

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. MARY BAKER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Mary E. Baker of Eureka, California, on the occasion of her retirement as Team Leader of the Redwood Vet Center.

Ms. Baker began her career with the Readjustment Counseling Service in 1999 as a Readjustment Counselor for Veterans in Kansas City, Missouri. With a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas, she has an extensive background in the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and is a Military Sexual Trauma Therapist and Bereavement Specialist. Since 2005, she has ably led the Redwood Vet Center in providing counseling services to combat Veterans and their families, helping them adjust to life after deployment.

A 20-year Army Veteran, Ms. Baker's awards include the Korean Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Award, amongst other awards and decorations. She is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for whom she also served as the Women Veterans Committee National Chairwoman, District 21 Commander, Department of California Surgeon, and Department of California Woman Veterans Chair. She is a life member and Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, member of both the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association and Vietnam Veterans of America, and has served as President and Treasurer of the Korean War Veterans Association. Ms. Baker also belongs to the National Association of Social Workers and University of Kansas Alumni Association.

Ms. Baker's contributions to her community and fellow Veterans extend well beyond her military and public service. She formerly served on the North Coast Stand Down Board of Directors and North Coast Veterans Resource Center Advisory Board. One of her most significant qualities is her demonstrated passion for helping women Veterans embrace their role in American history, including her work to start the annual "Honoring Women Veterans" Program in 2009, serving as Women Veterans Lead Social Worker of the Women's Odyssey Project, and Committee Member of Women Veterans Retreat Region 4A-4B. The Soroptomist International of Eureka recently acknowledged Ms. Baker's efforts with their Ruby Award, which honors a woman who makes extraordinary differences in the lives of other women.

Ms. Baker is known for being a vocal and tireless advocate for her fellow Veterans with a talent for helping them to take pride in their service, heal from their wounds, and access available resources. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Ms. Mary E. Baker for her long and impressive career, and

her exceptional record of service to our great Nation.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY (YOM HASHOAH)

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on April 28th, communities in the U.S., Israel, and around the world will gather to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah. We remember the six million Jews who were deemed "undesirable" and thereby systematically murdered by Nazi Germany. On this day—and everyday for that matter—we remember the power racism and bigotry can wield, as well as the enduring spirit and lessons of humanity.

I am reminded of the Jewish concept of tikkun olam which embraces our shared humanity and duty to heal the world. Having experienced injustice and intolerance in some of its most brutal forms, I have dedicated my life to protecting and expanding the civil rights of all people around the world. I believe it is up to each and every one of us to stand against hatred and intolerance. We must create the more peaceful world we want our children to inherit. As human beings, we have a responsibility to keep the Holocaust at the forefront of our collective historical memory.

This week, we dedicate a memorial tree in honor of Anne Frank on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. The Anne Frank Memorial Tree is an offspring of the original chestnut tree that grew outside of the Amsterdam building where she and her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. This tree was featured in Anne's diary writings. Anne's experience has been immortalized beyond cultures and languages. She has become a symbol of the human cost of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, as we plant the new sapling on the Capitol Grounds, may we always live by the words, "never again." Like the new sapling, may Anne's words of hope for a better humanity take root within each of us, wherein "nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world."

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF PHIL YOST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of an extraordinary man, Phil Yost, who died at the age of 63 after a three-year battle with cancer.

The venerable San Jose Mercury News, Mr. Yost's employer for more than a quarter cen-

tury, captured the essence of this special man in its obituary.

Phil Yost was a gentle and decent man, a writer with an ethical compass that belied the stereotype of the cynical journalist. He was known for an unerring sense of fairness, a willingness to consider an argument from another side. Mr. Yost possessed a wry and wicked sense of humor, a light touch that emerged in his writing and life.

Phil Yost was born in Chicago on February 6, 1951. He attended Earlham College, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. The child of a Mennonite family, he was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, and a tutor of underprivileged children in Cincinnati. He worked at the Middletown Journal in Ohio and the Cincinnati Post, and joined the Mercury News in 1981. In 2006 he left the Mercury to work at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and in 2010 became the policy and press aide to former California State Senator Joe Simitian. Simitian fondly noted that "unflinching fairness" was Yost's most aggravating trait.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Phil Yost, and in extending condolences to his wife Susan, his parents Elnore and Burton Yost, his brother and sisters, and his entire family. He will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him and be the beneficiaries of his extraordinary work. Phil Yost strengthened our democracy with his instructive journalism, and I'm proud to have known him and was privileged to call him my friend.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2015. The budget put forth by House Republicans is unnecessary and unwise. Congress has already passed a budget target for FY2015. The House Appropriations Committee has already marked up two bills. This Republican budget is a complete distraction from the real work Congress should be focusing on—issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, the restoration of long-term unemployment insurance, the Paycheck Fairness Act or others. Instead, Republican leaders have wasted another legislative week with endless floor debate on a

• 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.

budget that recycles many of the rejected Tea Party proposals from the past. Once again, Congressional Republicans are demonstrating their true priorities: providing massive tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and corporations at the expense of Middle Class America.

This ten year Republican budget is the wrong vision for Minnesota and America. Yet again, the GOP abandons investments that ensure broad-based economic prosperity today and into the future. This budget jeopardizes the health and economic security of our seniors by re-opening the donut hole and ending the Medicare guarantee. Their proposal fails our children by making irresponsible cuts to our schools and Pell Grants, putting the dream of a college education out of reach for millions of young adults. Extreme reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Social Services Block Grant, and Medicaid will inflict unnecessary pain on our children, working families, and seniors. By slashing investments in infrastructure, their budget rejects a proven path to grow our economy and create jobs. Instead, it advances the priorities of the wealthiest Americans—massive tax breaks for the top one percent and corporations, while adding to the tax burden of middle class families and destroying the social safety net. The Ryan-Republican budget is a recipe for American economic decline and increased pain for the vulnerable. It moves our nation backwards and gives up on the American dream, the idea that everyone has a fair shot at success. I strongly reject these misguided priorities and the Republicans' harmful vision for our Nation.

Instead, I am pleased to support the budget resolution offered by the Democrats. Our budget proposal prioritizes the needs of our seniors and middle class families. It strengthens the social safety net, protects Medicare, and preserves the Affordable Care Act to help ensure all Americans have access to affordable health coverage. The Democratic Alternative invests in the needs of our communities and will help create jobs by expanding tax incentives for low- and middle- class families. It makes critical investments in education to help make college more affordable and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed. And it rejects the reckless cuts caused by sequestration to non-defense spending starting next year, while maintaining the funding level requested by the President for defense. The Democratic Alternative is a vision for our country that will keep our communities and our economy strong into the future.

There were also good ideas put forward by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Both budget proposals would help support the needs of Minnesota families and keep America strong.

The bottom line is that the Ryan-Republican budget resolution increases the tax breaks for wealthy, abandons America's middle class, and punishes the poor. I came to Congress to move our Nation forward. I urge my colleagues to reject this backward vision put forward by Chairman RYAN and instead support the Democratic Alternative.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES
OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE'S 51ST ANNUAL
AWARDS DINNER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's 51st Annual Awards Dinner. The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce serves the people and business communities of the region, working hard to strengthen economic opportunity throughout the area and the state.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and a healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity, prosperity, and community service in Maine.

The 2013 award winners are: John and Jackie Dalton, Distinguished Community Service Award; Bart Stevens of Century 21 Nason Realty, Elias A. Joseph Award; Shane Savage of Fairfield, Oakland, Unity, and Winslow Pharmacies, Business Person of the Year; Kennebec Behavioral Health, Business of the Year; Darlene Ratte of the Best Western Plus, Outstanding Professional; Maine Film Center, Community Service Project of the Year; Joshua Remy of the Town of Fairfield, Rising Star Award; and Doreen Brown of the Hampton Inn Waterville, Customer Service Stardom Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and the award recipients on their outstanding service and achievements.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM
GRAHAME WILKIN III, ARTIST

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Grahame Wilkin III of Aurora, Illinois for his contributions to our nation's Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Mr. Wilkin is currently an art teacher at Aurora Christian High School, helping young men and women learn how to express themselves through art. However, in 1983 when he was a young art student at Glenbard South High School, Mr. Wilkin participated in an art contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

While his entry did not win the competition that day, it would go on to become an image we all recognize. His artwork reminds us of soldiers who were held captive and those whose deaths were never confirmed. His entry was a circle with the black silhouette of a man's face, a guard tower to the left with three supporting crosses, and barbed wire on the right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wilkin for his contribution to all of our veterans and their families.

PASSING OF HOLOCAUST
SURVIVOR LEO BRETHOLZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Leo Bretholz, a Holocaust survivor who passed away in his home on March 8, 2014, at the age of 93. Leo is survived by three children, Myron Bretholz of Phoenix, Md., Denise Harris of Ellicott City, Md., and Edie Norton of Herndon, Va.; a half-sister; and four grandchildren. He was married for 57 years to Florine Cohen, who passed away in 2009.

He was beloved by the Baltimore community who recognized him as a courageous and inspiring individual. He worked for many years as a salesman and later managed bookstores. When Leo retired, he spent his life visiting schools and speaking with people from many diverse backgrounds.

His work with schoolchildren and the positive impact he had on them was depicted in the documentary, "See You Soon Again," which preceded his memoir "Leap into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe" that he produced with journalist Michael Oleskor. Students described him as a "true inspiration" who "never stopped teaching or trying to make a difference in the lives of his students and friends."

Leo dedicated his life to fighting for justice for all victims of the Holocaust. One of Leo's great causes was the pursuit of reparations for U.S. Holocaust survivors from the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais (SNCF), the state-owned French railway.

Between March 1942 and August 1944, SNCF carried 76,000 people to Nazi camps, including Leo. But, out of the 1,000 people on the SNCF train car, Leo managed to be one of only five people who successfully escaped.

Leo frequently recounted the incredible story of his journey from Austria to France in this train car, when he and a friend forced open the bars of a cattle car to escape the Auschwitz-bound train. Ever since, Leo has been active in telling his story and fighting for justice through educating schoolchildren, lawmakers, and the general public.

Leo often gave the account of an elderly woman also on the train who told him, "If you get out, maybe you can tell the story. Who else will tell the story?" This encounter and his successful escape led him to speak out against unjust laws in his memoir that recounts his experience and successful escape.

In 2011, I testified with Leo in front of the United States House Foreign Relations Committee, about the need for long-overdue reparations for Holocaust survivors from SNCF.

