

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CODY R. MCKINNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody R. McKinney. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SHETAL I. SHAH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shetal I. Shah, MD, FAAP, who has worked tirelessly as an advocate for children over the past 10 years. Dr. Shah is a noted pediatrician, neonatologist, and scientist advocate who works to provide members of the Long Island Congressional Delegation information about the practical impact of national policy decisions on the children across Long Island. He is a recognized and award-winning child health advocate, serving as both Legislative Chairman and Treasurer of the Long Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as serving on the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics' Policy and Advocacy Committee, which advises the New York State Legislature on matters of child health and development. At the national level, Dr. Shah also serves as an appointed member of the national advocacy committee of the Society for Pediatric Research, a leading organization of pediatric scientists, researchers, and policy analysts in the Nation.

Dr. Shah's parents, Dr. Indravadan C. Shah, MD, FACS, and Dr. Saroj Shah, MD, FACOG, emigrated from India to Long Island over 40 years ago and they have worked tirelessly to provide healthcare to underserved populations. They instilled in him the personal and professional qualities we all desire in our physicians. After graduating Magna Cum Laude

from Princeton University, Dr. Shah attended Cornell University Medical College, graduating with Honors in Research prior to completing a three-year pediatric residency at Duke University Children's Hospital. He then completed a three-year intensive fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at New York University. As a neonatologist, he has dedicated his life to the care of our most vulnerable and fragile citizens—critically-ill newborns.

Dr. Shah—a Fulbright Scholar—is past winner of the National Physician Advocate Award from the Institute of Medicine as a Professor at Columbia University. He also received a National Physician Leadership award from the American Medical Association and has been recognized by my colleagues in the 111th and 112th Congress for his contributions to the health of children in New York.

Over the past decade, Dr. Shah has provided my office with counsel on a host of issues related to child health, including stem cell and pediatric research funding, government appropriations for children, immunization policy, tobacco prevention, gun violence protection and child health insurance programs. Most importantly, Dr. Shah provided analysis of the local and statewide impact of the Affordable Care Act, providing a thoughtful review of the significant health improvements in the legislation and detailing areas where it can be further improved.

Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to leave Congress and transition to the next phase of public service, I wish to thank Dr. Shah for his unwavering support for our region's children. His expert child healthcare policy work has significantly informed our conversations on child health issues. He is an involved, thoughtful and forceful citizen who epitomizes the concept that a politically-engaged public promotes national progress. On behalf of New York's Fourth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Shah on his accomplishments in the field of pediatric and child health.

RECOGNIZING LIGHTHOUSE WORKS, INC.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Lighthouse Works, Inc. for being selected to receive the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Business Alliance Award for Outstanding Ability-One Program Vendor. As a support agency of the Department of Defense, DLA provides military, federal agencies and joint allied forces with a variety of logistics, acquisition and technical services. The Business Alliance Award recognizes businesses that have made exceptional efforts in partnering with DLA to provide supplies and services to America's defense forces.

Lighthouse Works, Inc. provides material components for the Army's Combat Life Saver Kit and other medical kits. The professionals at Lighthouse Works ensure medical material component shipments are of the highest quality, that they meet all required specifications and that shipments are delivered in a timely manner. The company is well-known for its flexibility and willingness to support the military's dynamic needs.

It is an honor to recognize Lighthouse Works, Inc. for their support of our nation's military and for their contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING ANDREW R. HOOG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew R. Hoog. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

BE THANKFUL: IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS THANKSGIVING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families on this upcoming Thanksgiving Day. Let us remember all of those who are now separated by death, distance, and in hospital beds across our Nation. Say a prayer of thanks for them all. I submit this poetic tribute to them, written by Albert Carey Caswell.

BE THANKFUL

Be
Be thankful
Be thankful on this Thanksgiving Day,
when with your families you sit down to
pray
Please, please say a prayer for all those who
gave

• 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.

All so with your families you may break this bread
 And what their selfless sacrifice has so said
 Who for all our freedom paid
 All throughout the generations the ones who gave
 And be thankful
 Be thankful for our freedom so very bright
 Be thankful for all of these heroes who fought the fight
 Who all so live and died in valor's light
 All out across the deep blue seas
 Who all gave so selflessly
 And now lie all in deep dark quiet graves
 Showing us all how to behave
 Whose families still cry still this day
 Who live all in the kind of pain only Heaven can allay
 Until they are all reunited one fine day
 So be thankful to all those who gave
 All of their strong arms and legs
 Who must now live without them each day
 And gave their eyesight away
 Who'll not see another beautiful sunrise today
 And be thankful for all those who carry the scars of war
 Who with PTS no longer sleep peacefully anymore
 And as you look upon your children's faces
 And see all of their warm smiles in place this
 Remember, remember, remember to say in your grace this
 A prayer for all those children with tears upon their faces
 Because their mommies or daddies aren't coming home no more
 As each new holiday this heartache they must endure
 And all those families separated by distance and war
 Who on this Thanksgiving Day each other so long for
 And all they ask
 Is for your thanks to stand by them all steadfast
 Be thankful this Thanksgiving Day,
 for all of their most precious gifts the Armed Forces and families gave
 And on this Thanksgiving sitting around the table
 You, this Thanksgiving you for all our freedoms so bright
 thankful for our freedom so bright,
 be thankful for all of those heroes who fight the fight

CONGRATULATING DIANA RUDEEN

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diana Rudeen who was elected President of the Department of Illinois' Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars on June 14, 2014.

Diana joined the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in 1992 to honor her father, James Contizano, who served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Over the course of more than twenty years of service to the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Diana has served as the Junior Vice President and President of the Clifford E. John Post in Loves Park, Illinois.

As a veteran, I especially appreciate Diana's special commitment to helping veterans coping with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury, addiction, and homelessness. As her special project she has chosen the Rosecrance Treatment Center in

Rockford, Illinois, which provides treatment for substance abuse and mental health disorders, including PTSD, and gives veterans of the U.S. armed forces priority admission status. I am incredibly proud to represent men and women, like Diana, who selflessly serve our nation's veterans and their families.

Today, I am honored to join with the members of the Clifford E. Johnson VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the VFW Post to honor Diana's many accomplishments and her election as President. Over 21,000 women are members of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in Illinois and it is a testament to Diana's character and commitment to be chosen as their leader. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our sincere thanks for all of the hard work Diana and all the women of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW have done for our veterans and our community and to congratulate Diana Rudeen on her well-deserved leadership position.

HONORING JORDAN J. O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan J. O'Brien. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jordan J. O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
 ALICE LEE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, there are some people you encounter in life who are just truly remarkable individuals. The first time I met Alice Lee from Monroe County, Alabama, I could tell she was one of them.

As a newly minted lawyer, I had to travel to Monroeville, Alabama, to work on a legal matter with a local lawyer by the name of Alice Lee. Ms. Lee was not just any lawyer though. As one of the few women who practiced law in Alabama before World War II, she was quite a dynamic figure.

She was an expert of the law and incredibly gracious to me. When she spoke on matters of the law, people listened. She continued to actively practice law until after her 100th Birthday, making her the oldest practicing attorney in Alabama history.

Outside of the courtroom, Alice Lee was very active in the United Methodist Church. In fact, she was the first female to lead the Alabama-West Florida Conference delegation to the church's general conference. She appropriately has an award named in her honor that is presented to other women who have shown a commitment to God and leadership.

As the years went by, on occasion I would stop by Monroeville to say hello to Ms. Lee and catch up. She was just the kind of person that you enjoyed being around.

Sadly, on November 17, Alice Lee died at the age of 103. No one will ever be able to fill her shoes as a true trailblazer and student of the law. Retired minister Thomas Lane Butts of Monroeville put it best when he said, "Whenever there was a question in the community that no one could answer, the saying was, 'Go ask Miss Alice. Her death is like the closing of a great library.'"

Mr. Speaker, I know I join with countless others throughout Monroeville and the state of Alabama in sharing our condolences with the family of Alice Lee. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING MRS. BONITA M. HERRING, INTERNATIONAL GRAND BASILEUS OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor, Mrs. Bonita M. Herring on the occasion of her re-election as the 24th International Grand Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. is a leading international, non-profit community service organization founded by seven African American educators November 12, 1922, on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The mission of Sigma Gamma Rho is to enhance the quality of life within the community through public service, leadership development, and the education of youth. With more than 500 chapters in the United States, Bermuda, Virgin Islands, Germany, and Korea, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has grown tremendously in Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service.

Mrs. Herring embodies the highest ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She has served her community locally, regionally, and nationally with vigor and grace for over 40 years. Mrs. Herring's leadership and interpersonal skills are unparalleled. She has served on a myriad of boards, such as the Southeast Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, and as Director of Recruitment for the College of Education at Chicago State University.

As the newly re-elected International Grand Basileus, Mrs. Herring represents the highest ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho which is encapsulated in the words of their motto: "Greater Service, Greater Progress." Mrs. Herring also served as the 22nd International First Grand Anti-Basileus from 2008-2012 and as Executive Director of the sorority for 23 years. She is the only Soror of Sigma Gamma Rho to hold the distinction of serving as both Executive Director and International Grand Basileus.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Herring is the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois-Chicago and a Masters of Arts degree in Communications and Training from Governors State University. Mrs. Herring is married to Mr. Chester Herring, a Certified Public Accountant. They have one daughter, Ms. Chevonne Herring who is also a Certified Public Accountant and member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Herring lives by the mantra, uttered by Harriet Tubman, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Mrs. Herring's passion and impact on society are immense. She has cultivated a rich legacy as a woman that is fair, dedicated, business oriented, and honors the importance of the power of kindness and sisterly support.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of International Grand Basileus Bonita M. Herring. Her commitment to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and indeed this nation is commendable. I am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THOMAS R. GIVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas R. Givens. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF JAMES P. PAPAGEORGE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. James P. Papageorge on the occasion of his retirement from the Navy after more than 30 years of service as a Submarine Officer and civilian employee. Mr. Papageorge is a resident of Ashburn, Virginia, and has been a Department of the Navy civilian employee since 1985. His prior active-duty Navy experience includes service as a nuclear-trained machinist's mate and as a submarine strategic weapons officer.

