Citation team award in 2001 and Deputy Commissioner's Citations in 2004 and 2005.

She was noted for her attention to detail and her dedication to the Social Security Administration and its mission. I worked with her on several occasions and was impressed by her ability and her attention to detail. I want to personally thank her for her years of dedicated service.

Susan and her husband Ron, who is also retiring from the SSA, plan to spend time celebrating family and friendships, travelling and exploring. I wish them the very best in their retirement years.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Section 401 creates a new category of employee called a "Further Revised Annuity Employee" and would require Further Revised Annuity Employees to contribute additional amounts into the CRSDF. It is the intent of Congress for OPM to create a new normal cost for the Further Revised Annuity Employees, and to ensure that the retirement plan not be underfunded.

Additionally, it is the intent that for the new Further Revised Annuity Employee Plan that the only determinant of whether an individual is a FERS employee or Member, as opposed to a FERS Revised Annuity Employee or FERS Further Revised Annuity Employee, is through application of the FERS Revised Annuity Employee test. And that the new Further Revised Annuity Employee test only differentiates between FERS Revised Annuity Employee coverage and new FERS Further Revised Annuity Employee coverage.

VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CAPTURES STATE 1A CROWN

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vermilion Catholic High School Screamin' Eagles of Abbeville for recently winning Louisiana's Class 1A state championship over the Saint Frederick Catholic High School Warriors on December 14, 2013, in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. With a convincing 63–18 win, there was no doubt which team deserved to be crowned state champions.

The Vermilion Screamin' Eagles team capped off its perfect 10–0 season with an offensive display that kept fans on the edge of their seats. After trailing 3–0 early in the game, the Screamin' Eagles answered by scoring 42 of the next 49 points. It was too much for Saint Frederick to overcome as Vermilion continued its scoring barrage on offense and special teams while its defense refused to give the Warriors an opening. Vermilion used a balanced attack as it passed for 269 yards while rushing for another 216 yards. Recording 16 first downs was key to establishing a new Class 1A championship record for most points in a game.

Congratulations to Coach Russell Kuhns and his team as this state championship comes on the ten year anniversary of the Class 1A crown Vermilion won in 2003.

I look forward to next year's football season and wish the Screamin' Eagles team good luck in defending its crown.

ANN DEMERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ann Demers for her outstanding service to our community.

As a Special Needs teacher in Jefferson County Ann always gave above and beyond. Eventually becoming a school psychologist, she led training for the Second Step Curriculum and was a member of the Crisis Response Team during the Columbine High School tragedy. Ann is involved in her neighborhood, church, and family, organizing community events and service activities. She created a church community service group known as the Red Tent Ladies, and once she started on the Ralston House Board they saw exponential growth. Her spirit and dedication are truly inspiring.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ann Demers for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of final passage of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I commend Chairman MCKEON, Chairman LEVIN, Ranking Member SMITH, and Ranking Member INHOFE for crafting a bipartisan bill that both strengthens the security of our nation and provides for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform and their civilian colleagues.

While not perfect, today's compromise legislation makes many key improvements over the Defense Authorization bill that the House voted on earlier this year. I am particularly encouraged that the final agreement we voted on today includes $80.7 billion in funding for overseas contingency operations (OCO), which is in line with the Pentagon's request. This is an important change from the $85.8 billion that was included in the House-passed authorization in June. Today's bill provides sufficient funds to fully meet the President's FY 2014 request for the war in Afghanistan while ensuring that the overseas contingency operations account will not become a slush fund for unrequested defense spending.

The final agreement also eases restrictions on the ability of DoD to transfer Guantanamo detainees and takes an important step in addressing our indefinite detention policy there. In particular, I am pleased that this bill drops a provision that would have barred the use of funds to transfer prisoners to Yemen and authorizes the Pentagon to transfer detainees to other foreign countries under certain conditions. More needs to be done when addressing our indefinite detention policy, but provisions such as these represent significant progress.