I am proud and honored to have worked with Leo. He truly was a hero. It was his strong energetic force that has truly helped move forward the Holocaust Rail Justice Act, legislation that would provide reparations for hundreds of known survivors, veterans, and their family members living in the United

States today who for the past 10 years sought legal action to hold SNCF accountable.

As we remember Leo's life and legacy, it is important to continue his fight for justice. I will continue to work on this issue with the same vigor Leo had, to give Holocaust survivors a deserved day in court and finally hold SNCF accountable for its wartime injustices. Leo's passing is an unfortunate reminder that the number of Holocaust survivors left in the world continues to dwindle. His incredible story is an inspiration to me and anyone who hears it, and I know that his life and legacy will never be forgotten.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, the federal budget is about much more than just dollars and cents. It is a moral document that reflects our values and our vision for our nation's future.

Unfortunately the Republican budget before us is a reflection of misguided priorities and values.

Instead of creating jobs and opportunity for the middle class and those aspiring to realize the American dream the Republican budget recklessly and unfairly protects the super wealthy and special interests at the expense of everyone else.

The Republican budget ignores the significant importance of investing in education, job training, research, innovation, modern day infrastructure and advanced manufacturing. In doing so, it will foolishly cripple our country's economic growth and the future potential of hardworking Americans and their families to create and successfully compete for 21st century jobs.

The Republican plan also jeopardizes the wellbeing of our seniors by proposing to turn Medicare into a voucher system.

In my state of California alone, this disastrous Republican budget would raise health care costs for seniors by ending the Medicare guarantee and forcing 358,862 seniors to pay more for prescription drugs. It would ransack our nation's commitment to education and push 21,140 Californian children out of Head Start and deny Pell Grants to 51,350 low income California college students. The Republican budget would also force California to turn more than 488,000 people away from job training, employment and job search assistance.

And, according to the non partisan Congressional Budget Office, it would stall our nation's recovery by cutting economic growth by 2.5 percent in the year 2015.

I am proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues who have a different vision for Amer-

ica that responsibly reduces our deficit. Our vision respects the American people, gives them opportunity through the creation of good paying jobs that build and strengthens the middle class, protects the future and wellbeing of our children and insures we remain the greatest country in the world.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF LOTTIE LAUTMAN SOL-
OMON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary woman, Lottie Solomon, a talented, loving and brilliant woman who died at her home in Los Altos Hills, California, on April 6, 2014, at the age of eighty-eight.

Lottie was born in New York City on October 26, 1925, the only child of Sadie and Hyman Lautman. She attended public schools in New York City, graduated from James Monroe High School at sixteen, and from Brooklyn College at the age of twenty. She was an accomplished and highly regarded violinist who considered a career as a professional but instead earned a graduate degree and a teaching credential from Columbia University. She began her career as an elementary school and music teacher in New York City. In later years she earned a Masters degree in Healthcare Administration from The George Washington University.

In 1947, Lottie married Herbert Solomon, a statistician she met while both were studying at Columbia. They were married for fifty-seven years, until his death in 2004. Lottie and Herbert moved to California when Herbert became a Professor of Statistics at Stanford University. Before moving to Los Altos Hills, the couple and their three children, Naomi, Mark and Jed, lived on the Stanford campus for fifteen years.

Lottie was passionate about music and teaching, and played violin with the Peninsula Symphony and many quartets. She had a long career leading choral music, including founding and leading the Yiddish Choristers.

Lottie gave generously of her time and considerable talents as a member of the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission. She also was a valued participant and contributor to many Jewish organizations including Congregations Beth Am and Kol Emeth, the Jewish Community Federation, B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, ORT, the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, and Hillel at Stanford.

Lottie Solomon was a loving daughter, wife, mother and grandmother. She leaves her sons Mark and Jeb, their wives Carolyn and Leslie Colvin; and her four grandchildren, Jacob Solomon, Sara Solomon, Nathaniel Solomon and Daniel Solomon. She was preceded in death by her daughter Naomi Solomon, who perished on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire U.S House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary citizen and extending our most sincere condolences to her family. She will be missed greatly by those who had the privilege of knowing her and calling her their

friend. Lottie was one of the blessings in my life, as was her husband and their son Mark. Lottie strengthened our community in countless ways, bettering our country through her service to others and raising a family that carries on the great values she embodied.

MARGARET M. LADONIS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Margaret M. Ladonis of Drums, Pennsylvania who is turning 100 years old on April 15, 2014.

Mrs. Ladonis was born on a farm in Dorchester County, Wisconsin on April 15, 1914. During World War II, she supported the war effort by manufacturing torpedoes in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She eventually moved to Berwick, Pennsylvania and opened Ladonis Appliance Store with her husband, Alex Ladonis, in 1946. Mrs. Ladonis assisted in the operation of this store for many years until retiring in 1978. Throughout her time in Pennsylvania, Margaret has been an active member of the local community, volunteering with Girl Scout and Cub Scout troops, St. Mary's Church, Berwick Hospital, and the Red Cross. She was also a member of the former Daughters of Isabella and the National Council of Catholic Women at St. Mary's. Today, she enjoys visiting with her four children and six grandchildren, reading, and solving jigsaw puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, as she turns 100, I wish Margaret Ladonis a happy and healthy birthday.

THE SAD CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE SUPREME COURT DECISION,
THE REMARKS OF NEVADA
RANCHER CLIVEN BUNDY, AND
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS OWNER
DONALD STERLING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my disagreement with last week's Supreme Court decision and at the same time I wish to condemn in the strongest terms, the inappropriate comments by NBA owner Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy, the Nevada rancher who owes the federal government more than \$1 million in grazing fees that he has not paid in 20 years.

America is a nation moving into a future and our diversity makes us better and stronger; and comments and attitudes like those expressed by Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy have no place in our civic life and are a tragic illustration of why the Supreme Court reached the wrong decision at a most inopportune time in upholding Michigan's anti-affirmative action initiative.

With its decision in *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, the Court has weakened the precedents that protected minorities from ballot initiatives that suppress minority civic participation.

This decision flies in the face of prior rulings of the Supreme Court that struck down laws and ballot initiatives that place extra burdens on the ability of minorities to participate on equal footing in the political process.

Also Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to that of the President and so many other persons of goodwill in denouncing the racist and offensive comments of Clippers owner Donald Sterling. His remarks have no place in our society and are beneath contempt.

It is particularly unfortunate that these despicable remarks were made by an owner of an NBA franchise because the NBA has been leading the way in showing the world that America's diversity is its greatest strength and asset.

NBA teams are comprised of athletes from every race and background who work hard and in common purpose to achieve the shared goal of winning championship and thrilling their fans, who can be found on every continent of the globe. As an economic engine, the NBA generates billions of dollars to the national and local economy.

Americans do not disrespect or disparage African, Asian, South American, or European basketball stars because of their ethnicity or country of origin. They welcome them.

Nigeria's Akeem Olajuwon, China's Yao Ming, Dkembe Mutombo from the Democratic Republic of the Congo are still revered in my home city of Houston.

I am encouraged by the announcement of NBA Commissioner Silver that the league and its owners take this matter very seriously and I am confident will take appropriate action to make it clear that when it comes to racism, the NBA has a zero-tolerance policy.

But last week we are unfortunately reminded that 50 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 there is still much work to be done in perfecting our union.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that the offensive comments of Donald Sterling and Cliven Bundy were made by persons who came of age during the pre-Civil Rights era and that their views are not shared by the vast majority of their children's and grandchildren's generation. Diversity in education has been indispensable in this transformation.

That is why the decision in Schuette by the Supreme Court upholding Michigan's anti-affirmative action initiative is so unfortunate.

The Court's decision perpetuates the direct harm to African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students and inflicts indirect harm to all other students, including those admitted as alumni legatees, which is just a disguised affirmative action program for the affluent.

They are all harmed is because as Justice Sotomayor pointed out in her powerful dissent, the Court's ruling handicaps Michigan's public colleges and universities in providing the campus diversity that "ensures the next generation moves beyond the stereotypes, the assumptions, and the superficial perceptions that students coming from less-heterogeneous communities may harbor, consciously or not, about people who do not look like them."

Mr. Speaker, America is a nation moving into the future. Our diversity gives us the unique opportunity to compete and win in a globalized economy.

But to realize that future, we must leave behind the long discredited beliefs and attitudes of the Donald Sterlings and Cliven Bundys of this world.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM "BILL" BLAIR, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of William "Bill" Blair, Jr., a talented Negro Leagues pitcher who became a voice for Dallas' African-American community. His passing on April 20, 2014 leaves a void in the city Dallas, and I join with the Texas community in giving our condolences to the Blair family.

Mr. Blair attended Booker T. Washington High School, where he played football and met his wife of 70 years, Mozelle Jordan. He went on to continue his studies at Prairie View A&M University and later enlisted to fight in World War II. In 1945, Mr. Blair became the youngest black sergeant to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Blair, a Negro Leagues Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, pitched from 1946 to 1951, for teams including the Indianapolis Clowns and Cincinnati Crescents, and was a player-manager for the Dallas Black Giants. He was instrumental in the development of the African American Museum's Texas Sports Hall of Fame and served on its advisory board. He was also inducted in 1996 as a member of its inaugural class.

After his baseball career, Mr. Blair founded the Highlight News which ran from 1947–1957. He also later founded the Southwest Sports News, a newspaper that specialized in publishing scores from Black college games throughout the United States. The paper was renamed The Elite News in 1960, and is still in publication today, serving as the official voice of the church and the community.

As a civil rights activist for more than 50 years, Blair was instrumental in establishing the Elite News Awards, the first local African-American awards ceremony, in 1975. In 1986, he established the first Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade in Dallas, which is now an institution in the community.

In honor of William "Bill" Blair, a pillar of the Dallas community, this statement will be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He will be remembered as a civil rights activist, a leader of the community, and an irreplaceable figure in the history of the city of Dallas.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE RWANDA GENOCIDE

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the victims of the Rwanda Genocide and to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the twenty-year anniversary of this horrific period in our human history.

Over the course of just ninety days in 1994, extremists in the Rwandan government executed a highly organized plan to exterminate the country's entire Tutsi minority population.

Sadly, they very nearly succeeded.

Nearly one million Rwandans were killed in this horrendous conflict, and it is estimated

that over three-fourths of all Tutsis living in Rwanda in 1994 were killed before the end of the summer.