Since 2007, Mr. Papageorge has served as the Deputy Program Manager for In-Service Aircraft Carriers (PMS 312) at the Program Executive Office for Aircraft Carriers in the Naval Sea Systems Command. As Deputy Program Manager, he was the lead civilian manager for our nation's 10 active nuclear powered aircraft carriers and the deactivation of the nation's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, USS *Enterprise*. He was the lead civilian supervising more than 65 personnel in Washington and 130 more at the Carrier Planning Activity in Newport News, Virginia, managing more than \$12 billion in aircraft carrier related contracts.

Mr. Papageorge received electrical engineering degrees from Norwalk State Technical College in 1978 and from the University of Missouri in 1981. In 1993, he received a Master of Engineering Administration Degree from Virginia Tech, and in 1999 he received a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Mr. Papageorge is an acquisition professional, certified to Level III in the Program Management and Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering career fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Papageorge for his tremendous service to his country and in wishing him all the best upon his retirement.

HONORING ALEX W. LEWIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex W. Lewis. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING WILLIAM G.
BATCHELDER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of the Honorable William G. Batchelder, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, on the occasion of his retirement from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Speaker Batchelder has served his community and state as an elected representative in

excess of forty years, and has helped lead Ohio through tumultuous times into recovery and growth. In 1967 after graduating from The Ohio State University College of Law, he began serving the needs of his community as an attorney while also teaching law to future generations of litigators. He established a record of success in public service, earning the voters' confidence for more than thirty years as a member of the General Assembly and six years on the Ohio 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ever sensitive to the call of public service, Speaker Batchelder returned to the state capital in 2007 and ultimately took on the role of leading the people's house of the great state of Ohio.

I am extremely proud to play a small role in recognizing the life and accomplishments of such a uniquely dedicated public servant. I was honored to serve with Speaker Batchelder for six years in the Ohio House. He gives generously to his community through his time and diligent work. He has taken incredible leadership roles in advocating for seniors, farmers, public servants, conservation, and veterans. He continues to serve with organizations that meet the needs of folks ranging from children with dyslexia to adults with Alzheimer's. Throughout, Speaker Batchelder has utilized coalition building and bipartisanship to meet the needs of Ohioans in common sense ways. He has earned the public's trust, and deserves our recognition here today.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I thank Speaker Batchelder for service to our state. I offer my most sincere congratulations on his accomplishments and wish him well as he embarks on his next great ventures.

2014 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
WEEK

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. Established in 1989, Community Foundation Week takes place from November 12–18th annually and honors the tremendous contributions of community foundations across our country. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. One hundred years ago, the world's first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then more than 700 community foundations have been created in America inspiring millions of Americans to give back to this great country with their time, talent and treasure. Today, I would like to recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations that operate under the definitions supported by the National Standards for Community Foundations. Indiana is blessed to have a community foundation in every county, including 10 in my district: Unity Foundation of LaPorte County; Starke County Community Foundation; Community Foundation of St. Joseph County; Elkhart County Community Foundation; Kosciusko County Community Foundation; Marshall County Community Foundation; Pulaski County Community Foundation; Fulton County

Community Foundation; Miami County Community Foundation; and Community Foundation of Wabash County.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. In Marshall County, the Community Foundation, United Way, and economic development leaders are working together to address challenges and opportunities for economic growth such as the need for a more highly skilled workforce. Community conversations spearheaded by these organizations brought together local units of government, educators, private sector partners and nonprofit organizations and laid the groundwork for becoming a model region for Project Lead The Way. It was through this type of partnership that a \$4.4 million matching grant pilot program was launched in 2014 that provides all K–12 schools, both public and private, in a five-county area with the opportunity to implement Project Lead The Way's rigorous, world-class STEM programs in science, technology, engineering, and math. In addition to providing every student with access to PLTW, the project will help develop a robust talent pipeline for businesses and industries.

This is just one example of the extraordinary work of place-based philanthropy in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by over 700 U.S.-based community foundations is a core American value. This week, I am honored to recognize these community foundations for their outstanding efforts.

HONORING NOLAN P. McMICHAEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nolan P. McMichael. Nolan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN
BILL FRENZEL

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, Bill Frenzel of

Minnesota, who passed away on November 17 at the age of 86.

Bill served in the House for ten terms from 1971 to 1991. During his time on the Hill and upon leaving Congress, he was a strong advocate for trade and economic growth.

So many of our colleagues did not have the privilege of serving with Bill. I respectfully submit this Washington Post article from November 19, 2014, on his passing.

BILL FRENZEL, MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN AND FISCAL AUTHORITY, IN U.S. HOUSE, DIES AT 86

Bill Frenzel, a Minnesota Republican who became a prominent congressional authority on federal budget and international trade issues during 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, died Nov. 17 at his home in McLean, Va. He was 86.

The cause was cancer, said a daughter, Pam Lindon.

Mr. Frenzel was an executive at his family's warehousing operation and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives before winning an open congressional seat in 1970. He represented his district in the Twin Cities suburbs until 1990, when he declined to seek reelection.

By then he had become dean of the Minnesota delegation, ranking Republican on the House Budget committee and an influential member of the tax-writing Ways and Means committee. On both sides of the aisle, he was admired for his deeply researched positions on complicated fiscal matters.

"Loud and brainy, partisan and thoughtful, he puts his stamp on every debate in which he participates," read his profile in the *Almanac of American Politics*.

Among Mr. Frenzel's principal legislative interests were promoting free trade and balanced budgets. He helped negotiate the major 1990 deficit-reduction deal, a significant achievement at a time when Mr. Frenzel had become increasingly frustrated by what he described as the Republican Party's "seemingly permanent minority." Democrats "think they were born to be kings," Congressional Quarterly quoted him as saying, "and that there's a servant class, and that's the Republicans."

In an effort to invigorate his party, Mr. Frenzel nominated Newt Gingrich for party whip, a position that the Georgia Republican won in 1989. Gingrich's fiery style contrasted with Mr. Frenzel's more moderate one, but Mr. Frenzel said he had concluded that the party "needed to take some risks."

In 1994—four years after Mr. Frenzel's retirement—Gingrich led the GOP to recapturing control of the House. Mr. Frenzel remained involved in public affairs, including in the Democratic administration of Bill Clinton. Clinton tapped Mr. Frenzel as an adviser on the North American Free Trade Agreement, a centerpiece of the president's first-term agenda, and tasked him with helping rally GOP support.

"I took a position up in the Rayburn Building and I think I met with every member of the Republican caucus," Mr. Frenzel told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. "The idea was to get the vote nailed down before you bring the bill to the floor. Some of the members were difficult and slippery." He continued, "For instance, some of the members said, 'We don't think the Mexicans know anything.' We flew them to Mexico City and had them meet with President [Carlos] Salinas and his cabinet, who, of course, were all University of Chicago PhDs and who bowled them over. That was very effective." NAFTA was passed in 1993 and enacted the next year.

Mr. Frenzel later served under George W. Bush, a Republican, and Barack Obama, a Democrat, on advisory commissions on Social Security and trade policy. He was a

guest scholar with the Brookings Institution think tank for more than two decades and was a co-chairman of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Government, both based in Washington.

Years after he left office, he remained sought after for his insider's perspective on politics.

"Republicans used to be interested in not running continual rivers of red ink," he told the *New York Times* in 2012. "If that meant raising taxes a little bit, we always raised taxes a little bit. But nowadays taxes are like leprosy and they can't be used for anything, and so Republicans have denied themselves any bargaining power."

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LENOIR CITY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to congratulate a celebrated institution in my District on the occasion of its 120th anniversary.

First Baptist Church of Lenoir City was founded in 1894 with just 16 members in one-room log cabin. Today, it has grown to more than 3,000 worshippers and a 34-acre campus.

I have represented Lenoir City in Congress for 26 years, and I have visited this church many times. It is a special and welcoming place with a history older than the city in which it is housed.

Lenoir City is one of the most beautiful places on this Earth, tucked in the mountains and surrounded by lakes and rivers. It is easy to see why this area has become one of the most popular places to move in the entire Country.

The congregation of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City has helped build the community since its inception. I know many people who worship there, and they are some of the kindest and most generous people I know.

First Baptist Church of Lenoir City operates under a philosophy of community involvement. Its congregation does not just worship from afar; it gets involved at every level of the community and serves as an example of Christian values to all.

The church is involved in more than 100 separate ministries with focuses ranging from young children to senior adults.

The church also owns and operates the Lenoir City Christian Academy, serving students from kindergarten, to fourth grade, and runs after-school and day care programs. The church also operates the Lenoir City Arts Center, designed to teach students music and the performing arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine an institution having a bigger impact on a community than First Baptist Church of Lenoir City. I call on my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in congratulating this church and its congregation on 120 years of Christian service.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE
HALTING OF A McDONALD'S AT
UTULEI BEACH

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about my opposition to the construction of a McDonald's at Utulei Beach.

[Press Release, Apr. 26, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA MAKES FINAL APPEAL TO
MCDONALD'S CORPORATION

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he has made a final appeal to Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice-Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation, in a letter dated April 26, 2006. The letter was copied to Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director of the National Park Service, Governor Togiola, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi, President Lolo Moliga and Senators, Speaker Matagi R. McMoore and Representatives, Lydia Faleafine of the DOI in American Samoa, Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia, Charles Tautolo, CEO of McDonalds American Samoa, and Lelei Peau, Chairman, PNRS Board, ASG. The full text of the Congressmans letter is included below.

Dear Mr. Skinner:

As a follow-up to my letter of May 25, 2005, I am once again requesting your immediate intervention regarding a decision made by McDonalds to build a new facility at the Utulei Beach Park in American Samoa. Utulei Beach is the only public beach in America Samoa and building at this site goes against the core values of McDonalds which promotes an agenda of community involvement, environmental protection, and a promise to earn the trust of your customers and everyone else affected by your business.

