jarred and Shelby should be commended for their hard work and remarkable artistic ability. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating their wonderful achievements.

THE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
THE POPULAR UPRISING IN BAH-
RAIN

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today is the two year anniversary of the day when the Arab Spring came to Bahrain. On February 14, 2011, the people of Bahrain took to the streets in spontaneous, peaceful protests calling for an end to oppression. Bahrainis were emboldened by the Arab Spring, which was sweeping across the Middle East and they were fired up by decades of human rights abuses by their government. Unfortunately, the Government of Bahrain brought in foreign troops and responded with violence, killing protesters and unleashing a systematic program of torture and unlawful detention that continues today.

It is disappointing that Bahrain, a close ally of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, is engaging in torture, intimidation, and repression against peaceful protesters. Two years later, the judicial system is used to punish dissenters, freedom of expression is punished—Bahrainis are imprisoned for tweeting—and those responsible for even the most egregious violations are seldom brought to justice. The people of Bahrain deserve better, and I stand with them in their quest for basic human rights.

As an American ally, we must insist upon their compliance with the most basic of human rights for all of its citizens.

This should be an especially concerning situation for everyone in this body. Bahrain is the host of the U.S. Fifth Fleet and an important ally in the Gulf Region. The Government's outrageous treatment of its own citizens is creating deep divisions in Bahrain and sowing instability. We need a strong naval presence in the Gulf to keep our own country safe and we have put many of our eggs in one basket, Bahrain. However, the fact that an important ally to our great democracy is violating the very principles for which we have placed the Fifth Fleet therein is highly unacceptable. It is

unacceptable to me, as it should be to the rest of this body.

It is absolutely essential that Bahrain set itself on a course that promotes stability and reconciliation and that will only happen when the Government moves to meet the people's legitimate calls for respect for human rights and enhanced democracy occurs. It appears that political dialogue may be starting in Bahrain. I call on the Government of Bahrain to engage fully in this dialogue—not as a moderator, but as a negotiating partner.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
RALPH WILLIAM BRAUN

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor the legacy of Ralph William Braun. Born on December 18, 1940 in Winamac, Indiana, Ralph is a lifelong Hoosier, proud family man, and entrepreneur whose contributions positively impacted thousands of lives in the community. As the Founder and CEO of the Braun Corporation, his company's specialized mobility products have improved the everyday lives of individuals across the globe.

Ralph's passion to help others was fostered at a young age, as he struggled with spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic defect that causes muscle damage. In an effort to improve his own mobility, Ralph developed and assembled a three-wheel scooter. Realizing that others suffered from the same issue, he founded the Save-A-Step Manufacturing Company in 1963, a company that later became known as The Braun Corporation. Today Braun Corporation has grown into a world-wide company, with its headquarters still based in the Second District of Winamac, Indiana.

His contributions did not stop there. In 2010, Ralph started the Ralph Braun Foundation to continue helping the disabled population obtain mobility equipment. His contributions were recognized by a robust group of organizations with awards and honors, including The White House's 2012 "Champion of Change" award. Ralph's effort and donations to the community have touched many, and he will be sorely missed.

Ralph leaves behind an incredible legacy that will surely live on to inspire future Americans and encourage new innovation. His family, including his wife, Melody, children, and grandchildren will remain in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

I am honored to recognize the life of Ralph William Braun and extend my deepest sympathies to his loved ones. Joining Hoosiers across the state, we mourn his loss and remember the leadership that will continue motivating us all to help others.