In 2010 and 2011, I traveled to Rwanda while researching my doctoral dissertation on the Rwandan Genocide.

I met the prosecutors in Arusha, Tanzania, where the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was headquartered, as well as the archivists and researchers engaged in preserving its history.

Their stories remind us all why we must recommit to ending genocide.

Today, on the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide, I ask that my colleagues join me and the people of Rwanda in honoring the victims.

May we learn from the Rwandan Genocide, and may we ensure that such atrocities are never again permitted to take place.

HONORING THE SEXUALITY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS)

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) as it celebrates 50 years of advancing policies and education on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. Founded in 1964, SIECUS is dedicated to ensuring the sexual health and well-being of our nation's youth and people of all ages.

With the month of April dedicated to STD Awareness, April 10th recognized as National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and the month of May dedicated to Teen Pregnancy Prevention, we acknowledge the continued need for health and sexual education for our nation's young people. I commend SIECUS for its tireless work and commitment to ensuring social justice and sexual rights for all people over the course of the past five decades.

While teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States have declined to historic lows, the United States continues to have one of the highest teen pregnancy rates among comparable countries and pregnancy rate disparities—whether by race or geography—among young people persist. Additionally, young people are bearing the burden of new HIV incidence and other sexuality transmitted infections.

Through teacher training, policymaker education, parent and health care provider resources, and national and state partnerships, SIECUS has strived to advance comprehensive sexual education across the country to help address these alarming facts and equip young people with the information and resources they need to lead healthy lives.

Through the vision and leadership put forward by SIECUS, there have been renewed efforts to invest in effective evidence-informed, medically accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive sexual health education over the past four years.

In my congressional district alone, efforts to support the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) has allowed the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to effectively collect and report vital student health data and

deliver exemplary sexual health education with an emphasis on HIV and STD prevention. Furthermore, adolescent access to key sexual health services has increased along with the establishment of a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff.

Moreover, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, an initiative that SIECUS also seeks to strengthen and support, has greatly impacted the Alameda County Public Health Department. Currently, Alameda County provides evidence-based HIV, STD, and teen pregnancy prevention to more than 1,500 young people in eighteen OUSD Middle Schools.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations to SIECUS on this important milestone. I wish them continued success in advancing comprehensive sexual education and the health of all people.

IN CELEBRATION OF AMOS
CHARLES HASTON'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the 100th birthday of a respected educator and community leader, Amos Charles Haston. Born in Denison, Texas on this day in 1914 to Tilmon and Mary Haston, Mr. Haston rose from humble beginnings to become a respected leader.

Tragedy struck early in Mr. Haston's life when his father was murdered in his presence in 1919. He and his mother subsequently moved to Wewoka, Oklahoma. He excelled in school, graduating as the salutatorian of his high school and achieving the status of all-state half-back for his football team. Mr. Haston worked, played varsity football, and sang on the college's travelling a capella choir while putting himself through college at Langston University. In 1934, he became a member of his beloved Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at Langston. In 1937, Mr. Haston graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Science and Mathematics. He later attended the University of Colorado for post-graduate work; Texas Southern University, where he received his Masters of Education in Secondary Administration degree; and the University of Oklahoma, where he did course work toward a doctorate.

In 1937, Mr. Haston took his first job out of college as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, simultaneously teaching grades 1-8. He eventually resigned and moved to Hugo, Oklahoma to accept a position as a math teacher, as well as the head football and basketball coach. During the summers, Mr. Haston worked as a porter for the railroad, traveling from Portland, Oregon to Seattle, Washington to earn extra income. He met his wife of 73 years, the former Doris E. Sampson in Hugo. They married Christmas day in 1941 and remain married to this day.

In August 1942, Mr. Haston was called to the service of his country for a period of 46 months, 27 months of which were served in combat in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Though his service began as a Buck Private in the Army, he was separated from the serv-

ice as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Haston's wife looked after his mother who became ill during his absence in the war.

In September 1946, Mr. Haston was hired as a teacher in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he also served as the assistant coach of the football and basketball teams. In February 1952, Mr. Haston and his wife had their son William, who presently serves as Counsel in the Legal Division of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C.

In 1954, Mr. Haston accepted a job as Principal of Lincoln High School in Nowata, Oklahoma. He resigned in 1958 to establish a home in Houston, Texas in an effort to provide better opportunities for his son. In Houston, he worked for the Houston Independent School District as a math teacher at Kashmere Gardens Jr./Sr. High School. Mr. Haston would go on to teach biology, chemistry, and physics. He also obtained the distinction of F.O.A. Science Specialist and was later promoted to Assistant Principal.

In 1961, Mr. Haston and his family joined St. James Episcopal Church, where he served as a member of the Vestry, Sunday School Superintendent, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and member of the Brothers of St. Andrew.

Mr. Haston is a proud member of Kiwanis International and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was the inspiration for Dr. Ronald Peters to work to establish Alpha's Brother's Keeper Program. On July 23, 2010, at Alpha's 90th General Convention, the Brother's Keeper Program became international and was renamed the "A. Charles Haston Brother's Keeper Program." Mr. Haston is also the only member of Alpha Phi Alpha to maintain a membership for 80 years.

When recently asked what the most significant event that had occurred in his life, he unhesitatingly said, "The election of a Black man, Barack Hussein Obama, II, as the President of the United States."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, Amos Charles Haston, is a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, educator, veteran, and servant of all mankind. He is an exemplar for all those who aspire to selflessly serve others.

HARRISBURG REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on April 16, 2014.

Founded in the late 1800s, the Chamber was originally known as the Harrisburg Board of Trade. In 1913, it was agreed that the organization should be incorporated as a Chamber of Commerce, and in 1914, it was officially given this designation. Although the name has changed, Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce has stayed true to its mission, acting as a catalyst for policy change, job creation, and business growth throughout Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties. The

Chamber continues to serve as an important asset in Southeastern Pennsylvania, spurring economic development throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce has served as a catalyst for economic growth in Harrisburg, PA. Therefore, I commend all those who have served to improve their community as part of this important organization.

COMMENDING CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL CENTER OF DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Children's Medical Center of Dallas, the recipient of the prestigious HIMSS Davies Enterprise Award of Excellence. Children's leadership in the use of health information technology provides superior patient care.

As the first nurse elected to Congress, I recognize that the implementation of an electronic health record (EHR) and the use of EHR technology is crucial in our medical community. Since 1994, the Nicholas E. Davies award of Excellence has recognized superior implementation and use of health information technology for healthcare organizations, private practices, public health entities, and community health organizations.

This is the second year in a row that Children's has been the recipient of the HIMSS Davies Enterprise Award and Children's was the first hospital to achieve HIMSS Electronic Medical Record Adoption Stage 7. Children's has also received two HITRUST certifications and was named Most Wired by Hospitals and Health Networks eight times.

Children's is able to use EHR technology to support quality focused care delivery where staff works in a team-based setting to bring high quality, measurably better care for their young patients. Children's has seen reductions in median length of stay decline from 2.4 days to 1.95 days. Chest x-rays have decreased from 59 percent to 39 percent.

Children's uniquely uses the capabilities of its EHR to help patients and families play a larger role in their own care. This increases patient and family satisfaction. Children's leadership in the health information technology space not only moves us forward but it also improves patient care and quality of life for these young patients.

I am proud to have Children's Medical Center in my district and I will continue to advocate advancing health information technology nationwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 178 & 179—I missed votes due to weather delay at airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CORAM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 85TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members and leaders of the Coram Fire Department on the department's 85th anniversary.

The Coram Fire Department exemplifies bravery, selflessness, and a strong sense of community. For 85 years, its members have been willing to leave their homes and their families at any hour of the day or night, running toward danger to save their neighbors.

The department has grown with the community, expanding its services and its facilities to ensure the safety of Coram residents. It has opened its fire house to more than just fire-or department-related activities. Two civic groups meet regularly at the auxiliary fire house. And any time my office is in need of a meeting space, whether to honor our nation's veterans, to bring in banks to help homeowners with mortgage issues, or to celebrate our military academy nominees, the Coram Fire Department has welcomed us and provided the space with support for our events.

The Coram Fire Department is also proactive in its advocacy for the fire and emergency services. Whenever there is something that can be done to make the jobs of volunteer emergency service personnel easier, or the need to call our attention to something they feel makes it harder, the membership works hard to find ways to resolve the issue.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the residents of the First Congressional District, and in particular the residents of Coram, I offer my thanks and best wishes to the Coram Fire Department. Here's to 85 more years of dedicated service to the community.

COMMENDING SUMMER BROWN ON
EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER
AWARD**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Summer Brown on earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest achievement a Cadette can earn. Summer, a student at First Colony Middle School in Sugar Land, achieved this honor through her accomplishments in leadership, advocacy, and dedication to improving her community.

Summer completed her Girl Scout Silver Award project by coordinating and leading a "Healthy Eating and Energy" workshop for elementary students. She led a team of volunteers to teach students how to lead a healthy lifestyle. This included helping students learn how to read and understand nutrition labels on food packages. Summer also conducted a fruits and vegetable taste test to help the students discover and experience healthy foods. Every parent knows that in itself is an accomplishment.

On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of

Texas, I'm pleased to recognize Summer's Girl Scout accomplishment and her contributions to help make her community a healthier place. We are all proud of Summer Brown.

WELCOMING PASTOR BENNY TATE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, for over 25 years.

When Dr. Benny Tate first arrived in Milner, Georgia, Rock Springs Church had just 60 members in its congregation. Today, that number has grown to more than 6,000.

Under the leadership of Pastor Tate, several ministries were formed at Rock Springs Church in order to meet the needs of the community, including:

The Rock Springs Medical Clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance, the Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse, Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to children K through 12, and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing to those in need.

Psalm 68:5 says, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Or James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what scripture tells us the role of the church should be—to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Today, Pastor Tate and his wife of more than thirty years, Barbara, reside in Griffin Georgia, and are parents to their daughter, Savannah Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Benny Tate for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community at Rock Springs Church. I wish him many blessed years ahead as he continues to lead, serve, and further the gospel at his full service church.

DONNA PALERMO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Donna E. Palermo on her retirement from the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce after 26 years of exceptional service.

Ms. Palermo began working for the Chamber as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks of the organization, serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the Chamber's 120-year history to serve as president, a position she held for 13 years.