Most importantly, based upon relevant information including documents, maps, and other material, there is a signed agreement (attached) between the American Samoa Government (ASG) and the US National Park Service (NPS) that places Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity. Also included with the agreement is a map (attached) clearly showing that the entirety of the Utulei Beach Park is included in the agreement which places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. Because ASG has accepted over \$4 million from the federal government since signing this agreement, I can assure you that the NPS is prepared to take whatever legal action is necessary against ASG and the McDonalds Corporation if this matter is not expeditiously resolved. Please note that both NPS and ASG are under the jurisdiction of the US Department of the Interior and any action taken will directly involve the US Secretary of the Interior and this will not be good for ASG or for McDonalds.

As you know, last year I copied you on a letter I wrote to Mr. Charles Tautolo, CEO of McDonalds American Samoa, in which I requested a copy of the feasibility study of the proposed plan to construct a McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park. To date, I have not received a copy of the feasibility study and I am very concerned about how the McDonalds Corporation can support construction of a new facility at any location when no environmental study has been conducted.

I also question how the McDonalds Corporation can support a lease agreement

which is itself under review by the court. In brief, the Governor initially signed what he thought was a 9-year lease agreement with an option of renewal for an additional 20 years plus. However, the legal counsel for the local Senate noted that the proposed lease was actually for ten years and, as such, local law requires the lease to be approved by the local legislature. Consequently, the counsel for the Senate filed suit in court challenging the validity of the proposed lease. While the case was pending in court, the Governors counsel re-drafted the lease agreement to make sure the terms of the lease was for less than ten years so that it did not require legislative approval. ASGs attorneys petitioned the court to dismiss the Senates lawsuit but the court denied the request so this matter is also pending.

While it was my hope that the McDonalds Corporation would have interceded and resolved this situation more than a year ago for no other reason than it was the right thing to do, I would strongly urge you to take action now before this situation brings unwanted embarrassment to the McDonalds Corporation. I would also suggest that you direct your Managing Director for McDonalds Australia to be more responsive to the concerns of the people of American Samoa. I am extremely disappointed that he did not even offer a courtesy response to my letter of almost a year ago and I consider his lack of interest in this issue to be unprofessional and unbecoming of a corporate official of the McDonalds Corporation.

Considering that this issue now involves the federal government and based on documentation provided by NPS which I am convinced is correct, I am trying my best to prevent a confrontation between the McDonalds Corporation, ASG, and the US Department of the Interior. For this reason, I am making a final appeal to you and I am hopeful that at your earliest convenience you will work to favorably resolve this matter and support efforts to put an end to construction of a new McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park.

The Congressman concluded his letter by saying, As I have previously stated, the people of American Samoa will support the construction of a new McDonalds in American Samoa at any other location. We also applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa and wish you continued success.

[Press Release, July 24, 2006]

FALEOMAVAEGA THANKS US NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE FOR RESPONDING TO HIS CONCERNS
ABOUT ITS RECENT MEETING WITH GOV-
ERNOR TOGIOLA REGARDING MCDONALDS
LEASE

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he wishes to thank the US National Park Service (NPS) for responding to his concerns about its recent meeting with Governor Togiola in Oakland, California on Friday June 23, 2006 regarding the McDonalds lease and Utulei Beach Park. The NPS provided clarification about its meeting in a letter dated July 6, 2006 which was addressed to Governor Togiola and copied to Congressman Faleomavaega, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Papalii David Cohen, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at the DOI.

I thank the NPS for responding to my concerns which I raised in a letter to US Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on June 29, 2006, about a week after the Governor met with OIA and the NPS behind closed doors to discuss the proposed construction of a McDonalds at Utulei Beach Park, Faleomavaega said. While I appreciate that the meeting was held as a result of Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarletts

letter to Governor Togiola dated June 7, 2006 regarding ASGs failure to comply with the legal requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, I stated that the public wants to know what federal and local officials are doing to resolve this problem.

I also stated that I expect the DOI to strictly adhere to the standards of conversion, or replacements of lands, as outlined by federal law. While I was also hopeful that Governor Togiola would protect American Samoas only beach for future generations, federal law leaves him with two alternatives. One, he can propose construction of a McDonalds at a site other than Utulei Beach or, two, he must give up valuable ASG land of similar value and recreational use in order to commercially develop Utulei Beach if he can find ASG land that meets the strict criteria set forth for conversion, Faleomavaega said.

Federal law requires the NPS to consider the Governors proposal to offer up replacement lands but I have made it clear that I am opposed to any proposal or framework of resolution that lowers the standards of conversion. I have also urged the DOI to let conversion negotiations proceed between NPS and ASG without undue influence.

In response to the concerns I raised in my letter, NPS has responded appropriately and provided clarification which shows that NPS is committed to adhering strictly to the law. In fact, The NPS makes it clear that the framework of resolution which resulted from the Governors meeting of June 23rd is only an outline and a brief summary of their conversation. NPS states, we feel other details of our conversation are important to keep in mind as we move forward.

Some of these details include the following statements made by NPS in its letter of July 6, 2006 to Governor Togiola:

We are obliged both philosophically and legally to preserve the publics outdoor recreation estate. The National Park Services ability to authorize conversions of LWCF property is strictly circumscribed by the LWCF Act, and in particular the regulations found in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 59. The details of these requirements were referenced in our conversation in terms of the proposed replacement property needing to meet LWCF standards. We spoke specifically at the time of the necessity of having sufficiently considered alternatives to converting parkland, the need for appraisals for all properties involved to insure that the replacements are of at least equal fair market value, the necessity of any replacement property meeting the criterion of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location, and that the proposal be in conformity with the Territorys Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The NPS further outlined nine criteria that govern conversions and informed Governor Togiola that it will need documentation showing that these criteria have been met. The NPS also said that—

Being that Utulei Beach Park is the only beach affording public access to good swimming and recreational boating on Tutuila Island, the threshold for replacement property to meet the reasonably equivalent usefulness and location criterion is quite high. The Government of American Samoa must make the case that this criterion is met by any replacement property in another location.

In offering replacement lands, the NPS stated that Governor Togiola said other locations had been considered for the McDonalds lease but that locating it at Utulei Beach is critical to the overall redevelopment plans for the Utulei and Fatagota area.

Based on this representation, the NPS said it would consider the Governors proposal as required by federal law, Faleomavaega said.

However, in the same letter, the NPS also stated that in its discussion with the Governor, the Governor said that he did not intend for there to be any further commercial development of Utulei Park other than the proposed McDonalds.

On the one hand, the Governor says he needs to construct a McDonalds at Utulei Beach because this is critical to the overall redevelopment plans for the Utulei and Fagatogo area and, on the other hand, he says that the McDonalds corporation will be the only corporation allowed to build at Utulei Beach. How fair is this to Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, and the rest of our local business owners? Faleomavaega asked.

Do our business owners have a say in this? What about our Pono? Has the Governor submitted an economic development plan to our Legislature for consideration? If not, why not? Also, what is the role of the Pono in determining what lands the Governor may offer up as replacement lands for Utulei Beach?

Whatever direction this takes, I believe the NPS has an obligation to keep the public informed and I will do my part to make sure this is so. For now, I am pleased that the NPS has agreed to provide an initial review of proposed replacement properties that would indicate if there are any obvious facts that would render them ineligible before funds are expended to obtain surveys, appraisals, recreational development plans, and environmental compliance. Most importantly, I am pleased that the NPS has underscored the importance of the Governor's commitment to prohibiting any ground disturbing activity related to the McDonalds lease until NPS has completed the review and approval process for replacement properties.

Again, I thank the NPS for providing clarification on its recent meeting with the Governor and I am encouraged that the NPS is taking this matter very seriously. I am also encouraged that the NPS has documented its meeting with the Governor in its July 6th letter so that all facts pertaining to this historic issue can be made part of the public record. Utulei Beach is the peoples beach and, as such, our people have every right to know how ASG officials make decisions that will impact, for generations to come, the use of the most scenic and only beach park in American Samoa.

Our people also have every right to know what local lands will be given away to the federal government to accommodate the needs of one business owner. For this reason, a full copy of the NPS letter dated July 6, 2006 is posted on my website, Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, May 19, 2006]

HOUSE PASSES INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL WITH OVER \$33 MILLION FOR AMERICAN SAMOA; URGES ACCOUNTABILITY OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND DISCOURAGES COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that late last night the House Committee on Interior Appropriations passed by a vote of 293 to 128 H.R. 5386, the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill which includes over \$33 million for the operations of the American Samoa Government and Capital Improvement Projects (CIPS). The bill also includes language which urges greater accountability of ASG funds and discourages the commercial development of Utulei Beach Park.

As I said in my release of May 16th, ASG continues to be the only government that receives a direct appropriation from Congress for the operations of its government despite being designated as high risk, the Congressman said. As a result of this support, I am hopeful that our local government will provide better accountability and I commend ASG for the progress it is making.

At this time, I thank the House Committee on Interior Appropriations for including my request to set aside \$500,000 of the \$22,880,000 ASG will receive for government operations. As stated in the Committee report, The Committee expects the government of American Samoa will use no less than \$500,000 of this funding for physical education activities at school. I am pleased by this outcome since our public schools lack adequate facilities, equipment and personnel to provide quality health and education programs which are critical to the physical, mental, and social development of our students. As a result of this funding, I am hopeful that our local DOE will have the support it needs to purchase equipment and establish sports programs for the benefit of our children.

I am also hopeful that our local leaders will work quickly to resolve the McDonalds issue that has now drawn Congressional attention. Again, I like McDonalds and I applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa. I also support construction of a new McDonalds anywhere in American Samoa but Utulei Beach.

The fact is Utulei Beach is a federally protected park area and, by contractual agreement, cannot be used for any commercial purpose. Therefore, the current proposal to construct a McDonalds within a federally protected park area is a potential violation of ASGs agreement with the US National Park Service (NPS) and, as such, is an issue that has escalated into a federal problem that must be expeditiously resolved.

In other words, the current debate about McDonalds is a debate about location. If McDonalds builds on land solely-controlled by ASG, then its a local issue. But if McDonalds seeks to build on land that has been protected as a federal park area, then its a federal issue and this is why Congress has taken an interest.

Put another way, ASG, by choice, entered into an agreement with the NPS to protect Utulei Beach and now Congress has spoken out in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill to encourage the American Samoa government to not allow commercial development of waterfront areas of Utulei Beach Park because this site has such high recreational and natural values, and it has enjoyed funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program which indicates that this park land should be dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity.