I am also encouraged by the changes this bill makes with regards to how the military responds to sexual assault cases. It adopts Senate language to bar individuals from joining the military if they have been convicted of a sex-related offense; it imposes a minimum sentence of dishonorable discharge or dismissal on those found guilty; and it prohibits commanders from dismissing a court martial finding or reducing the offense level of guilty findings.

Finally, the compromise bill does make some progress on allowing the Department of Defense to execute the New START Treaty. Specifically, it allows DoD to begin planning and preparation for implementing the force structure to meet the required limits of the New START Treaty. However, it still goes too far in limiting the President's ability to fully implement the treaty and set the country's nuclear policy.

I am also disappointed that this legislation authorizes the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the Pentagon continues to say is unnecessary. This provision disregards the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and seeks to tie the President's hands in determining military requirements in other parts of the world. This bill also contains provisions which ignore DoD recommendations and continues to fund unrequested weapons systems and military aircraft, including the M1A2 Abrams tank, the C–130 AMP, and the UH–72A Light Utility Helicopter.

Despite these reservations, this compromise legislation is a marked improvement over the bill the House passed earlier this year. It contains many important provisions that will strengthen our national security while also providing for our troops and their families.

HONORING AUDREY SMITH-JOHNSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Audrey Smith-Johnson was born in Yonkers and attended Yonkers Public Schools, and graduated from Tefft Business School. As a high school student, she volunteered at the Yonkers YWCA and was a Candy Striper at St Joseph Hospital. But it was while working various positions at a temp agency that she found her passion in real estate. She received her Real Estate Certificate and has been working in that field for 28 years.

But she has another calling, and that is as a member of her community. In July, 2005,

she joined Community Sunset Temple #1132, Daughters of Elks, IBPOE Elks of the World. She was promptly elected as Doorkeeper and in 2006 she was elected as the Treasurer. There she has embraced in all facets of Elkdom. Some of the positions she holds are: Assistant Vice Loyal Daughter of Unity Past Daughter Rulers Council (Westchester & Rockland), she is a member of the New York State Daughters of Elks—Royal Court Department, Treasurer/Financial Secretary of the Past State President Circle of Westchester, Rockland and Sullivan Counties. This year she is the Chairperson of the Mid-Winter Conference for The New York State IBPOE of W.

She also belongs to the Yonkers African-American Heritage Committee, a not-for-profit community based organization that partners with several other such organizations, such as: Sister To Sister, YMCA, YWCA and The Yonkers Public Library. Mrs. Johnson joined the YAAHC in 2005, and was named Financial Secretary, a job she has kept, along with several appointed positions such as: Chairperson-Nominating Committee, Joint-Chair-Scholarship Committee and Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

In May 2009, Senior Center #9, located at Terrace City Lodge #1499 appointed her Communication/Publicity Director.

She and her husband, John (Worshipful Master of James H. Farrell #34, PH) have been married for 31 years. They have two children, Mrs. LaTasha Pagan and John, Jr., and a granddaughter Karissma. She is also a mother and grandmother to her extended family—Ms. Capricia McClellan and her children and her grandchildren.

I am proud to join the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation in honoring Audrey Smith-Johnson as Woman of the Year for her many contributions to her community.

HONORING THE MARIA KONOPNICKA POLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF CHICAGO AND OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School in Chicago and Oak Lawn, Illinois. This year the school will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Chicagoland is home to the largest population of people of Polish descent living outside of Poland. The Polish Language School, named for the great Polish poet, novelist, and activist, Maria Konopnicka, serves this population by offering kindergarten through high school students the opportunity to connect with and explore their Polish heritage. For forty years the school has excelled in teaching its students Polish language, history, and culture. Thousands of children have learned about Polish cultural heritage as well as the role Poles play in the United States and the world community, now and in the future. With its emphasis on civic responsibility, the school shapes students dedicated to supporting and improving Chicago's communities, and I am proud to have it in my district.