Beyond her work with the Chamber, Ms. Palermo is an active member of the Hazleton

community, serving in numerous leadership roles including President of the Northeastern Chamber of Commerce Services Organization, Chair of the Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Chair of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. She is also a member of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance (now Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton), Leadership Hazleton, Lackawanna/Luzerne County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and CAN BE.

In addition to her involvement with many of the areas organizations and charities, she has undertaken several special projects, including an effort to bring back a health insurance program for the Chamber. As a result of her collaborative efforts, this health insurance program has grown beyond the Greater Hazleton Chamber to 17 additional Northeast Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, having had the pleasure to work with Ms. Palermo on many projects centered on community service and economic development, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Therefore, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and I wish her continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING MR. NATHAN
GIBBS-BOWLING ON HIS MILKEN
EDUCATOR AWARD**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, a teacher from my district who has achieved recognition for being one of the nation's top educators. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling of Lincoln High School in Tacoma recently received the highly prestigious Milken Educator Award, which is given by the Milken Family Foundation to recognize excellence in teaching. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling, winner of the \$25,000 prize, was the only recipient this year from Washington State and one of only 35 educators honored nationwide.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling teaches Advanced Placement Government and Advanced Placement Human Geography, as well as a senior seminar on applying for college and obtaining scholarships. He is an engaging teacher who sets high standards for his students while inspiring them with a creative classroom experience. He is known to have his classrooms debate Supreme Court cases and hold mock Congresses. As his students and colleagues will tell you, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling aims to instill intellectual curiosity and a mindset of life-long learning in all of his students.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling grew up in Tacoma. After graduating from Foss High School in 1997, he earned an associate's degree from Pierce College, as well as a bachelor's and master's degree from Evergreen State College. Now, as a dedicated teacher, he is giving back to his community.

In addition to helping co-develop the curriculum on Tacoma history and the Washington State history curriculum he wrote from primary source materials, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling is the first teacher at his school to teach Advancement Via Individual Determination

(AVID), a program to improve study skills and college-readiness. He is also a founder of Teachers United, a network of teachers working with local unions to advance education policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Gibbs-Bowling for winning the esteemed Milken Educator Award, and I would like to express how grateful I am to have him as a teacher in Washington State. It is an honor to recognize him for the passion and excellence he brings to the classroom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. AGSHIN MEHDIYEV, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Agshin Mehdiyev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations since November 30, 2006, who also served with distinction on the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013. While at the United Nations, he also was Azerbaijan's non-resident Ambassador to Cuba (since February 2007), Nicaragua (since June 2008), Jamaica (since September 2008), and Venezuela (since October 2008).

Ambassador Mehdiyev will shortly conclude his term at the United Nations and return to Azerbaijan. His dedication to his diplomatic craft and his contributions to the United Nations and to U.S.-Azerbaijan relations richly deserve to be recognized. In particular, he brought leadership and wisdom to his position in the United Nations and to the United Nations Security Council during a period of considerable turmoil and significant challenges.

Furthermore, Ambassador Mehdiyev has a long and distinguished record of serving his country. He first worked overseas at the USSR Embassies in Egypt (from 1971 to 1975) and in Yemen (from 1977 to 1982), and also in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR in several capacities, including as chief of the Ministry's Information and Media Office (from 1975 to 1977). He returned to Yemen from 1987 until 1991, and from 1991 to 1992 was Azerbaijan's official Representative to the Republic of Yemen. Between 1993 and 2001, he was the Director of Europe, USA and Canada Department of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And prior to his current position at the United Nations, he was Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe from 2001 to 2006.

Ambassador Mehdiyev graduated from Azerbaijan State University in 1971 (from the faculty on oriental studies). Between 1969 and 1970, he studied at the Cairo University, and from 1985 to 1987, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry of the former USSR. Ambassador Mehdiyev holds a PhD degree in the history of international relations (1987) and is Honorary Professor of the Baku Eurasian University Academic Council since 2007. He also is the author of the book,

"Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe," published in 2011, as well as of many articles and other publications focusing on international affairs and political studies.

For his distinguished career and contributions to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Mehdiyev was awarded a medal on the occasion of the "90th anniversary of Azerbaijan's diplomatic service," at which time he also received the Foreign Ministry's "Honor Award" and an order for "Service to the Fatherland." Ambassador Mehdiyev was born in 1949. He and his wife Sevda have three children.

Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2014, I attended a farewell reception and dinner in New York in honor of Ambassador Mehdiyev and Sevda. The event was hosted by my friends Ranju Batra, Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project and former president of the Association of Indians in America NY, and Ravi Batra, an accomplished attorney who is the Chairman and CEO of Greenstar Global Energy Corporation and Chair of the National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs. Their son Neal Batra also was there. The gathering also was attended by numerous UN Ambassadors with spouses, including by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative Rosemary DiCarlo and the Permanent Representatives from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Honduras, South Korea, Finland, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and inter alia, Somalia. Also attending were senior members of the UN Secretariat, including Won-soo Kim and Ion Botnaru, and members of the judiciary, local elected officials, Rabbi Yitzchok Waldman, who is the Director of the Laniado Hospital in Israel, Martin and Grace Riskin, and my dear friend and colleague Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY, in whose district the event was held. Numerous other officials and prominent individuals sent their greetings and good wishes.

I mention this not only to thank the Batras for their incredible warmth and hospitality, but also to demonstrate the great respect and affection with which Ambassador Mehdiyev is held by his colleagues and acquaintances. Diplomacy at its most basic level is about building connections between people, and the attendance of so many prominent individuals, from all walks of life, is a testament to Ambassador Mehdiyev's character and skills. He is a true professional in every sense of the word and I am pleased to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING THE MISSOURI ARBORETUM AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary of being recognized as the official Missouri Arboretum by the Missouri State Legislature.

Northwest Missouri State University's tradition of tree management extends back towards the earliest days of the school. Groundskeepers brought a mixture of beauty and shade to the campus by mixing tree spe-

cies, which continues to this day with over 125 different species and more than 1,300 trees on campus. This commitment to biodiversity and care for the trees earned the Arboretum the 2000 Communitree Award from the Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The City of Maryville has also maintained an active Community Forestry program and earned the designation as a Tree City USA in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, along with the great State of Missouri, in recognizing the Missouri Arboretum at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri, on their 20th anniversary.

BOB'S ATOMIC BURGERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bob's Atomic Burgers (BABS), for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community, and the environment.

Bob's Atomic Burgers' treatment of their employees, customers, the environment, and the greater community is exemplary. BABS believes paying employees a livable wage helps them lead healthy and stable lives, which results in no turnover and their ability to deliver a consistent product and service to their customers.

Environmental sensitivity is a core value at Bob's Atomic Burgers. Recycling, composting, and creating as little waste as possible is a constant effort. You can even see the upcycling in the décor of the shop where local relics are on display from the Colorado School of Mines Science department. Bob's Atomic Burgers is very active in the community, fundraising for several schools, the Golden and West Metro Fire Departments, the Golden VFW, the Golden rescue fund, and the Golden backpacks program. Additionally, Bob's participates in numerous community events.

Bob's Atomic Burgers is a model for outstanding ethics in business. It is an example for all businesses in America to emulate. Congratulations on receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award, and thank you to all the individuals who make Bob's Atomic Burgers the success it is today.

HONORING MR. RICHARD G. HADLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rich Hadley, who is retiring after over twenty years of service in Washington State. As the President and Chief

Executive Officer of Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), the Inland Northwest's largest chamber of commerce, Rich has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing jobs and business opportunities not only in Spokane but all across Eastern Washington and the Inland Northwest region.

When Rich arrived at the Spokane Chamber of Commerce in 1993, the organization looked and functioned very differently than the GSI the community knows today. Under Rich's leadership, GSI has been intentional in consolidating business promotion efforts, thereby presenting a strong, unified voice for the Inland Northwest. Specifically in 2007, Rich brought together the Chamber and the Spokane Area Economic Development Council, thereby creating Greater Spokane Incorporated. More recently, three groups, the International Trade Alliance, the Spokane STEM Network, and Connect Northwest, have integrated with GSI: These recent integrations serve as a testament to GSI's credibility as the groups know that GSI will be able to fulfill each of their missions.

From tirelessly advocating for Fairchild Air Force Base, an integral part of Spokane's community since 1942 when the City of Spokane and local residents purchased the land and donated it to the War Department, to supporting the start of the North Spokane Corridor, Eastern Washington's top transportation priority, Rich's legacies are numerous. However, his greatest legacy is his tireless commitment to bringing a medical school to Spokane.

Several years ago, Rich saw a need in Eastern Washington for a medical school as it would bring additional doctors to the region and open up new economic opportunities. Working with the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU), in 2008, WSU accepted its first group of first-year medical students at its Spokane campus. Last fall, it added 19 second-year students as part of the UW School of Medicine's second-year curriculum. Now, the University District is the center of a new bioscience complex that will be a major contributor to Spokane's future economic vitality.

A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington and on his country will long be remembered. So, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Hadley for a lifetime of dedicated service.

HONORING DAVID J. CRAWFORD

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary constituent of mine, David J. Crawford, who throughout his lifetime in Columbia County, NY has contributed significantly to economic growth and our sense of community in my home county.

David was born and raised in Germantown, where he played soccer, basketball, and the trumpet while working as a construction laborer in high school. After high school, he first began studying engineering at Columbia-Greene Community College, where he also was the 1st Trumpet in the College's first mu-

sical, "The Music Man." He then continued his undergraduate studies at Clarkson University and began his Master of Business Administration at Pace University, before setting off to work as a land surveyor and engineer for firms in Missouri, Michigan, and Indiana.

David returned to New York permanently in 1978 and founded Crawford & Associates Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C. in 1992. He is the current board President of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, past president and treasurer of Friends of Clermont, board member of the Columbia County Historical Society and Columbia County Board of Supervisors' Airport Committee, and past president of the Columbia County Association in the City of New York. Beyond his significant business and charitable contributions to Columbia County and surrounding areas, David has made an indelible mark on our region through his character and personal relationships.

I would like to again thank David for his life of service and business acumen that have immeasurably helped Upstate New York and beyond. It is no surprise to me, nor anyone else who knows him, that he continues to be recognized in a variety of ways, including winning the Columbia County Association in the City of New York 2013 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Thank you David, and keep up the incredible work.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month. Irritable bowel syndrome, or IBS, is a functional gastrointestinal disorder. It is characterized by recurring abdominal pain or discomfort related to changes in intestinal function. Other GI symptoms, such as nausea or bloating, and non-GI symptoms, such as sleep disturbances or headache, may often occur. IBS affects up to 15 percent of the U.S. population and accounts for roughly 40 percent of all referrals to gastroenterologists.