While it is unfortunate that construction of a new McDonalds in our Territory has received Congressional attention and while it is worrisome that the US Congress has taken notice that ASG received federal funds to preserve Utulei Beach but is not being accountable for those funds, I believe it is in the best interest of our Territory to resolve this matter quickly so that other federal funding we receive will not be jeopardized.

As I said in a previous release, American Samoa, on a per capita basis, receives more federal education funding per pupil than any other State or Territory. Our health care funding has also doubled and recently we were able to significantly increase our Medicaid funding. With the amount of support and funding we are receiving, I am convinced if there is better accountability of federal funds we will see significant improvements in this Territory.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their support and, as this bill now moves to the Senate for consideration, I will continue to work to make sure American Samoa receives its fair share of federal dollars, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING WILLIAM L. GIVENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William L. Givens. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING DJOUNEDOU TITIKPINA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Djounedou Titikpina for his many years of selfless and compassionate public service.

Djounedou Titikpina originally hails from the nation of Togo, but brought his passion for public service and community building with him to the United States. This passion is clearest in Mr. Titikpina's founding of the African People Alliance, Incorporated. This organization, which serves as an umbrella organization for other groups working to develop the African community here in The Bronx, has the unique dual role of providing social services while also working to fortify the work of existing groups throughout the community. The African People Alliance routinely hosts cultural exhibitions, youth and adult soccer programs, and legal assistance to individuals, while providing groups with infrastructural support and development they need to grow. Additionally, the African People Alliance plays a lead role in the annual coordination of the Bronx African United Day Parade and Festival.

Today, he serves as Founder and CEO of Djounedou T.'s African Fashion & Embroidery Design, Corporation, is a member of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition's Immigrant Rights Campaign Board of Directors, and provides services as a family court interpreter at Geneva Worldwide, Incorporated. With the ability to speak more than nine languages, Mr. Titikpina's talent to communicate and understand the needs of the community, and respond to them in meaningful ways comes as no surprise.

Mr. Titikpina is an individual who is clearly committed to ensuring that our community's work in tandem to grow in healthy, respectable ways. He has fostered partnerships among groups and individuals that are all working towards a common goal, and this type of leadership is what keeps our community moving in

the right direction each day. I am grateful to know that someone like Djounedou Titikpina is working in with and for our residents each day, and am proud to call him a fellow public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Djounedou Titikpina for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND
NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, this November, I am proud to celebrate National Adoption Month and also National Adoption Day, an important time to recognize those wonderful parents who have adopted children in need of a permanent, loving home. It's also a time to remind ourselves of the thousands of children across the country who still remain in foster care, waiting for a family to call their own.

Earlier this year, I was honored to recognize Midland County Probate Judge Dorene Allen as the 2014 Angel in Adoption award recipient from my district. In her 14 years as a judge, she has finalized nearly 700 adoptions, and through this and her prior work she has dedicated her career to serving Michigan's most vulnerable children. There are many incredible advocates like Judge Allen around the country, and I am grateful for their efforts and for the opportunity we have to recognize them today.

Adoption is not something I'm speaking about just today, but something I have focused on throughout my career in private practice as well as my years in Congress. As an attorney before coming to Congress, I worked with parents and children in the foster care system. In Congress, I have been privileged to meet many adoption advocates as well as youth who have benefitted from adoption. Those sorts of experiences provided much of the background for legislation I have helped craft that has contributed to the landmark changes in adoption policy Congress has approved in recent years.

In 1997, my colleagues and I on the Ways and Means Committee crafted the Adoption and Safe Families Act. That legislation streamlined the adoption process to help more children in foster care quickly move into permanent adoptive homes. It also, for the first time, offered incentives to states to safely increase the number of children adopted from foster care.

It worked. In the decade following that legislation, the number of U.S. children adopted from foster care increased by 71 percent. In the years since, adoptions have continued to remain higher even as the foster care caseload started to decline. Overall, almost 300,000 children have been adopted as a result of the increase in adoptions starting in 1997. One study estimated the federal government saved \$1 billion over eight years by ensuring children were adopted instead of remaining in foster care.

In 2001, I worked with my colleagues to pass the historic 2001 tax relief package that expanded the adoption tax credit to \$10,000,

easing the financial burden of adopting a child. In 2012, we made the adoption tax credit permanent.

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law my legislation, the Adoption Promotion Act, to create new financial incentives for states that increase adoptions of older children from foster care.

In 2008 as part of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, my proposal to provide equitable access to foster care and adoption services for Indian children in tribal areas became law. This allowed tribal governments to receive funding to administer adoption and foster care programs directly.

And just this year—after many months of hearings, public comment, and bipartisan work between the House and Senate—the President signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This law is designed to reduce child sex trafficking as well as increase adoptions, including among the hardest-to-place children.

Together, these efforts have resulted in more children living in loving, adoptive families. I am grateful for the support I have received from my colleagues in these efforts during my time in Congress, and I am grateful that today we can recognize and honor the most important people in this process—the parents who adopt children, the children who have been adopted, and those children still searching for a loving family.

Children in foster care deserve a place to call home, not for a few months or years, but for good. We have already seen great progress in increasing adoptions in recent years, and I hope that we will continue to see progress in the years ahead.

HONORING COLONEL ROY
PLUMMER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor one of Columbus, Georgia's finest leaders: Colonel Roy Plummer. Colonel Roy Plummer is retiring as a Director of Army Instruction for the Muscogee County School District JROTC where he is responsible for eight high school JROTC programs and four other county JROTC programs. From 1998 to the present he has dedicated his efforts toward creating a formidable district-level JROTC program which has grown from 400 cadets early in his tenure to a current operating enrollment of 1200 cadets. His partnership with the high school principals in moving JROTC forward in terms of relevancy and as an enhancer to each high school's vision has been extremely successful. Under Colonel Plummer's mentorship, the Muscogee County School District JROTC has earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, State-level awards in drill team and raider competitions, and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Colonel Plummer is the Senior Pastor, Founder and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church in Columbus since its inception in October 1994. He had finished his Active Duty Army career as the Chief of Chaplains of

Fort Benning, Georgia prior to his retirement. He also currently serves as the Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900, Columbus, Georgia. He has served on numerous Boards as both a chairman and as a member: St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Columbus Hospice, United Way, Boy Scouts of America and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce are but a few.

Colonel Plummer served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Graduate Studies at Columbus State University. He has earned a baccalaureate in Biblical Literature, Masters of Arts in Human Relations & Group Process and Guidance & Counseling, a Masters of Divinity in Pastoral Care, and a Doctorate in Divinity. This solid educational background and his benevolence inspired Colonel Plummer to create the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans.

A native of May Penn, Clarendon Parrish, Jamaica, Colonel Roy Plummer is a leader, pastor and friend to many; and the father to four daughters and seven grandchildren. He will share with you that "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" To Roy Plummer and the endless contributions he has made to JROTC, the Muscogee County School District, and the Columbus community, we say "Thanks a Million!"

HONORING GEORGE ALLEN ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albuquerque resident George Allen Ortiz for his honorable military service in the United States Marine Corps.

George Allen Ortiz, affectionately known as "Al", was born in the northern New Mexico town of Raton. At the ripe age of 17, Al began his service in the Vietnam War. He would honorably serve his country from February 28, 1964 to February 16, 1970 in the First Marine Division at battles that ensued in the South Vietnam city of Da Nang.

I had the pleasure of personally meeting with Al on Veteran's Day to thank him for his dedicated service to the United States of America. In that wonderful moment I could sense Al's burning pride and fervent patriotism. It reminded me of the countless individuals, throughout history, who fought tirelessly to preserve the guiding principles and enduring freedoms of our country. Al's commitment to the preservation of these pursuits and our country's continued success is unwavering.

Al was recently diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, a result of the risks that American soldiers face when they step onto the battlefield. He has the wonderful support of Cathy, his wife of 45 years, daughter Tamra and six grandchildren who love him dearly. Like a true soldier, he is always thinking about the young Americans who are currently making sacrifices to defend the United States. At age 65, Al still talks about his desire to travel overseas to help our brave men and women as they courageously engage in combat.

It is heroes like Al who make our country great. He is a man of great integrity, revered

by his family, friends and community. I would like to take this moment to thank Al for his service, his sacrifice, and his steadfast devotion to the great state of New Mexico and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING JACK D. BALLARD
AND THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, all of us who work on Capitol Hill owe a tremendous debt to the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. One of my constituents, Jack D. Ballard of Greenbrier County, wrote to me to share some of his own memories and about the friendships he forged during his tenure on the force of Capitol Hill's finest. His late father, Leonard H. Ballard Jr., who retired as an inspector after 38 years on the force instructed Jack that, "on Capitol Hill, you can be struck by lightning when there isn't a cloud in the sky." That's sound advice from a seasoned voice for everyone on the Hill.

Jack worked with many fellow West Virginians during his tenure on Capitol Hill, including Emery "Bud" Aliff, Donald Shumate, Jimmie Young, Lenvil Young, Charles Farmer, William Harrah, William Hall, and Lt. Colonel Jervis. Jack found a common trait among these West Virginians, they all worked together to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, we all ought to celebrate that common thread of the "can do" spirit that weaves throughout the hills of West Virginia and throughout our Nation. It is a trait that has and can continue to serve our Nation well.

RECOGNIZING BROWN'S CIGAR
STORE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on its 125th anniversary. Located in the historic Gaffer District of Corning, New York, Brown's Cigar Store has proudly served the community since 1889.

Brown's Cigar Store is locally owned and operated by the Smith family. As experienced tobacconists, Sue, Terry, and Bejay Smith use their knowledge and expertise to carry on the strong, time honored tradition of tobacconist culture.

At the turn of the twentieth century, local patrons would visit Brown's to get a haircut, purchase a steamship ticket, and converse about the latest news. Although the products and services have changed over the years, the sense of camaraderie remains as strong today as when the store first opened its doors to the Corning community. Today, the store offers its guests the opportunity to step back in time, to an era when friends and neighbors would gather to discuss family, sports, politics, and national news. Patrons of Brown's experience a warm and friendly atmosphere, where the

finest tobacco products and friendliest smiles are always in stock.

