

decade of work as a radio host in St. Cloud, MN.

Originally from Fargo, ND, Ox began his radio career in 1991 as a rock DJ out of Fergus Falls. He's come a long way since then, now hosting an afternoon show on weekdays in St. Cloud with popularity in the Twin Cities and here in D.C.

He's not only an on-air personality and radio entrepreneur. Ox and his wife, Jan, have made an effort to stay involved and connected in the community. His involvement with Jaycees, Sertoma, Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts haven't gone unnoticed. The St. Cloud Times named him one of the top 40 most influential people of the decade (2000–2010).

As I continue on in my final year in the House of Representatives, I look back with appreciation and respect for the people of the 6th District. One of those special people is Dan Ochsner. With a personality as fiery as his hair, he can always be counted on to provide a humorous take on current events to the people of central Minnesota.

There are few people kinder, funnier, and more genuine than Ox. It's an honor to represent a district in the halls of Congress with talented individuals like Dan. The 6th District of Minnesota is lucky to call Dan Ochsner one of their own.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 I was inadvertently detained on rollcall Votes 91 and 92. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "yes" on both.

MARIA PEDRIANI, HAZLETON LODGE #200 "2013-2014 ELK OF THE YEAR"

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Maria Pedriani, the Hazleton Lodge #200 "2013–2014 Elk of the Year," for her loyal service to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mrs. Pedriani has been a resident of Hazleton, Pennsylvania for 36 years. After graduating from Mahanoy Area High School, she took post graduate courses at Luzerne County Community College and owned her own cosmetology business in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Since joining the Elks two years ago, Mrs. Pedriani has been an outstanding asset in accomplishing lodge goals and is well known for her superb cooking abilities.

Beyond her involvement with the Hazleton Elks, Mrs. Pedriani has been an active member of the local community. She served on the board of "Helping Hands" and is a member of the Holy Rosary Church. In 2011, she was the keynote speaker at the American Cancer Society—Relay for Life where she spoke about her

successful battle with Hodgkin lymphoma. She is also a proud wife, mother, and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, for her committed service to the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, I commend Maria Pedriani and congratulate her for being named the Hazleton Lodge #200 "2013–2014 Elk of the Year."

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for receiving accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The accreditation process is very rigorous and signifies the highest standards of excellence in land conservation.

When Congress first passed the tax incentives for land conservation, it placed a high degree of trust in non-profit land trusts to manage these transactions properly. Over the years, land conservation has become increasingly complex and requires careful adherence to the national Land Trust Standards and Practices. This accreditation process helps give taxpayers confidence that land trusts are a worthy public investment.

I want to thank the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for its dedication and effectiveness in educating the public about the importance of conservation and preserving local natural areas, trails, streams, and parks. Its work helps to protect wildlife habitat, water quality and healthy communities. Since its founding 20 years ago, the Trust has protected 5,370 acres across Northern Virginia. And, by achieving national accreditation, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust has expanded its capacity to accomplish this mission far into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for its hard work and commitment to our community. I wish the Trust and its supporters continued success in their conservation efforts.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 EDWARD "EDDIE" BALLI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward "Eddie" Balli, an American hero who gave his life in service to his country. Eddie loved his job as an Unmanned Aerial System Operations Officer Platoon Leader for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. He provided the eyes in the sky for the soldiers on the ground.

On January 20, Eddie's unit was attacked by insurgents in the Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan. Believing it was his duty to place the safety of his fellow troops before his own; Eddie was killed while providing cover to protect the rest of his unit. His sac-

rifice ultimately saved the lives of several civilians and his fellow soldiers.

Eddie was a native of Salinas, California, graduating from North High School. Soon after graduation, he felt the call to serve his country. Following in the footsteps of others in his family, he joined the Army in 1991. During his distinguished career, Eddie received many accolades including the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart during his many deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was an inspiration to all who served with him. Eddie made himself available to talk with younger soldiers, mentoring them and offering both professional and personal advice.

Eddie was also a devout family man. He often spoke fondly of his wife, Kristy Balli, and his three children, Michael, Momilani, and Desirae. To his family he was more than just a soldier. He was a kind and loving husband, father, brother and son who had an infectious humor and quirky personality. His family was proud of his patriotic service to his country and the care he demonstrated for his fellow soldiers.

That caring personality, as both a soldier and a family man, is what made Eddie an extraordinary person. He was an exemplary soldier, family man, and friend who put the needs of others before his own.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true patriot and hero, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Balli. Our nation is grateful for his service and we promise that his life, legacy, and his sacrifice for our country will not be forgotten.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address some of the many lingering issues surrounding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The bill passed by the House yesterday will help a significant number of Missourians who have been saddled with inconceivable rate increases, who cannot sell their property, and who run the risk of losing their homes. I have heard from one constituent in particular who told of an unexpected premium increase that jumped from under \$1,800 to more than \$11,000, a cost difference that she and her husband will have difficulty meeting. It is my sincere hope that this legislation helps to address these issues.

While I supported H.R. 3370, I regret that the bill presented no opportunities for an increased presence for the private insurance market. One of the primary public policy goals associated with NFIP has been to spur private insurers to enter the flood insurance space. As long as NFIP generously subsidizes risk, however, the private market will remain a secondary player in the program. We must create a program that becomes, over time, actuarially-sound and creates a greater role for the private sector while reducing the government's role.