There is no cure and there are few treatments options for IBS, many of which are only marginally effective. Individuals with moderate to severe IBS struggle with symptoms that significantly limit their physical, emotional, economic, and social well-being. For example, a recent study found that employees with IBS had higher average total healthcare costs, and significantly higher medically related work absenteeism.

People of all ages are affected by IBS. One study found that 14 percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students have IBS. Children with IBS are also more likely to experience anxiety and depression and a disruption of normal activities and social interactions. In addition, veterans and active military personnel are disproportionately represented by those suffering from IBS and other functional gastrointestinal disorders due to their exposure to increased risk factors.

I am encouraged by efforts by non-profits to provide education, support, and advancing research. Recently, the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders

(IFFGD) developed a smart-phone app that allows patients to access information on IBS, including treatment options. These are the kind of new initiatives that need advancing so that the millions of Americans with IBS can be treated more effectively.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support research efforts and to raise awareness for IBS. As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected by IBS to find out more and get the help they need.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,436,444,226,130.22. We've added \$6,809,567,177,217.14 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CELEBRATION OF MAY 3RD POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important national holiday that will be celebrated this week by our friends in Poland, May 3rd, Polish Constitution Day. On May 3, 1791, Poland adopted the first constitution of its kind in Europe and second in the world following what had occurred here in America only a few years before.

This new constitution in Poland sought to supplant the prevailing anarchy fostered by some of the country's magnates with a more democratic constitutional monarchy. It introduced elements of political equality between townspeople and nobility and placed people of all classes under the protection of the government, thus mitigating the worst abuses of serfdom. It banned pernicious parliamentary institutions such as the liberum veto, which had put the Sejm (Polish Assembly) at the mercy of any deputy who could revoke all the legislation that had been passed by that Sejm.

The citizens of Poland knew this constitution was special and May 3rd was declared an official Polish holiday, Constitution Day, two days later on May 5, 1791. As with all new efforts toward freedom and greater democracy, the Polish Constitution met resistance and was banned during the partitions of Poland but eventually reinstated in April 1919 under the Second Polish Republic—the first holiday officially introduced in the newly independent country. The holiday was again outlawed during World War II by both Nazi and Soviet occupiers, only to be celebrated in Polish cities in May 1945 in a mostly spontaneous manner.

The 1946 pro-freedom demonstrators competed for attention with the communist-endorsed May 1 Labor Day celebrations in the Polish People's Republic. Until 1989, May 3 was a frequent occasion for anti-government and anti-communist protests and Polish Constitution Day was restored as an official Polish holiday in April 1990 after the fall of communism. In 2007, May 3 was declared a Lithuanian national holiday and Polish-American pride has been celebrated on the same date here in the United States as well. For instance since 1982 in Chicago, the Polish-American community have marked May 3rd with festivities and the annual Polish Constitution Day Parade, and in my own district, Polonia United, San Diego led by its President Zdzislaw (George) Juchum and its Vice President Miroslaw Gorny work tirelessly to inform and involve the San Diego community of this important event.

The Constitution of May 3, 1791, is evidence of successful internal reform and serves as a symbol of the eventual restoration of Poland's sovereignty. Congratulations to our friends and allies in Poland. As you celebrate Polish Constitution Day on May 3, please be assured that the United States stands beside you as a fellow defender of freedom and democracy.

SENATOR DAVE WATTENBERG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my colleague, neighbor, and above all else my friend . . . Dave Wattenberg. Dave passed away on Monday, January 20, 2014 with his wife Mary Sharon by his side.

Dave and I served together for 6 years in Colorado's State Senate.

He was a cowboy whose wit was unmatched but he was a serious legislator and public servant. During the years of Dave's service he passed over 250 bills. These laws encompassed mining, banking, air quality standards for public lands, and even bringing horse racing back to the State of Colorado.

He cared deeply about rural Colorado and his home and the people of northwest Colorado in Jackson County.

He understood better than most the issues that effected ranchers and farmers and he brought those issues to light at the Statehouse. The Colorado Brand Association legislation sponsored by Dave was most important to his love of western heritage.

Dave knew what it took to bring people together, to compromise and strike a deal to make good public policy for the people of Colorado.

I was honored to be the beneficiary of Dave and Mary Sharon's help and support over the years.

Whenever I talked to Dave he wanted to know how he could help me.

I will always remember the events in his backyard and treasure the times we just sat and talked and joked about our time at the Statehouse as well as about family and politics.

I know how much his wife, Mary Sharon will miss him. I and so many others will miss him too.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL GROUP FOUNDATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Medical Group Foundation, based in Alexandria, Virginia, for hosting the first ever Measure Up/Pressure Down™ National Day of Action: Roll Up Your Sleeves! on May 15, 2014. On this day, medical groups, health systems, partners, and sponsors across the nation will take one "action" to improve blood pressure control in their communities. The services will range from free blood pressure screenings and patient education, to employee brown bag lunches and media outreach.

The Measure Up/Pressure Down™ initiative is a national campaign that raises awareness and control of blood pressure by working with more than 150 medical groups and health systems, partner organizations, and sponsors. High blood pressure (hypertension) is one of the biggest risk factors for heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and diabetes complications. Nearly one out of three American adults has high blood pressure. Yet out of these 68 million people, only half have the condition under control.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the American Medical Group Foundation's contributions to healthier communities, applaud their national day of action, and ask that my colleagues and their staffs consider taking part in this important event.

WATCHMAN NEE AND WITNESS LEE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a little over four years ago my esteemed colleague from New Jersey, the honorable CHRIS SMITH, rose in this chamber to bring due attention to one of the great Christians of the twentieth century—the noted Chinese teacher and church-planter, Watchman Nee. Today, I rise to complete the circle on this compelling story by honoring Watchman Nee's closest co-worker, Witness Lee. Together they labored tirelessly in China from 1932 until the conquest of mainland China by the Communist Red Army under Mao Tse Tung in 1949. Today, the story of Watchman Nee is somewhat well known, given his numerous writings that have become Christian classics, such as *The Normal Christian Life* and *Sit, Walk, Stand*. Capping his inspirational biography was his martyrdom in a Chinese labor farm in 1972.

Witness Lee's story is less known in the West but is in no way less significant. Although Nee was the clear leader when they labored together in China, it was left to Witness Lee, to preserve and continue their work outside of China and to spread it far beyond the Chinese-speaking world. When it became apparent in 1949 that the Communists would prevail in China, Watchman Nee insisted that Witness Lee emigrate to carry on their work in

Taiwan and throughout the Far East. Lee agreed. Subsequent developments not only validated Nee's insight (he was imprisoned shortly thereafter, and the churches raised up under his and Lee's ministry were forced underground), but also confirmed that their message and ministry had the potential to reach far beyond China.

Almost immediately Lee's ministry began to have a profound impact in Taiwan. Tens of thousands turned to Jesus Christ for their salvation and began congregating in simple, New Testament churches, as their Chinese brethren had done in China during the previous two decades. Today, there are more than 200 such local churches in Taiwan with more than 200,000 believers. It is a similar story in the Far East and Australasia, with churches established in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

Witness Lee did not confine his work to Asia. In 1962 he came to North America and began to minister from Los Angeles, where he established Living Stream Ministry, the publisher of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee in English and over fifty other languages. Witness Lee's speaking and writing continued to emphasize "Christ as life" and God's desire to "build His church" on the basis of the oneness of God's people, rather than on any ethnic or cultural differences. This was the same message that he had learned from his spiritual mentor, Watchman Nee. Since the early 1960s the spread of the local churches under Lee's ministry throughout the North and South America, Europe, and Africa has been remarkable. There are more than 4,000 churches and 400,000 believers meeting on every inhabited continent, including 200 churches and several thousand believers in Russia and the Russian-speaking world.

Inside mainland China the number of "hidden" believers following the ministry of Nee and Lee has continued to grow despite the Chinese government's often extreme measures to suppress and openly persecute them. Historically, members of the churches in China who appreciate the ministry of Nee and Lee have been among the most harshly persecuted. Thousands have been imprisoned, countless beaten, and many even martyred. It is estimated today that there may be two million believers and thousands of local churches in China that draw their spiritual nourishment and supply from the ministry of Nee and Lee.

Recently, reports have reached the West that Christian believers in two provinces have been imprisoned merely for possessing copies of the Recovery Version, a study Bible published by Living Stream Ministry and Taiwan Gospel Book Room, the publishing entity Lee established in Taiwan. Today Watchman Nee is still labeled as a "dangerous counterrevolutionary," and Witness Lee is officially branded as a "cult leader." The writings of both men are banned in China. It is tragic that Watchman Nee died in a Chinese prison farm, totally unaware of how profoundly his life and ministry would impact the entire world. It is a similar tragedy that Witness Lee died in 1997 with such a blatant, gross distortion hanging over his name and his ministry in his homeland.

It is ironic that at a time when China is taking such a prominent role on the world stage in so many areas of society, it is missing an obvious opportunity to further improve its reputation with in the international community.

Rather than slander the names of two faithful men of God, China should take national pride that two of its own, neither of whom were political in either their message or their leadership of the flock, have had extraordinary impact far beyond the Chinese-speaking world.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Chinese government today to release all those being held simply because of their faith in Christ and to abandon this national campaign to discredit and distort the record of two brave followers of the One who came with the message of salvation, forgiveness and peace, and instead, to celebrate with us the contributions of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee to believers the world over.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT
LANCE NELSON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to congratulate MSgt. Lance Nelson on being named the Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year. This award, given annually by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Military Affairs Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Tacoma, recognizes an individual who upholds his or her commitment to civic responsibility in an exemplary way. MSgt. Nelson has served his community and country in great measure and is truly deserving of this award.

During his time in the 728th Airlift Squadron, 446th Airlift Wing, MSgt. Nelson has personified what it means to be an airman. He not only serves as a flight leader in his squadron but also as the squadron's Self Aid and Buddy Care Instructor, a position that puts him in charge of conducting classes on battlefield first aid. Furthermore, MSgt. Nelson's commitment to service continues when he is off duty, where he is employed as a firefighter and EMT with West Pierce Fire and Rescue.