I once again congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on 125 years of success. As a small family-owned business in my home town, I am proud to recognize this impressive milestone.

HONORING STEPHANIE ARTHUR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Ms. Stephanie A. Arthur, MPA for her dedication to advocacy and working to improve access for members of the African community in New York.

Stephanie Arthur is the Founder of the African Leadership Project, which is a civic training organization that provides a leadership pipeline for various professions. The overarching goal of the African Leadership Project is to foster and develop the talent of individuals within African communities, and match these individuals to key leadership opportunities throughout the community.

Ms. Arthur is a very accomplished individual. She is an alumna of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, The White House Project, Eleanor's Legacy, Coro Leadership Center of New York, and the Center for American Women and Politics. Having gained tremendous experience and knowledge of the political realm over the years, Ms. Arthur has worked on several high-profile elections ranging across all levels of government, and is respected as a grassroots activist across the nation. As a first generation Ghanaian-American and important voice in the African Diaspora, Ms. Arthur has continuously taken her many acquired skills and used them to amplify the voice of the African community at large.

Today, Stephanie Arthur serves as the political strategist and Founder of S. Arthur Group, LLC, which is a boutique public affairs and government relations consultancy. Ms. Arthur continues to be a fierce advocate for immigrant rights, for the advancement of criminal justice policy, for gender equality, and for many other social justice issues that are important to all of our community's residents.

Ms. Arthur's dedication to working with civic organizations, individuals, and figures in public office speaks to her natural ability to build coalition of support for issues that matter to all of us, and it is this dedication and ability to lead that makes her such a valuable asset in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Stephanie Arthur for her consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding

public service of Dr. Julian Crocker, longtime educator, superintendent and public servant. Julian plans to retire this January after fifty years as a scholastic leader, a fixture of the San Luis Obispo County public school system.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Julian matriculated at Vanderbilt University and joined the United States Army shortly after graduating. On the completion of his term of service, Captain Crocker settled in sunny San Mateo, California in 1964, where he began to teach high school. Julian also earned a doctorate in Educational Administration from Harvard University in 1972, and upon returning to San Mateo, was appointed principal.

A renaissance man to the core, Julian recognized early in his career that education represented only the last, most public component of childhood development. All his professional life, he strove to unite broad coalitions of businesses, nonprofits and local government offices to improve housing and medical care for young and poor children.

Julian spent twenty one years as superintendent of different school districts in California—in San Mateo, Palo Alto and eventually Paso Robles. In 1999, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo, in which capacity he has worked ever since. Under his tenure, San Luis Obispo expanded its charter school system, enlarged its English proficiency program, and founded the Grizzly Academy—an innovative boarding school for at-risk youth—in partnership with the California National Guard. These are but a few of his many accomplishments on behalf of his community.

Julian acquired a wealth of experience and knowledge from his years of service, a foundation of wisdom which I have often relied upon throughout the years, either by seeking his counsel directly or in meeting him and other County Superintendents to discuss educational needs on the Central Coast. I could always count on straight talk and sound advice—advice I took back with me to the halls of Congress.

In fact, in his office, Julian kept a framed quotation above his desk—one of my favorite Presidential quotes as it happens, from one of my favorite presidents: Theodore Roosevelt. It reads: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly . . ." Julian's arena has been the classroom, where he has lived that phrase, educating our students, expanding our curriculum, fighting to ensure students have the resources they need.

In this next chapter of his life, I know Julian is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Donna, his children, and his six grandchildren. While the next County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo has large shoes to fill and Julian's presence will be missed, I know he will always remain involved on the issues important to him. I thank Julian for his friendship and counsel, and his leadership to improve education in California, and wish him and Donna all the best.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF
FALEOMAVAEGA'S OPPOSITION
TO CONSTRUCTION OF McDON-
ALD'S AT UTULEI BEACH

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about my opposition to the construction of a McDonald's at Utulei Beach.

[Press Release, May 25, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA CALLS UPON MCDONALDS
CORPORATE OFFICERS TO INTERVENE AND
HALT CONSTRUCTION AT UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he has written to Mr. Charles Tautolo, President and CEO of McDonalds American Samoa Franchise, and has expressed his opposition to construction of a McDonalds at Utulei Beach. A copy of the Congressmans letter dated May 25, 2005 and copied to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate and Senators, the Speaker and Representatives, the Vice Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation, and the Managing Director/CEO of McDonalds Australia, is included below:

Dear Mr. Tautolo:

I am writing to express my opposition to your decision to build a McDonalds restaurant at the Utulei Beach Park in American Samoa. I am also requesting a copy of your feasibility study pertaining to this proposed location.

It is my understanding that as a responsible corporation it has been the practice of McDonalds to conduct a feasibility study and/or an environmental impact assessment of a proposed site before construction of a new facility may proceed. I am hopeful that this is also the case in American Samoa and, for this reason, I would appreciate a copy of your study.

I also believe McDonalds feasibility study for the Utulei Beach Park should be shared with the people of American Samoa because they deserve to know what impact your proposed restaurant will have on the welfare of our community. While I applaud the many valuable contributions McDonalds has made in American Samoa, I do not believe your current plans are sensitive to the social and environmental concerns of our Territory.

Since the day McDonalds announced plans to build on the Utulei Beach, which is the only public beach in American Samoa, my office has been inundated with calls from constituents voicing their objections to your proposal. I have read of further complaints in our local papers and the Senate has passed a resolution recommending that the Governor not finalize the McDonalds lease.

I have also received a petition signed by water sport organizations incorporated in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa which includes Executive Committee Members of the American Samoa National Olympic Committee. Organizations opposed to the construction of a McDonalds at the Utulei Beach include the American Samoa Kayak Canoe Association Inc., the American Samoa Swimming Association Inc., the American Samoa Canoe Racing Association Inc., the Aiga Tautai O Samoa Inc., the American Samoa Yacht Racing Association Inc., the American Samoa Surfing Association Inc., the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association Inc. and Common Cause.

Aquatic sports such as sailing, canoeing, and yachting are flourishing at Utulei Beach. International sailing and especially outrigger events which celebrate our proud heritage have been hosted at Utulei Beach

and, in time, Utulei Beach may become a major tourist attraction. It is also my understanding that Utulei Beach offers the only stretch of shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautausi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef.

More importantly, Utulei Beach has been enjoyed by the people of American Samoa for generations and, in keeping with traditional Samoan culture, families travel for miles to swim or picnic at this public location so as to respect the more restrictive customs set forth by each village council. For many reasons, including the historical and social significance it holds for our families and the economic implications it has for our future, Utulei Beach must be preserved. This is why federal funds have been appropriated to finance the Utulei Beach Project which was included as a priority project for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

These are facts which I believe must be shared with the McDonalds Corporation and given the importance of this issue I am copying this letter to Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, as well as Mr. Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia. I am also informing both that there are other sites available for construction of another McDonalds in American Samoa.

Also, with the popularity McDonalds enjoys in American Samoa, I am confident that the people of American Samoa will appreciate, support and welcome another McDonalds in any location other than Utulei Beach. In turn, McDonalds must be sensitive to the wishes of our people. The McDonalds Corporation has built its reputation on being a responsible corporate partner and invests millions of dollars to promote family values.

Therefore, I am hopeful that this issue will be immediately resolved at the corporate level. However, if I must go to the House Floor on a daily basis to express my outrage about McDonalds unwillingness to respect the publics concerns regarding your proposed lease agreement with the local government, I will have no choice but to do so.

Sincerely,

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

Member of Congress.

cc: Gov. Togiola Tulafono; Lt. Gov. Ipolasi Aitofele Sunia; President of the Senate and Senator; Speaker of the House and Representatives; Mr. Jim Skinner, Vice Chairman & CEO, McDonalds Corporation; Mr. Peter Bush, Managing Director/CEO, McDonalds Australia

I am hopeful that this matter will be resolved locally but, if not, I have called upon the McDonalds Corporation to immediately intervene and put an end to construction at Utulei Beach. Constructing a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa goes against the core values of the McDonalds Corporation which promotes an agenda of community involvement, environmental protection, and a promise to earn the trust of its customers and everyone else affected by its business. It is time for McDonalds to live up to its promise and I trust that all involved will do right by the people of American Samoa, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, June 29, 2005]

FALEOMAVAEGA AND MCDONALDS MEET TO
DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION AT UTULEI BEACH

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that Mr. Bo Bryant, Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corporation, contacted his office on June 17, 2005 and requested a meeting to discuss the controversy surrounding the potential construction of a McDonalds at Utulei beach. The meeting was held yesterday in the Congressmans Washington office and Ms. Nicole E. Storey, a Government Relations

Specialist for McDonalds, also attended the meeting. The meeting was in response to Congressman Faleomavaegas letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo dated May 25, 2005 and copied to the Vice Chairman and CEO of the McDonalds Corporation.

My meeting with Mr. Bryant was very worthwhile, the Congressman said, and I am pleased that the McDonalds corporation is taking this issue seriously. McDonalds has built its reputation on being a good corporate citizen and upholding the values of the communities which it serves and, today, the McDonalds corporation has demonstrated that the people of American Samoa matter.

My job is to make sure that your concerns on behalf of the people are heard and addressed, Mr. Bryant told the Congressman, and we are only at the beginning of this process. Mr. Bryant gave the Congressman his personal assurances that he would report back to his leadership about the concerns the Congressman raised in the meeting and that he would also keep Congressman Faleomavaega updated as this matter progresses.

From the outset, I made it clear that the people of American Samoa will support the establishment of another McDonalds at any location other than our only public beach. However, as I explained to Mr. Bryant, there is no point of compromise when it comes to Utulei beach and I remain hopeful that this situation can be diffused.

While I appreciate the contributions Mr. Tautolo has made to the local community, I expressed my concerns about the feasibility study that should have been conducted before any kind of contractual agreement was entered into between McDonalds and our local government. In fact, I informed Mr. Bryant that I had requested a copy of the feasibility study but, to date, I have not received a copy or a response to my request, Faleomavaega said.