Yesterday the House took a step towards ensuring that our constituents are not saddled

with impossible premium increases, but our work on this issue is far from done. More must be done to reign in FEMA, create more accountability in NFIP, and ensure the program is on sound footing. We must also demand more accountability from FEMA and NFIP and work to ensure that flood maps are accurate and not overly encompassing.

If NFIP has taught us anything, it is that Federal government should not be involved in the insurance industry. Many living in Missouri's Third Congressional District are in desperate need of relief, and NFIP is in desperate need of reform. Private insurance companies have a role to play, and the program should be changed to allow the private market to participate. I will continue to work to make the program sustainable, reliable and more functional than it is today, and hope that my colleagues will join me in the effort to increase the private sector role in flood insurance.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF POGROM AT SUMGAIT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the pogrom that took place in Sumgait, Azerbaijan against people of Armenian descent. A pogrom is a violent riot aimed at massacre or persecution of an ethnic or religious group. On the evening of February 27, 1988 hundreds of Armenians were massacred in the seaside town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan. This violence against Armenians continued for three days and resulted in the reported killing of 32 people, with countless others that remain unaccounted for.

It is my hope that by speaking out publicly against atrocities suffered by our brethren around the world, we will help reaffirm America's commitment to an enduring, peaceful and democratic resolution.

I ask that my colleagues join me in solemnly commemorating the death of these innocent lives. My thoughts are with the Armenian community, especially those that lost loved ones during the pogrom at Sumgait 26 years ago.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR CHOKWE LUMUMBA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mayor Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, Mississippi.

Mayor Chokwe Lumumba was born August 2, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the second of eight children born to Lucien and Priscilla Francis Taliaferro. Mayor Lumumba earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He later finished first in his law school freshman class before graduating cum laude from Wayne State University Law School.

Mayor Lumumba was a nationally renowned attorney who was licensed in Mississippi, Michigan and U.S. Federal Courts. He has represented clients in over 16 jurisdictions, including Canada and the Choctaw Court. Mayor Lumumba has won settlements and/or judgments for victims of medical malpractice, employment discrimination, sexual harassment and police misconduct. He has worked in high profile cases such as the representation of the late Tupac Shakur. In 2011, he helped win the release of the Scott Sisters who had served 16 years of double life prison sentences for an \$11.00 (eleven-dollar) robbery. He successfully represented Lance Parker who was falsely accused of assault during the 1992 Los Angeles uprising which followed the brutal beating of Rodney King.

Since 1968, Mayor Lumumba has crisscrossed the globe to fight for "Human Rights for Human Beings." He supported the survivors of Katrina by serving on the Board of the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and organizing other activists to form the Mississippi Disaster Relief Coalition and co-organizing the Gulf Coast Survivors Assembly. Mayor Lumumba's work as a community activist has spanned over four decades. He has worked with organizations such as the Jackson Human Rights Coalition, which pressured the State to retry the person who murdered Medgar Evers. He has worked for over twenty years organizing, directing, coaching, and mentoring youth through programs such as the Jackson Panthers Basketball Organization. He was also a devout member of Word and Worship Christian Church.

Prior to his election as Mayor, Mr. Lumumba served as Jackson City Councilman for Ward 2. Widowed by his late wife Nubia Alake, Mayor Lumumba was a loving and devoted father to his three children, Kambon Mutope, Rukia Kai and Chokwe Antar Lumumba. He was also the proud grandfather of Qadir Lumumba-Benjamin.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in recognizing Mayor Chokwe Lumumba as a bright, caring, and humble individual. I commend his outstanding and historical contributions to the City of Jackson, the State of Mississippi, the Civil Rights Movement, and national politics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather on the morning of Tuesday, March 4, my flight was unable to leave for Washington, DC, from Lafayette, Louisiana. Therefore, I was unable to return in time for votes. Had I been present to vote, my voting record would reflect the following: H.R. 3370—"yea"; H. Res. 488—"yea."

I also offer the following statement in favor of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act:

I support H.R. 3370, responsible legislation keeping thousands of Louisiana homeowners from facing dramatic increases in their flood insurance premiums.

The National Flood Insurance Program must be financially sustainable and it is irresponsible for it to carry a debt of \$24 billion.

However, we must find a balance between fiscal stability and punishing homeowners who followed the rules. This legislation brings fairness to homeowners and much-needed stability to the NFIP.

I am pleased this bill restores the grandfathering provision, the home improvement provision clause, and provides meaningful protection to Pre-Firm properties. I look forward to FEMA improving the flood mapping process to help inform the decision-makers in communities across America.

Local leaders must be vigilant in managing the growth of our neighborhoods in South Louisiana to ensure they are using the best available data to drive our zoning requirements, our building codes, and our insurance ratings.

Congress must remain engaged in its oversight of this program and its implementation in the years ahead. It must be committed to finding creative ways to further strengthen the NFIP without harming policy holders or the general public.

HONORING TORIN KOOS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an Olympic athlete from Washington State's 8th District, Mr. Torin Koos. Mr. Koos just returned from representing our nation in the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Mr. Koos is an incredible athlete who has reached the pinnacle of his sport and competed in the Men's Sprint Free Qualification.

I applaud both his achievement and the hard-work and perseverance that paid off during these games. Simply to attend the Olympics is to be among an elite group of people. I thank Mr. Koos for representing America so well, and I am proud to call him a constituent and a Washingtonian.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a key strategic partner of the United States, and I am honored to be Co-Chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus. Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the anniversary of the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

We just marked the 22nd anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day. Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must