MSgt. Nelson has also shown enthusiasm for the potential of young people in our community. From starring in Fire Prevention Week assemblies and volunteering in classrooms, to leading Boy Scouts and coaching sports, MSgt. Nelson has consistently invested in the lives of children. As President of the Evergreen Elementary PTA and member of the Bethel School District Long Range Facilities Planning Team, he has been a dedicated advocate and resource for the Bethel School District.

Howard O. Scott, for whom this award is named, served America when called upon during World War II, and continued to serve the Tacoma community throughout the rest of his life, leaving behind an impressive legacy. MSgt. Nelson carries on the legacy of Howard O. Scott, setting an incredible example of what it means to give back to your country and community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I congratulate MSgt. Lance Nelson. I wish him well in his future endeavors, and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP P. SMITH ON
RECEIVING THE SUN SENTINEL'S
2013 EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR
BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR
IN BROWARD COUNTY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Philip P. Smith, the president and chief executive officer of Phil Smith Management, Inc., on receiving the Sun Sentinel's 2013 Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year in Broward County. Each year, the Sun Sentinel recognizes outstanding business executives who exemplify both business leadership and community involvement, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Phil.

Well known as the founder of Phil Smith Chevrolet, a successful General Motors (GM) dealership in my Congressional district that serves the greater South Florida area from Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, Phil bought into his first auto dealership 35 years ago. While finishing college at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he started working at a Ford dealership in Pompano Beach. Owner Pete Menten saw Phil's potential, and not only kept him on the job after his graduation but later gave him the chance to buy into a small Toyota store in Homestead. With help and support from Menten, Southeast Toyota Distributors Chief Jim Moran, and others, Phil grew his business and now leads an auto-dominated group with 780 employees and about \$500 million in annual revenue.

With a direct hands-on sales and management approach, Phil has built his company from the ground up and now operates 17 auto dealerships throughout Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, as well as the Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale. Just as in the very beginning, he remains true to the principles that have put him at the forefront of his business model: paying it forward and strong relationships with customers. Phil offers promising employees the same chance that he was given, to become a part owner in each of his auto franchises and pursue the American Dream through hard work and dedication.

Even with his great success, he remains grounded to the things that matter most. Phil is civically engaged and active in his community. In addition to his charitable giving, he serves on the boards for his alma mater FAU, the Orange Bowl Committee, and various nonprofits that focus on issues such as health and education. Phil also welcomes several high school teams to practice on the golf course at Coral Ridge Country Club without charge.

Mr. Speaker, Phil Smith is not only an exceptional entrepreneur, but a community leader and dear friend. It is truly a pleasure to recognize him on receiving the Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the theme of this year's National Day of Prayer,

"One voice united in prayer." Echoing that sentiment of unity, those of us who grew up reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at school every morning recall its stirring words with absolute clarity to this very day: "One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Yet today in some schools, the Pledge has taken a back seat to busy class schedules and that crucial phrase, "under God," seems under constant fire by an unrestrained judiciary. National Prayer Day serves to remind us we need to regain our footing in this country again if we are to stand tall in His eyes among the brotherhood of nations.

My efforts in the Congress have long been to preserve our Constitutional guarantees of freely exercising our religion, and not vanquishing that right from the public square. Since the earliest days of our founding, and in the hearts and minds of those landing on our shores to settle a new world, hope endured through prayer.

I have again introduced a Constitutional Amendment to ensure voluntary prayer in public schools. H.J. Res. 42 reads: "Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to the Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extracurricular activity." In the past, I had jointly introduced this amendment with our late senator, Robert C. Byrd. And, I have co-sponsored H. Res. 547, supporting the 63rd annual observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2014, and urge all West Virginians to come together to pray and reaffirm the importance prayer has played in our nation's heritage.

As wise old Ben Franklin told his fellow delegates in calling for daily prayer at our Constitutional Convention, "the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

Being a firm believer in the power of prayer, I remain convinced that collectively, through the power of prayer, we can begin to heal our land. Because when we weigh what little our Lord asks of us—the faith of a mustard seed, the mere touch of a garment's hem—the return is nothing short of amazing grace.

The leadership of our pastors helps guide us to greater understanding and appreciation of that sound investment. I thank them for their compassion and for their continuing commitment to the power of prayer, and the strength and guidance it grants us to make the Lord's work here on Earth our own.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JENNIFER
AINSWORTH

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our nation's finest teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Ainsworth of Horry County, South Carolina.

Mrs. Ainsworth was recently named South Carolina's 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year for her exemplary work at Socastee High School,

where she teaches and mentors mild to moderate special needs students. Drawing from the inspiration of her late-mother, grandmother, and late-class assistant, Mrs. Ainsworth prepares her students for their future by teaching them life and work skills so they can be productive citizens.

Mrs. Ainsworth attributes her success to unconditional love, hard work, and her dedication to making a difference in her students' lives.

Too often, people focus on the broken portions of our education system. We must recognize and celebrate our educators that go above-and-beyond their job duties, like Mrs. Ainsworth.

Our nation's teachers, especially our special education teachers, dedicate their lives to enriching the lives of our children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Ainsworth, and all of our country's educators, for their selfless commitment to our country's future.

THE ARC THRIFT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Arc Thrift Stores for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and not for profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and demonstrate high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

The Arc Thrift is a 45 year old non-profit, with 21 stores across Colorado employing over 1,200 people. They are one of the largest integrated employers of people with disabilities in Colorado. The Arc Thrift Chapters provide the disabled community with help finding jobs, housing, medical assistance and services in schools. Also proving they are good stewards of the environment, last year the Arc Thrift organization diverted 20 million pounds of merchandise from Colorado landfills.

I congratulate the Arc Thrift stores for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary. I thank all the employees of the Arc Thrift for their continued commitment to the people they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL JOHN SHALIKASHVILI OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and achievements of General John Shalikashvili of Peoria, Illinois, who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1993 to 1997, and is being honored in a park dedication on May 17th.

General Shalikashvili was born in 1936 in Warsaw to Georgian exiles. His family sur-

vived the German occupation of Poland and the destruction of Warsaw during WWII and in 1952, when he was 16, he moved with his family to Peoria. When he arrived, speaking little English, he would leave Peoria High School at the end of the day and visit the local movie theater to help himself learn the language. In 1958, after Shalikashvili graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a degree in mechanical engineering, he received his draft notice. He entered the Army as a private before attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) and embarking on a distinguished career that would span almost 40 years.

Under President George H.W. Bush, Shalikashvili served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander. After the first Gulf War, he served as Commander of Operation Provide Comfort, the peacekeeping and humanitarian action in northern Iraq. In 1993, General Shalikashvili was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Clinton, where he served until his retirement in 1997. He was the first foreign-born man to hold the position, as well as the first draftee to ever rise to become Chairman.

General Shalikashvili passed away in July, 2011, and was honored by the Presidents he served under and his fellow military leaders. President Clinton remembered that "he never minced words, he never postured or pulled punches, he never shied away from tough issues or tough calls, and most important, he never shied away from doing what he believed was the right thing."

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Peoria for recognizing Shalikashvili's patriotism and dedicated service, and I hope those who visit General Shalikashvili Park continue to be inspired by his incredible story.

HONORING THE WORK OF CLAIRE THOMAS

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. DeIBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Thomas. Claire Thomas established The Root Connection in 1987 as the first Community Supported Agriculture farm in Washington State.

She started with a quarter acre of rented land in the Sammamish Valley between Woodinville and Redmond, just 18 miles from downtown Seattle. She improved soil, purchased land, and increased acreage until she now farms 20 acres.

Claire's farm is organic, and applies the same intensive growing techniques used by many home gardeners. The result is enough for about 600 families, a production rate six times that of farms using normal commercial agricultural practices.

The Root Connection provides its members a close connection to the land that grows their produce. Families pick up their produce at the farm, and can go out into the fields to harvest herbs and flowers.

In 2012, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Kathy Lambert awarded Claire the King County Rural Small Business of the Year Award.

In addition to The Root Connection, Claire manages 47 acres of farmland and water

rights, advocates for farmland preservation, and helps run a non-profit that obtains fresh produce weekly from four local farms and distributes it through local food banks.

I want to honor Claire's commitment and drive to overcoming food insecurity by creating a means to get healthful food directly from farms to the homes that need it most.

HONORING ISABEL MARIE ZUREK

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, we honor Isabel Marie Zurek, one of the many women who rose up to help the wartime effort during WWII. Ms. Zurek is proudly recognized as a "Rosie the Riveter" who worked in one of the many factories in Detroit during the war. Now celebrating her 90th birthday, we honor the life and accomplishments of Isabel Marie Zurek.

HONORING MR. ED VAN BUREN

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ed Van Buren, an American hero and Army veteran from back in my home district in Florida who recently passed away. Mr. Van Buren was a patriot and family man who constantly strove to help his fellow veterans. I have had the privilege and distinct honor of speaking with his wife and son, Vickie and Ben, and learned just how great of an American he was. I would like to share his story.

Ed was proud not only to have served his country, but he was honored to have been both the son and father of a veteran. After Mr. Van Buren left the military, he continued to serve his nation in the General Services Administration as a computer specialist. These principles of service and education are ones that we must pass on to the next generation of Americans.

After retirement, Mr. Van Buren never faltered from his sacred mission of assisting veterans any way he could. He commanded American Legion Post 16 and was a member of the American Legion honor society. As the Chairman of the Veteran's Advisory Board, Alachua County is indebted to the service of Mr. Van Buren. In all of his roles, he championed assisting and advocating for his fellow veterans and their families.

About a year ago, Mr. Van Buren was diagnosed with lung cancer, but his commitment to improving the lives of others never wavered. Though Ed lost his battle with cancer, the impact he has made in the life of each and every veteran he helped will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the life of a distinguished citizen patriot, Ed Van Buren.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JILL
ROTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Jill Roth for winning The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers Association of America's "Young Agent of the Year" award. Mrs. Roth and her family reside in McLean Virginia, within Virginia's 8th Congressional District. Jill serves as the Executive Vice President in the Ahart Frinzi & Smith Alexandria, Virginia office. In that role, Jill has worked tirelessly to serve our areas insurance needs.

In granting the award, the Association recognized Mrs. Roth's hard work, her passion, and her dedication to civic involvement. The annual award is given to only one outstanding agent per year.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my hearty congratulations to Jill Roth and her coworkers at Ahart, Frinzi & Smith for this achievement. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors, and I'm proud to serve as her representative.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT SOSA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring, Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relation at University of the Incarnate Word, Robert Sosa. He has been Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations at OIW since 1992 and is ending his tenure after twenty two years. His tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress for UIW.