While the school stresses the importance of its students, the community surrounding the school appreciates the hard work and dedication of all the staff at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School. Parents and students understand the school's success is thanks to the unceasing devotion of teachers and administrative staff who work relentlessly for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding faculties and students, both past and present, at the Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School, and congratulating them on this special 40th anniversary. May the school continue to exhibit excellence in teaching students about Polish cultural heritage and language for years to come.

HONORING THE BEAR CREEK BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 Bear Creek High School boys soccer team. On November 23, the Bear Creek Grizzlies won the 1B/2B state championship, ending their impressive season with a record of 21–2–0. I congratulate them on this impressive achievement.

This championship victory was especially fulfilling for Bear Creek High School because it settled a rivalry between them and Grace Academy. The Grizzlies' only two losses during the season were to Grace Academy, with both of those games ending in 0–0 draws and decided by penalty kicks. Tied 0–0 at halftime, the Grizzlies would not let history repeat again, and they came together to win the state championship game by a score of 2–0.

I would like to give special recognition to Jesse Leuenberger and Nathan Sim who scored the two goals of the state final. Goalkeeper Blake Denniston also played a pivotal role in the final game, earning a shutout in the championship game.

The Grizzlies' defense racked up 16 shutouts this season and the offense outscored its opponents by 87–7.

The Grizzlies' impressive record this season is also a testament to the team's high level of coaching. Coach Chad Pohlman provided the boys with encouragement and training necessary to achieve this notable feat.

Again, I congratulate the Bear Creek boys soccer team on all of their success. Their accomplishments and success are hard-earned and well-deserved.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGELA SANFILIPPO AND J.J. BARTLETT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Angela Sanfilippo and Mr. J.J. Bartlett, this year's recipients of the Offshore Mariners' Wives "Friends of the Fishing Industry" awards.

In late 1994, a group of people got together and formed an organization called the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership. The name was fitting, as it truly has been an organization or partnership of as many as eighteen distinct fishing organizations from throughout the state. The group's founders soon recognized the strong need for comprehensive health care for fishermen and their families.

One of the original founding members of the MFP and one of this year's award recipients is Mrs. Angela Sanfilippo. Ms. Sanfilippo is well known throughout the industry. For thirty-seven years she has been a constant crusader for the fishermen of Gloucester in her role as the President of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association. She has battled to prevent the drilling for oil on Georges Bank and to keep The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary open to fishing, both commercial and recreational. Her many years of dedicated service to the local fishing industry have been invaluable to its success.

This year's second recipient of the "Friend of the Fishing Industry Award" was Mr. J.J. Bartlett. For twenty years he has served as the focal point of the "Fishing Partnership's Health Plan" and has worked tirelessly on creating and providing affordable, comprehensive health care for fishing industry families. In 2008 the Boston Business Journal named him a "40 under 40" honoree, and in 2009 he testified on rural health issues and hard to reach populations at the request of the White House Office of Health Reform. The Fishing Partnership under the guidance of Mr. Bartlett now provides access to professional counseling, assistance with health insurance applications, and offering Safety at Sea Training. The Fishing Partnership has now become the Human Resource Department for the Massachusetts fishing community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Angela Sanfilippo and Mr. J.J. Bartlett, this year's recipients of the Offshore Mariners' Wives "Friends of the Fishing Industry" awards. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service to the local Massachusetts fishing industry.

MICHELLE CLAYMORE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michelle Claymore for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Michelle Claymore's enthusiasm for Jefferson County's economic vitality is both evident and contagious. She helped set in motion the AddOne campaign, improving the economy one job at a time, and has attracted, expanded and retained employment through her role as the Vice President of the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation for the past 18 years. Michelle's innovative business incentive structure was instrumental in attracting the Coleman Company's corporate headquarters to relocate to Jefferson County in 2011. Understanding the importance of professional development, she started and runs the first nationally accredited economic development training program in Colorado. The program has trained over 200 students so far. Her passion for the county, its businesses and its citizens knows no bounds.