Mr. Bryant said that he was not aware of whether or not a feasibility study had been conducted and he thought that at least four or five more permits still needed to be acquired and, without those, construction could not begin. He said it was also his understanding that a public hearing would be scheduled in the near future and he asked if I would like to participate. I told him that if my schedule permits I will definitely participate.

I also informed Mr. Bryant that our local Senate passed a resolution opposing construction at Utulei beach and that Mr. Roy Hall, the general counsel for the Senate, is questioning the legality of the lease agreement. By law, any lease agreement that extends beyond 10 years must be approved by our Legislature. In this instance, it is my understanding that a lease agreement was signed between McDonalds and ASG for 9 years, 11 months and 29 or so days with an option to renew for 30 years.

Mr. Bryant said he was not aware of these developments and expressed concern about the questions surrounding the lease agreement. As Mr. Bryant agreed, use of the McDonalds name is not just a local issue. McDonalds is a global corporation worth approximately \$36 billion and the corporation is very protective of its name.

If we were talking about a local fast-food operation not affiliated with a national or international chain, then this would be a local issue. But we are not talking about a village store. We are talking about McDonalds and, therefore, the McDonalds corporation is interested in what is happening in American Samoa, the Congressman said.

At this time, I am very pleased that the McDonalds corporation is committed to reviewing the legal and social aspects of constructing a McDonalds at Utulei beach. I am also pleased that Mr. Bryant has agreed to keep my office informed about any new developments in this case. In turn, I am reviewing the possibility of introducing federal legislation to include Utulei beach as part of the National Park of American Samoa so as to prevent any company including but not limited to KFC, Burger King, Pizza Hut, or local businesses from building at this site.

I believe we must not only resolve the immediate crisis facing us but we should also protect ourselves in the future from any other corporation seeking to build at Utulei beach. Utulei beach offers the only stretch of shoreline where outrigger canoes and fautasi, or longboats, can enter deep water via the natural channel through the reef and, out of respect and reverence for our Samoan traditions and customs, I believe we must work together to preserve Utulei beach.

On a separate matter, I also mentioned to Mr. Bryant that I am concerned that American Samoa is being treated like a foreign country by the McDonalds corporation. It does not make sense to me why we have to get permission from Australia in order to establish a McDonalds in American Samoa. American Samoa is a territory of the United States and our local owners ought to be able to do business with McDonalds in America, not Australia.

I also expressed my concerns about the previous lease agreement done for McDonalds at the current site in Tafuna. It is my understanding that the previous lease agreement between ASG and McDonalds stipulates that all lawsuits must be filed in Australia and be subjected to Australian law. This is not fair to ASG or to anyone in American Samoa and I suggested that the attorneys in Australia representing McDonalds should be more ethical in the contracts they put forward in this territory.

While I have not heard from McDonalds Australia regarding construction at Utulei beach, I appreciate Mr. Bryant's efforts in meeting with me and I thanked him for the great service McDonalds is currently providing in American Samoa. The people of American Samoa welcome and support McDonalds and we continue to remain hopeful that this situation can be favorably resolved, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 22, 2006]

**FALEOMAVAEGA RESPONDS TO GOVERNORS
RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT MCDONALDS**

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is responding to the Governors comments published by Samoa News on April 17, 2006 regarding the McDonalds controversy. Togiola responded directly to Faleomavaegas public support of the National Parks position on the Utulei Beach Park lease saying, the congressman is not the federal judge for American Samoa yet, so he should wait until he knows all the facts.

He has not even asked us about this matter. He is basing his opinion on one side only. He should really learn to ask people who live here first before he goes off and releases these kinds of statements, said Togiola.

I am saddened by the Governors comments, Faleomavaega said. As part of a free and democratic society, each of us is entitled to a difference of opinion but it is beneath the office of an elected official to make false claims and stoop to name-calling. I am not nor do I ever desire to be a federal judge and my position regarding McDonalds has been clear from the beginning. I stand with the people of American Samoa in opposition to this deal.

Unlike the Governor, I have heard what our people have to say and my office has been inundated with calls opposing the construction of a McDonalds at the only public beach in American Samoa. Furthermore, the Governor has known of my position since May 25, 2005 almost a year ago at which time I copied him on my letter to Mr. Charles Tautolo of McDonalds in American Samoa. I also copied our Fono as well as the CEO of the McDonalds Corporation headquartered in Illinois.

Nearly a year ago, on June 28, 2005, I also met with the Director of Federal Government Relations for the McDonalds Corporation and expressed my grave concerns about McDonalds failure to conduct a feasibility study, Faleomavaega said. Based on a press release I issued, our local media published the details of this meeting in which I informed the Director that the people of American Samoa would support the construction of a McDonalds anywhere else in American Samoa but not at Utulei Beach Park.

Utulei Beach is our only public beach and preserving it now and for future generations is what is best for American Samoa. This is why our people want a public hearing. So let the hearing begin. And when it begins, let us question its purpose since the Governor has already signed the lease and made his decision before listening to the people.

As we carefully consider this matter, let us also be very clear about ASGs involvement with the National Park Service (NPS). According to the NPS, ASG entered into a contractual agreement with NPS in 1995 placing Utulei Beach Park within the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) as park land dedicated to public outdoor recreational use in perpetuity which means forever. ASG has also accepted over \$4 million since signing the agreement.

As I stated previously, if our local government makes a promise to the federal government and accepts grant money and then decides the terms of the agreement are inconvenient and no longer apply, it sends the message that American Samoa does not respect the federal grant process and therefore should not be trusted with any federal money. This is the wrong message to send to Congress and the wrong message to send to the US Department of the Interior.

For this reason, I am trying to prevent a confrontation or a legal battle between the US Department of the Interior and ASG. While the Governor has suggested that I do not have the facts, the truth is I have copies of every letter exchanged between the NPS and Governor Togiola which began on May 16, 2005 and continue to March 28, 2006. I also have copies of survey maps and the Governor has also been provided with these maps on more than one occasion. In other words, the Governor knows that the lease that was signed places the proposed McDonalds within a protected park area and violates ASGs agreement with the NPS. This said, I remain hopeful that we can find a favorable solution to a local issue that should have never escalated to a federal problem, Faleomavaega concluded.

**HONORING JACK ROTZIEN ON HIS
90TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my grandfather, Jack Rotzien, on his 90th birthday.

Born and raised in Holmesville, Indiana, my grandfather has spent the past 90 years of his life exemplifying what it means to be a Hoosier. At 20 years old he joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War II. During the war, he was stationed at Wendling Air Force base in England where he served as the gunnery teacher for the troops. After graduation from Indiana University, my grandfather worked in the retail industry with both L. S. Ayres and Maison Blanche in Indiana. He worked hard for decades to provide for his family. Now that he is retired, he spends time at his VFW post and has found passion in speaking with students about his time in the military.

While he has made many professional contributions to our state and our country, he has also had a significant impact on me and my family. I will never forget the summer vacations my brother, mother and I used to take with my grandfather. One year, we all visited Lake Okeechobee in Florida because he knew how much we loved to go fishing. We spent the week sitting by the lake and must have caught nearly a hundred fish (or at least that's how I remember it). This is just one memory I cherish. I also remember the time my brother was almost eaten by an alligator—but, that's another story.

This year my grandfather's birthday will fall on Thanksgiving Day, which gives me an even greater opportunity to give thanks for the role he has played in my life. My grandfather is a man of compassion, strength, and faith and I am privileged to have had his love and guidance over the last 45 years. I hope that he knows how much he has meant to me and I look forward to the many memories we will continue to make with one another. Today, I wish him a happy 90th birthday as he celebrates this milestone in his life.

**TRIBUTE TO THE OWLS' WHIST
CLUB, INC.**

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Owls Whist Club, Inc., a historic organization founded 100 years ago in Charleston, SC. The club was founded on February 14, 1914 as something that was—in the words of their founding charter “strictly social and for the entertainment of our friends.” It was founded by a group of African American men and is one of the oldest social clubs of its kind in the United States.

On November 26, 2014, they will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Eve event to continue their 100th anniversary celebration, and I plan to be in attendance.

The earliest available records of the organization are the official minutes of their meetings and their constitution that was written in 1924. The original members numbered sixteen, and when Arthur Clement, Jr. wrote “A Brief History—Owls' Whist Club” in 1950, he stated that Frank W. Dawson, the first host, was a barber.

Each year the members hold a black tie affair. Many of these events were held at Dart Hall, which back then was the “Negro Branch” of the Charleston County Library. The members decided in 1939 that they would buy land and build their own place to hold events, and in 1945 they did just that. They purchased two

lots in Maryville, SC directly across the Ashley river from the Citadel, South Carolina's Military College.

During this time in Charleston's history, banks did not lend money to African Americans to construct buildings, consequently the membership created a building fund. Each member was assessed a proportionate share of the cost of constructing the building now known as the Owls' Roost.

The historical impact of this organization was proven throughout the 20th century as this group of African American men overcame the racial nature of South Carolina. During its founding and throughout its development, the Owls' Whist Club members experienced numerous indignities and adversities, including numerous lynchings by vigilantes and several legislative actions by the SC House of Representatives that relegated African American citizens to a second-class existence.

This club has given African American men of Charleston a place to socialize and strategize for 100 years. Its membership has always included a variety of occupations and when they meet on November 26 to celebrate this milestone they will do so with members and guests from every background and sets of experiences that is possible to gather under one roof, and holding fast to history and tradition, among their membership will be one barber.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating the Owls' Whist Club on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. I commend its members for continuing a much-needed tradition. Their perseverance and tenacity are appreciated by a grateful community.

HONORING DANIEL J. RIDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel J. Rider. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING FORMER POW DARRELL STARK OF STAFFORD SPRINGS, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Darrell Stark, 92, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Mr. Stark, a veteran of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment and former prisoner of war of the Empire of Japan in World War II, recently returned from a historic trip to Japan he and six other former POWs, accompanied by their family members, were guests of the Japanese government last month on a trip of reconciliation and remembrance.