Robert Sosa was born in San Antonio, Texas. Sosa became the first person in his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree in English from St. Mary's University. Prior to becoming the Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations he taught high school English for 7 years. Following his career as a teacher he worked at various marketing and advertising agencies before launching his own marketing and advertising company in the 1970s. In 1992 Sosa sold his business and returned to education when the president of the University of the Incarnate Word asked him to launch the university's grants operation. During his tenure at UIW Sosa has been responsible for attracting and managing the philanthropic interests of corporations, foundations, and the government. As Director, Sosa has dedicated his life to helping the university and community develop projects that serve low income residents and first-generation college students. Under his direction the Department of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relations at UIW has raised \$100 million dollars for scholarships, research, academic programs, construction, and healthcare services.

Outside of his work as director Sosa has focused much of his time to teaching and community service. He taught English, Sociology,

and Marketing at San Antonio College, UIW, and St. Phillips College. He has been a member of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Las Casas Foundation and Workforce Solutions Alamo. In addition, he has served as chairman of the board of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts center and has been a committee member of Leadership in San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Robert Sosa, retiring Director of Foundation, Corporate, and Government Relation at University of the Incarnate Word. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

TRIBUTE TO MARY "JOSIE" CUDA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary "Josie" Cuda for her three decades of service in community and housing development, from Bolivia to Elkins, West Virginia.

Josie started her career serving others thirty years ago as a community organizer in Bolivia, followed by jobs as a flood relief worker and a position in human services. She spent seventeen years with the Randolph County Housing Authority and her final fourteen years as the agency's Executive Director. During Josie's time with the Randolph County Housing Authority, she developed a reputation as an innovative leader, using creativity and imagination to maximize her agency's footprint, serving moderate to low income hard-working West Virginians. She used funds from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and money from the Federal Home Loan Bank to develop over one hundred homes and thirty apartment units during her tenure as Executive Director of the Randolph County Housing Authority. In addition, independent non-profit partners Woodlands Development Group and the Home Ownership Center were both started during Josie's tenure, in order to make safe, decent, affordable housing more accessible.

Since leaving the Randolph County Housing Authority, Josie's attention has remained focused on community and housing development. She has worked with CommunityWorks and the West Virginia Community Development Hub to bring Achieving Excellence in Community Development to West Virginia, a program which helps provide training to non-profit organizations working to improve their communities. So far, ten housing organizations and sixteen community groups have utilized this program in West Virginia.

On May 1, 2014, Mary "Josie" Cuda will be inducted into the Affordable Housing Hall of Fame by Habitat for Humanity of West Virginia. Mrs. Cuda is truly deserving of such an honor, as countless West Virginians have her to thank for a better quality of life, better housing, and better communities.

Josie is married to Frank Cuda, a family nurse practitioner. Together they have twin sons and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way!

Mr. Speaker, Randolph County, as well as the State of West Virginia, owe Mary "Josie"

Cuda a debt of gratitude for her many years of devoted community service. I am proud to call her a friend and fellow West Virginian.

IN RECOGNITION OF LI MOON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Li Moon, an outstanding educator with the Hillsborough City School District for 22 years, who has changed the lives of hundreds of children, including my own daughter. Mrs. Moon is being honored with the Community Care Award from the Associated Parents Group.

Mrs. Moon is a Resource Specialist and the Data Advisor at North Elementary School. She served as Teacher-in-Charge for twelve years. I can say without fear of contradiction that she is one of the most effective, empathetic and innovative educators I have known. She believes that all children can succeed and will not stop until she finds what will make a student succeed. Her patience and compassion are inexhaustible.

Li Moon, a native of New York City, was a University Scholar at New York University. She received her BA in English in 1971, graduating cum laude and earning a membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. While teaching at Rivendell School, a small alternative school in San Francisco, she attended San Francisco State University, graduating in 1991 with her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, MA in Special Education and Educational Therapist Certificate. The following year she started her teaching career at North School as a Resource Specialist, simultaneously continuing her private practice as an Educational Therapist for several years. She has also taught several courses and led numerous workshops in the Special Education Department at San Francisco State University and has been a Guest Lecturer at UC Berkeley Extension.

Mrs. Moon has a long and impressive list of training and credentials, including a Behavior Intervention Case Manager Certificate (BICM), Autism Authorization Training and English Language Development (ELD) and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) Certification. Her professional development includes training through Intel Math, the Columbia Math Camp, summer institutes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (including Data Wise), IEP Skills Facilitation, TEACCH, Schools Attuned Profile Advisor training, Lindamood-Bell Phonological Sequencing Training, Project Read Phonology and Junior Great Books Discussion Leader Training. She received her Board Certification in Educational Therapy in 2001, is a former editor of The Educational Therapist and is currently the Chair of the San Francisco Association of Educational Therapists Study Group.

As you can surmise from this list, Mrs. Moon is always working on improving and expanding her skills so that she can use them to make her students thrive and succeed.

Her talents have not gone unnoticed in our community. Mrs. Moon deservedly received the school district's TONY and Teacher Leadership awards in 2001.

Mrs. Moon and her husband of 40 years, Jason Stillwater, live in San Francisco. They

have four children—Zachary Howard, Randall Conner, Moonwater and Tai Stillwater—and six grandchildren. In her spare time, Mrs. Moon enjoys reading, yoga, traveling and playing the flute.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Li Moon, who has dedicated her life and career to make Hillsborough's school the best they can be for our children. Plato once said, "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life." Mrs. Moon has put hundreds of men and women on the path to success. My daughter today is a vibrant and successful sophomore, thanks in part to Mrs. Moon, an exceptional teacher and human being.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, on April 24th we commemorate the Armenian Genocide—the deportation, forced march and massacre of 1.5 million innocent Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks nearly a century ago. In what has become a bitter annual ritual for Armenian-Americans and those who stand with them, we once again call upon the Obama Administration and the United States Congress to formally and officially recognize the Armenian Genocide as a tragic and unambiguous fact of history. Such recognition is critical to fortifying America's moral standing in the international community and, as we prepare in the coming year to mark the 100th anniversary of this tragedy, is long and painfully overdue.

CONGRATULATING MIKE JAWSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM USGS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Jawson on his retirement from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Mike has served as Center Director for the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, WI for the past nine years. During this time, Mike has repeatedly shown his dedication to his field and his strong leadership capabilities.

Mike's background is indicative of both his strong ties to Wisconsin, and his commitment to his field. Mike earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. In the past, Mike has worked for the Dept. of Defense as a Chemist, for the USDA-ARS as a Soil Scientist, for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an associate professor, for the EPA-Kerr Research Center as Branch Chief, and for the George Washington Carver Center as a National Program Leader and working with the National Climate Change Office.

In 2005, Mike returned to Wisconsin to become Center Director at USGS in La Crosse.

In this capacity, Mike managed the multi-disciplinary program of biological research, directing 11 different science teams, each with dynamic personalities and varied skill sets. As a leader of the science component of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration's Long Term Resource Monitoring Program, Mike was able to secure and implement funding for facility improvements and several new restoration projects. Additionally, Mike was able to host the first Center visits of U.S. Senators AMY KLOBUCHAR and TAMMY BALDWIN, and then-Governor Jim Doyle. Mike's accomplishments with the USGS will not soon be forgotten and his hard work and dedication will be missed.

As the Representative of western and central Wisconsin, I care deeply about issues related to the environment, natural resources, and the Mississippi River. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mike for his passionate work addressing natural resource management and science information needs for the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi ecosystems.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH BATEMAN BEING NAMED OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Kenneth Bateman, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Somerset Medical Center, who has been named Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Somerset County, New Jersey, Business Partnership.

Ken is a mainstay of the Somerset community where his contributions to the county, its residents and the New Jersey life sciences sector have improved the lives of many. Under his leadership, the Somerset Medical Center has experienced tremendous growth, expanding and encompassing new missions and endeavors that have made the facility a premier regional medical center.

Ken and the Somerset Medical Center have invested in the community by building new state-of-the-art facilities which have made Somerset a healthier and better place to live and raise a family.

I congratulate Kenneth Bateman for his well-earned recognition.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH J. WENDA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Joseph J. Wenda, a Middletown Township resident and former township supervisor, passed away on April 24, 2014 after a long illness. He was 55 years old, a father and brother, who also will be remembered fondly by his relatives and many friends. Joe was soft-spoken and humble in his demeanor, but strongly dedicated to public service and his community. An elected township supervisor who served with distinc-

tion, he was respected and admired for his hard work and thoughtful decision-making. He was a man of integrity who treated his associates with equal and sincere interest and respected all points of view. He was first elected supervisor in 1996 and held office until 2001. Although he was often asked to seek re-election or a higher office, he chose to remain active in community and civic affairs, serving with equal dedication. Joe Wenda will be remembered throughout the community he loved for his contribution and his service—and he will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF DARYL IDLER, HENRY GAMBOA AND ROBERT RODRIGUEZ OF EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the unselfish contribution of Henry Gamboa, Robert Rodriguez and Daryl Idler and to recognize their tireless support of the patients of Balboa Naval Medical Center San Diego.

For eight consecutive years, the ownership of the Cottonwood Golf Club, 3121 Willow Glen Road, El Cajon, CA, has consistently and generously donated their two 18-hole golf courses, golf carts, equipment, staff and their time for the success of the annual Duncan L. Hunter Wounded Marines Golf Classic. Their contribution represents as much as \$15,000 annually in lost revenue, employee salaries and miscellaneous expenses for the day of the tournament, as well as the weeks and months of preparation prior to the actual event.

Because of their dedication to the patients at Balboa, more than a quarter million dollars have been raised during the eight-year history of the tournament. This year's classic is the largest to date in terms of numbers participating and in dollars raised, expected to exceed \$75,000.

Always family oriented, Cottonwood Golf Club has the same small-town values that make the course such a great place to play. Some of the biggest events in East San Diego County that are inspired by their family values include the previously mentioned Duncan L. Hunter Wounded Marines Tournament, the Mother Goose Parade Tournament, the Jack-a-Lopes Classic and a wide variety of local and regional community and charitable events.

What makes the Duncan L. Hunter Wounded Marines Golf Classic truly unique is the fact that every dollar raised goes directly for patient's care. Armed Services, YMCA, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, administer the Restricted fund, meaning every penny goes for the patient's creature comforts.

