

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.