Mr. Stark was 17 when he joined the Army in 1941, and was immediately sent to the Philippines where he was assigned to a heavy weapons company as a weapons carrier and runner. He participated in the defense of the Bataan peninsula, where despite disease, lack of supplies and obsolete weapons, he and his fellow defenders were able to fight the Japanese to a four-month standstill. Despite their efforts, however, Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942. Mr. Stark was taken prisoner and over the course of the next three years was held in various prisons and camps in the Philippines, forced into labor and suffering extremely harsh and difficult conditions. After being liberated in September 1945, Mr. Stark returned home for treatment, eventually settling in Connecticut where he worked for the Department of Corrections and spoke often to students about his role in the defense of the Philippines.

Between October 11 to 20, Mr. Stark and six of his fellow POWs were guests of the Government of Japan as part of the fifth American POW Friendship delegation to visit Japan. This delegation included members of the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, and Marines who fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Their trip was part of an ongoing reconciliation process that began in 2010 when the Japanese government delivered to the first American POW delegation an official Cabinet-approved apology for the damage and suffering these men endured.

As part of the delegation, Mr. Stark was able to travel to his former POW camp in Yokkaichi near Kyoto. The managers of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha (ISK), the company that controlled the camp, not only received him warmly, but honored him. ISK is now a multi-national chemical company with operations in the United States and one of only a handful of companies that have apologized to POWs forced into labor.

This once in a lifetime trip for Mr. Stark was made possible through the hard work of many people, including the U.S. State Department and the Government of Japan. While coming to terms with the past is undoubtedly difficult for our American survivors and the Japanese people, it is my hope that our two nations will continue to work together to sustain and improve efforts such as this to provide reconciliation with our shared history, provide closure to our POWs and their families, and build stronger relations for the future.

NATIONAL INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Crohn's and Colitis patient community in observance of National Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Awareness Week. As the Co-Chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, I have enjoyed working with my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW to raise awareness of and improve access to treatments for IBD.

Our caucus has worked to champion funding for IBD research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This has led to accomplishments like the identification of the first gene linked to Crohn's Disease (NOD/CARD15), which will lead to better treatments and a cure for IBD, and the discovery of Remicade, the only biologic drug for treatment of both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

We have also been strong advocates for the IBD Epidemiology program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This program yields invaluable information about the prevalence of IBD in the US and expands our knowledge about the demographic characteristics of this vulnerable population. The data derived from this study will not only provide an analysis of the etiology of the disease, but could also explain why the course of illness varies among individuals and what environmental or treatment factors improve patient outcomes.

While there is currently no known cure for IBD, we can already see the importance of Congress's continued support of IBD research. National IBD Awareness Week offers the opportunity to build upon our efforts for the Crohn's and Colitis patient community.

I have been honored by the opportunity to lead the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, and I urge my colleagues to speak out in support of IBD research efforts and to raise awareness for IBD.

HONORING SHEIKH MOUSSA DRAMMEH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Though Sheikh Drammeh has a varied professional portfolio ranging from entrepreneurial development to e-commerce, his dedication to improving the access and opportunities available for members of the African community can be seen in all of his endeavors. Most notably, Sheikh Drammeh founded HalalFinder.com, which is the first online halal auction market of its kind. This platform was established in order to ensure that providers and consumers alike would have an interactive service market space that would allow

them access to goods that were previously virtually unavailable.

Beyond his dedication to improving access for residents of the African community, it is clear that Sheikh Moussa Drammeh has a passion for fostering peace and understanding throughout our communities. Sheikh Drammeh currently serves as the Principal and Founder for the Islamic Leadership School in the Bronx, which remains as the first, and only, Islamic school in The Bronx. This school is also one of only four schools in New York City that established the "Interfaith Living Museum," where Jewish students and Muslim students participate in a yearly cultural exchange curriculum in efforts to promote a global, long term peaceful co-existence. Sheikh Drammeh has also helped establish the Community Peace Patrol Officers, which are a group of community volunteers who have dedicated themselves to patrolling high crime areas in efforts to make them safer and more livable for all residents. This program not only encourages local residents to take an active role in maintaining the safety of local neighborhoods, but also works to foster better relationships between community members and local law enforcement.

Today, Sheikh Drammeh serves as Executive Producer of the African Union Profile and Public Emergency Management Adherence television programs on Bronxnet Television network, and is the founder of Adopt-A-Friend, which is a non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting peace and dialogue among all individuals for a healthy co-existence.

Each of the aforementioned projects and programs speaks to the complete nature of Sheikh Moussa Drammeh's dedication to improving the quality of life for residents throughout The Bronx, as well as his undying commitment to fostering camaraderie and understanding among residents. I am proud to say we have someone like Sheikh Moussa Drammeh living in our community, and am very grateful for all the work he has done, and continues to do to improve our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sheikh Moussa Drammeh for his consistently remarkable dedication to peace and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the establishment of the VA clinic in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Nov. 11, 2000]

FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING A VA MEDICAL CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA IS UNDERWAY

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that a technical team will be in American Samoa from November 13th-17th to set up and test telecom connections for the veterans enrollment plan scheduled for early December.

This is an important moment for our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said. And

it is an important moment for American Samoa. Establishing an accurate method for enrolling our veterans is the first step in establishing a VA medical clinic in American Samoa. The purpose of the technical teams visit is to ensure that all systems are go when the VA team arrives to enroll our veterans in early December. Congressman Faleomavaega also explained that the teams visit is part of a collective effort between his office, ASG, and the VA offices in Honolulu and American Samoa.

I want to thank Governor Tauese for his commitment to our veterans. I also want to thank the Governors Special Assistants on Veterans Affairs, High Chief Tuiteleleapaga Fue Ioane, President of the Veterans Advisory Council, and High Talking Chief Paogofie Fiaigoa, Veterans Affairs Officer, Congressman Faleomavaega said. We are working together to ensure that our veterans receive top-notch health care and benefits. We are working together to ensure that every veteran in American Samoa counts and that no one is left behind. We will not be satisfied with the process until every veteran in Samoa is accounted for and enrolled in the system.

I have also been working with Senator Akaka, a senior member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Congressman Lane Evans, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Both gentlemen are fully supportive of our efforts to establish a VA medical clinic with a full-time physician in the Territory. The technical teams planned visit for the week of November 13th is the first step in our collective effort to establish the process that may lead to the construction of our own facility.

Congressman Faleomavaega also noted that Federal law requires an accurate accounting and enrollment of veterans before any consideration can be made to establish a VA medical clinic. It is incumbent upon every veteran living on island to take part in the enrollment process. If we want a clinic with a full-time physician, every veteran must participate. Congressman Faleomavaega said. I strongly urge all veterans on island to participate and enroll when the time comes.

For now, the technical team, headed by Dr. Norman Okamura, will visit Fagatua, Tafuna, Leone and Samoana High Schools to confirm facility arrangements for enrollment activity. According to Congressman Faleomavaega, the team will also confirm the VAs clinical patient record system server configuration and network requirements.

The technical team plans to meet with LBJ and Health Department officials to consider the registration process and to discuss the IHS data system. During this time the team will also be working closely with Johnny Mapu, PTSD Coordinator for the office of Veterans Affairs. Provided all systems are go, the VA enrollment team will arrive in American Samoa during the week of December 4th to begin the enrollment process.

[Press Release, Feb. 14, 2004]

CARES COMMISSION AGREES WITH FALEOMAVAEGA; VA CLINIC SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission released its report yesterday and agreed that a Veterans community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa.

The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20

years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve.

On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA.

The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which is next to our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further segregated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by the end of this year.

Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC) and Dr. Weibe, Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 21 have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately \$1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa and over 1,000 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoans veterans have made in defense of this nation and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have one doctor, one nurse, one clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable recommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa.

Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars. Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoans CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations.

I also asked for American Samoans CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans,

Ranking Member, supported my efforts and joined with me in signing letters to Mr. Everett Alvarez, Chairman of the CARES Commission, requesting the same.

On February 13, 2004, the Commission released its report and I am pleased that our CBOC is included in its final recommendations. I am also pleased that the Commission made a nationwide decision to dismiss the VA priority ratings of 1, 2, and 3 and thereby cleared the way for the establishment of CBOCs in rural areas like American Samoa that have less than 7,000 veterans. Given the Commission's report, I am now hopeful that the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, will use the recommendations made by the CARES Commission to create better access to health care for American Samoans veterans.

At this time, I want to thank the CARES Commission for undertaking this mission and for seeking the views of veterans and stakeholders across the country. I also want to thank Senators Inouye and Akaka, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Evans, and General John Ma for their support throughout this process.

As I have said many times before, our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I am pleased that the CARES Commission has recognized our service and agreed that it is time to do right by American Samoans veterans.

Once again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity I had to testify and submit supporting documentation for consideration, including a Senate Concurrent Resolution from the American Samoa Legislature dated March 28, 2001 I also thank American Samoans veterans and our active duty service members for their support. I applaud them for their military service and I continue to wish them and their families the very best, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, June 22, 2004]

U.S. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROVES FALEOMAVAEGA'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH VA CLINIC IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, has approved Faleomavaega's request to establish a VA clinic in American Samoa.

"The Secretary announced his decision on May 7, 2004 and I will be meeting on June 24, 2004 with Dr. Wiebe, Director of VISN 21, which is the Veterans Integrated Service Network responsible for California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"On April 26, 2004, I briefed Major General Joseph G. Webb, Jr., Commander of the Pacific Regional Medical Command and the Lead Agent for TRICARE Pacific on my efforts to establish a clinic in American Samoa. Dr. Wiebe was also present for these discussions which took place in American Samoa during the April recess, or district work period."

"I am pleased that I was able to take General Webb and Dr. Wiebe on a tour of the butler building which the 9th Regional Support Command has agreed to turn over for our use, Faleomavaega continued. I am also pleased that General Webb and Dr. Wiebe were able to see first-hand the needs of our local veterans."

"Most of all, I am thankful that Secretary Principi has agreed that a VA community based outpatient clinic (CBOC) should be established in American Samoa. Only 156 new CBOCs will be established and one of those will be for our veterans," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"Recognizing that resources are not available to open all of these clinics immediately, the VA will establish the new CBOCs by using criteria within the existing approval process. This includes sound business plans and the capacity to manage specialty referrals and inpatient needs of a new population."