As the Congressman whose district includes the Cottonwood Golf Club, I am proud to have the honor and privilege of representing these businessmen and their great business. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Henry, Robert, Daryl and everyone at Cottonwood Golf Club for continuing to demonstrate to all of us that caring for those who defend our freedom is more than words, it's a commitment to following through on what needs to be done.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ELLEN
BENNINGER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mary Ellen Benninger who has volunteered her time and talents to our schools in Hillsborough, California for decades. She is being honored tonight as the Citizen of the Year by the Associated Parents Group.

Mary Ellen's dedication to our schools and our community is an inspiration to parents, teachers and students alike. Her leadership and contributions have made Hillsborough's schools the best they can be for our children.

Mary Ellen started to volunteer when her children attended South School and then Crocker Middle School. For the last eight years she served on the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees where her board colleagues lovingly call her MEB. She was board president from 2008–2010 and has served on the Citizen Oversight Committee, Bond Finance Committee and as Trustee Liaison to Hillsborough's School Foundation during her tenure.

Wherever Mary Ellen gets involved, her leadership helps set the direction of the organization or initiative she takes on. While on the HCSO board, Mary Ellen simultaneously served as a Hillsborough Recreation Commissioner from 2005–2007 and on the Hillsborough Schools Foundation from 1999–2013. She also volunteered for the South School Parent Group Board, the Hillsborough Little League and Concours d'Elegance and was deeply engaged in passing Measure B. At St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church, she was a Catechism teacher for ten years.

I feel fortunate to count Mary Ellen as a friend and am a long-time admirer of her lasting contributions to our community. She is altruistic, passionate, intelligent and has an extraordinary memory. Her superb service has not gone unnoticed. She received the Eric Award and the South Hillsborough School's Outstanding Service to Youth Award.

Mary Ellen was born in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Mayo High School in Rochester, Minnesota in 1975 and earned her BA in Economics from Stanford University in 1979. She had a successful career in retail management for 16 years.

In 1986, she married her freshman dorm sweetheart, Tom Benninger. Six years later they moved to Hillsborough and raised their two children Will and Claire. When Mary Ellen is not giving her time, she enjoys tennis, skiing and hiking.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Mary Ellen Benninger whose big heart runs over with love for all children in our tony town of Hillsborough. Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mary Ellen has made an exceptional life for herself benefitting our entire community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASONIC LODGE #74 IN BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74. The historic building, located in downtown Black River Falls, WI, was built in 1914 to accommodate the growing membership of Lodge #74.

One of the basic purposes of Freemasonry is to "make good men better," and the men and women of Lodge #74 take this purpose to heart. The Free and Accepted Masons that belong to Lodge #74 strive to live by the three core tenets of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief and truth, and improve character and moral and spiritual outlook. The Freemasons work tirelessly to promote the principles of personal responsibility and morality, and encourage their colleagues to incorporate Freemasonry's lessons into their everyday lives.

The Freemasons of Wisconsin are active in charity work throughout the state. The Charities of the Grand Lodge include the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Three Pillars, The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and the Medical Fund. These charities serve thousands of individuals each year through programs that support masonic relief, education, community health, safety, and youth engagement. The Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74 gives back to the local Black River Falls community in a number of ways. For example, the Lodge holds a pancake breakfast every spring on Palm Sunday where all of the proceeds are used for scholarship and local charity efforts.

It is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74 on its 100th anniversary and re-dedication. The commitment of its members to bettering themselves and their community is truly deserving of recognition. The Black River Falls community and the state of Wisconsin are fortunate to have the Freemasons making a difference in the lives of individuals.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month.

IBS, or Irritable Bowel Syndrome, is a gastrointestinal disorder that alters how the digestive tract functions.

It can cause extreme pain, alter lifestyles, and cost an individual thousands of dollars on healthcare expenditures.

There is no single cause of IBS, and no single cure.

Studies estimate IBS affects up to 20 percent of the adult population. However, only 5 to 7 percent of the adult population has been diagnosed with the condition.

This is partly because individuals with IBS are less likely to seek treatment.

Many are afraid of the stigma that is associated with the disorder.

People need to know that they don't need to suffer in silence. There are many ways to treat and manage IBS.

The first step is to find out about IBS, and have your questions answered.

As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected to find out more and seek treatment.

APPLAUDING THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT'S HISTORIC FIRST
OPEN ENROLLMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to applaud the Affordable Care Act's historic first open enrollment along with the 8 million people who now have the health security they deserve.

And I am proud of the immense contribution California has been to these surging numbers. More than 3 million California consumers enrolled in health insurance plans or in Medi-Cal.

Moreover, after connecting my district to over 20 events and enrolling over 2,300 residents through my "Enroll OC" initiative, Orange County alone represented 10 percent of all California enrollments.

These final enrollment numbers are promising and although we have surpassed our goals, enrollment is only the first step.

We must now shift our focus to educating these new consumers about the services available to them through their health insurance providers.

Therefore, as an effort to educate new consumers in my district, I will be initiating a new campaign and hosting "Know Your Benefits" events throughout Orange County.

And I urge my colleagues to go beyond the kind of work necessary to reach those who the law was meant to help.

CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS FOR A
UNIFIED CYPRUS BETWEEN
GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the continued negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots as critically important towards peacefully resolving the dispute surrounding a unified Cyprus. I am pleased to learn that progress has been made following the issuance of a joint statement that resumed negotiations between Greek Cypriot negotiator Andreas Mavroyiannis and Turkish Cypriot negotiator Kudret Ozersay in February of this year.

The United States remains committed to supporting peace and cooperative relations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus was, by legend, the birthplace of the ancient Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. However, its modern history has, in contrast, been largely dominated by enmity between its Greek and Turkish inhabitants. However, I commend President Nicos Anastasiades of the Republic of

Cyprus and President Dervis Eroglu of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for their leadership and coming together for the future of all Cypriots.

It is my sincere hope that we may soon see an end to the Cyprus question once and for all, and welcome a unified Cyprus into the international community of nations. To this end, I encourage President Barack Obama, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and their respective governments to continue their efforts to help facilitate a peaceful resolution. As called for by the United Nations in various statements and declarations, I believe that the reunification of Cyprus based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with political equality represents the most sustainable path to peacefully uniting the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

A unified Cyprus would positively impact the entire region through improved multilateral relations, greater economic opportunities, and increased security. In particular, the reunification of Cyprus would be a significant step towards strengthening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at a time of renewed tensions with Russia. Furthermore, it may signal the beginning of closer cooperation between Greece and Turkey, as well as revitalize discussions for Turkish accession to the European Union.

Mr. Speaker, the resumption of negotiations for a unified Cyprus is a most welcome development. I remain a friend and ally to the people of Cyprus, and support their aspirations for peace and unity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND REOPENING OF THE ORIGINAL GROSSMONT HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history and proud legacy of the Grossmont Union High School District in my congressional district of East San Diego County. On May 1, 2014, the District will host a grand reopening of their District Office building to rededicate a historical landmark in the City of El Cajon, the original Grossmont High School Building.

Originally constructed in 1922, the Grossmont High School Building for decades was home to the teachers and students that made up the oldest high school in East San Diego County. As the campus expanded, new buildings were added and this facility eventually became the District Office. The project was actually two buildings, a stone veneer

over cast-in-place (CIP) concrete at the front and a two-story conventional wood-framed and plaster building in the rear. The structures were independent of each other and both required seismic upgrades. The necessary improvements consisted of a shotcrete membrane for the inside of the exterior walls at the stone section and full-height steel brace-frames in the wood-framed building.

Standard improvements to the building include all new HVAC, plumbing, electrical, lighting, Fire Alarm and communications. Newer styles have been blended with the traditional as significant efforts were made to honor the features of the original structure. The original stone veneer has been refurbished and upgraded original-style wood windows have been installed in line with the original theme. Also keeping with the original motif is the reuse of existing wood flooring. Newer amenities such as modern steel and tile stairs with stainless and glass handrails, glass conference rooms and curvi-linear (arched panel) ceilings have been added to complete the transition to new as well as honoring the old traditions.

The majority of the funding for this project was provided from former redevelopment funds, primarily from the City of El Cajon. The remaining balance of the project funding was allocated from the District's capital facilities fund and Propositions H and U, which were specifically utilized to bring the structure into compliance with ADA standards, including an elevator and wheelchair accessibility.

Besides refurbishing this proud local landmark, I am particularly proud to see redevelopment funds stay within the City of El Cajon thereby benefiting students in the District and those who support student achievement. I have always appreciated the hard work and dedication the Grossmont Union High School District has shown to furthering the educational goals of our students and I congratulate them on this achievement and continued investment into our community.

HONORING WANDA FULLMORE

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Wanda Fullmore, who, after 39 years of dedicated service to the people of Madison, Wisconsin, is retiring from the Mayor's Office.

Her welcoming voice, warm smile and engaging personality greeted the visitors of five Madison mayors since 1975. Regardless of who sat in the mayor's chair, her unofficial title was "The Real Mayor." You knew you had become a local community leader when Wanda knew you well enough to call you "Honey!"

Mayors would come and go, but Wanda was the consistent presence and institutional memory that guided residents through the complications of local government for nearly four decades. Her knowledge of Madison city government was unparalleled. Better than any directory, organizational chart, or 211 referral system, Wanda could find the one person in city government who could solve even the most esoteric of problems. And chances are, she not only knew their phone number by heart, but also the names and ages of their children.

As anyone who answers phones for a living knows, her job was not always pleasant or easy. She incurred the wrath of many constituents upset about everything from parks to potholes and taxes to traffic. She handled them all with patience and grace.

Wanda Fullmore: greeter, listener, case-worker, gatekeeper, public servant, sounding board, advocate, friend. She will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her and the thousands of people whose lives she touched.

I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing her an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING AMMA SRI KARUNAMAYI

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amma Sri Karunamayi, a prominent Hindu spiritual leader who has devoted her life to promoting public service and peace.

Amma is best known for her acts of charity, which include providing spiritual guidance to those in need, establishing a free school for more than 700 students and constructing a hospital that provides free care to patients in need. After spreading her teachings in India for many years, Amma sought to take her mission overseas.

In 1995, Amma took her first tour of the United States and returned every year thereafter. This year, she will be back for her 20th anniversary tour. To commemorate this occasion, Amma will be hosting an interfaith World Peace prayer ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia from May 1st until May 11th.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Amma Sri Karunamayi's achievements, and to congratulate her on 20 years of spreading spirituality and peace throughout the United States.