"Given our immediate need and the arrangements we have in place with the U.S. Army Reserve, I am hopeful that VISN 21 and Dr. Wiebe will be able to act quickly on the establishment of our clinic, the Congressman said. At this time, I want to thank the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission which included American Samoa in its recommendations to the Secretary."

"The CARES Commission was created by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an independent assessment of what the VAs needs may be during the next 20 years. One of the main priorities of the Commission is to make sure that underserved veterans will receive the care they deserve."

"On October 1, 2003, I testified before the CARES Commission via live satellite feed from the U.S. House of Representatives to urge the establishment of a VA clinic in American Samoa and to request that our clinic be given the highest priority rating possible, Congressman Faleomavaega said. In my statement, I informed the Commission that I had worked closely with General John Ma, Commanding General of the 9th Regional Support Command, to secure a building at no cost to the VA."

"The building that we agreed should be used for a VA clinic is the butler building which currently houses our PX. The butler building is 3,600 sq. ft., equipped with telehealth lines, and there are separate entrances and parking lots that can be further separated if necessary. The U.S. Army Reserve has agreed to reconfigure the building to VA needs and transfer its operations when our new \$20 million U.S. Army Reserve Center is completed by October of this year."

"Mr. David Burge, Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC), and Dr. Wiebe have estimated that construction costs to renovate the building will be approximately \$1 million. The VA and DoD will assume all costs associated with the renovation and, once converted, the clinic will be used to serve Army Reservists as well as our veterans," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"As I stated in my testimony before the Commission, more than 5,000 veterans live in American Samoa but only about 800 are enrolled in VA health care. Enrolled veterans are forced to travel more than 2,300 miles from American Samoa to the nearest VA facility in Honolulu, Hawaii to receive the medical care and attention they need."

"As a Vietnam veteran, I am painfully aware of the sacrifices that American Samoans veterans have made in defense of this nation, and I do not believe we are asking for the moon when we ask for a VA clinic to be established in American Samoa. Like every other American who has borne the battle, our veterans deserve access to quality VA care. We deserve to have at least one doctor, one nurse, and a clinic to serve our veterans and I am pleased that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the CARES Commission agrees with me and has made a favorable recommendation for the establishment of a CBOC in American Samoa."

"Although there was some question about whether or not we had enough veterans to qualify for the establishment of a CBOC, the CARES Commission set aside VA claims that we may have as few as 800 veterans and simply stated that it agrees that a CBOC should be established in American Samoa in col-

laboration with the Department of Defense. This news comes after years of hard work, ups and downs, and twists and turns, the Congressman said. For almost two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has placed a hold on construction of new facilities and every State and Territory is now competing for construction dollars."

"Last year, about 242 VA facilities were listed in the CARES National Draft plan and American Samoans CBOC was among those listed. Initially, we had a priority rating of 3 because we have less than 7,000 veterans. Because of our remote location and lack of VA care, I asked the Commission to raise our rating from priority 3 to priority 1 before publishing its final recommendations."

"I also asked for American Samoans CBOC to be included in the Commissions final report to the Secretary. Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, the Honorable Chris Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Honorable Lane Evans, Ranking Member, supported my efforts and joined with me in signing letters to Mr. Everett Alvarez, Chairman of the CARES Commission, requesting the same."

"On February 13, 2004, the Commission released its report and, as I announced in a press release dated February 14, 2004, our CBOC was included in its final recommendations. The Commission made a nationwide decision to dismiss the VA priority ratings of 1, 2, and 3 and thereby cleared the way for the establishment of CBOCs in rural areas like American Samoa that have less than 7,000 veterans."

"In turn, Secretary Principi included our clinic on his list of 156 and I am hopeful that with his support VISN 21 will now move to improve health care for American Samoans veterans, the Congressman said. As I have said time and time again, our men and women have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I am pleased that Secretary Principi has made it clear that it is time to do right by American Samoans veterans."

"I thank Secretary Principi for his support. I also thank the CARES Commission, Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Chairman Chris Smith and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Dave Burge, General Webb, and General John Ma for their support and commitment throughout this process."

"Again, I thank the Commission for the opportunity I had to testify and submit supporting documentation for consideration, including a Senate Concurrent Resolution from the American Samoa Legislature dated March 28, 2001. I also thank American Samoans veterans and our active duty service members for their support. I applaud them for their military service and I continue to wish them and their families the very best," the Congressman concluded.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to

have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and that is why today I rise to pay tribute to four extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Ruby Grace, Chelsea Banks, Adam Kong, Lauren Buchanan, Rachel Foster, Keome Rowe, Jesus Vasquez, Maria Mojica, and Ruth Welland, and finally to Victoria Brayer, to whom today I also wish a very happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN
EDUCATION WEEK

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge American Education Week. This annual celebration was established by the National Education Association and the American Legion in 1921, and it serves as a time to remember the paramount importance of education.

This year's theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, is a renewed call for all citizens—from parents and teachers, to school staff and education sup-

port professionals, to elected officials and community leaders—to work together to improve our schools.

Public education is the bedrock of our democracy, and we must provide robust support of public schools to ensure our young people can fulfill their potential.

But these days, education programs are on the chopping block. State and federal officials seem to have lost sight of the value of investing in our schools. With that in mind, I cannot imagine a better time to acknowledge the importance of public education and the vital and underappreciated contributions that educators make every day.

Somewhere along the line, we have all been inspired by great teachers who have helped us develop the perspective and good judgment to be active participants in our communities. But the support these teachers need to do their jobs effectively—including a competitive salary and funding for supplies and textbooks—is too often the target of over-eager budget hawks.

We've learned this in our home state of North Carolina, where the Republican majority in the General Assembly has slashed the education budget, even as enrollment has increased. Teacher pay ranks 46th in the nation, having fallen from 20th in the last five years. Overall state funding for our schools has dropped by 8.6 percent since 2008, and believe me when I tell you that our teachers and students are feeling the squeeze.

That trend is hardly unique to North Carolina—a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that 30 states have cut education budgets. Insufficient funding for teachers and public schools has quickly become a national problem.

The picture is even bleaker at the federal level. This year, my Republican colleagues once again plan to oversee major reductions in discretionary spending, including education funding. That will mean new threats to all federal education initiatives, from primary and secondary school support to Pell Grants and other college affordability programs.

As state and federal officials debate budgets, we would be wise to remember that none of our education policies will succeed until committed teachers and administrators, critical school support staff and education support staff, and engaged students all have the support that they need to thrive.

Government should be in the business of recruiting great educators who are willing to dedicate their careers to public education. We must provide them with adequate training, opportunities for professional development, competitive salaries, sufficient classroom resources, and support from effective administrators and staff.

We also have to work to ensure that every American student who works hard can afford to go to college. It is wholly irresponsible to make further cuts to Pell Grants and burden students with additional debt. Instead, we should be doing everything possible to incentivize college for bright students who have a passion for learning.

This American Education Week, students and teachers around the country are calling out for our support. I encourage my colleagues in Congress and friends in the General Assembly to answer the call and restore education funding to sustainable levels. It's the best investment we can make in a future we can be proud of.

ACKNOWLEDGING NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. Alzheimer's is a disease that now afflicts more than five million people in our nation and one of them is my father, Ignacio. It is a heart-breaking disease that affects every member of the family, community, and country.

As someone whose father suffers from this debilitating illness, I am acutely aware of the pain and hardship that Alzheimer's inflicts not just on my family but on society as well. In 2014, the direct costs of caring for those with Alzheimer's will total \$214 billion, including \$150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. Unfortunately, this situation is only going to get worse. The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's is projected to grow to sixteen million and the costs of caring for these people will grow to \$1.2 trillion by 2050.

This November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, a time to be mindful of the struggles that families face in caring for loved ones with this disease. It is also a time to raise awareness, support, and outreach for those confronted with Alzheimer's disease and for their families. These efforts will help increase community awareness and understanding to better equip us as a nation to face this disease.

This Thanksgiving break I will visit my father, whose hands never lost their memory, and I will give thanks that those hands helped shape my life. This is why I am committed to finding a cure and calling for increased funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institute of Health. It is my hope that a commitment to research and improving treatments will one day rid us Alzheimer's disease entirely.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF VIL-
LAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN
AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the legislative history of village road improvements in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2004]

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGREES TO INCREASE HIGHWAY FUNDING FOR TERRITORIES AND INCLUDE \$14 MILLION FOR VILLAGE ROAD AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced that the House Committee on Transportation agreed yesterday to increase federal highway funding for the Territories and include \$14 million for village road and other improvements in American Samoa.

Although this bill still must pass the House and Senate, I am pleased that my

good friends Chairman Don Young and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar of the House Transportation Committee have agreed to increase transportation funding for the Territories, Congressman Faleomavaega said. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) and I have worked on this issue for the past year and Congressman Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, has supported our efforts.

As a result of our work, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from \$33 million to \$40 million for FY04, FY05 and FY06. For FY07, FY08 and FY09, funding will increase to \$50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA-LU) being \$100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

Moreover, American Samoa will receive \$14 million for high priority projects including village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection and upgrades and repairs of the Tau ferry terminal facility. On January 23, 2004, I called Governor Togiola to let him know that the Committee had informed me of its intentions and asked that we keep this information confidential until the Committee held its mark-up. The Committee originally intended to hold its mark-up in February but postponed it until March 24, 2004.

On February 4, 2004, I also wrote to Governor Togiola in response to his January 15, 2004 letter to me. In my letter, I explained that from 1992 to 2003 American Samoa received over \$77 million in federal highway funds including \$12 million I obtained to improve village roads in American Samoa.

Roads that are not part of the federal highway system are ineligible for funding. This rule applies to every state and territory and includes our village roads. Be that as it may, I fought hard to convince my colleagues that an exception should be made for American Samoa and in 1998 they agreed to support my request for \$12 million for village road improvements.

The 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is now expiring and Congress is reauthorizing funds for the next six years. Again, the House Transportation Committee has agreed to my request for additional funds for American Samoa. On March 5, 2003, the House Committee on Transportation notified members of Congress that it would accept written and oral testimony regarding requests for funding. On March 5, 2003, I wrote Governor Sunia and requested his input. Although I did not hear back from Governor Sunia, I testified and appeared before the Committee.

Initially, I requested money for a ferry boat and terminal construction as well as funding for our village roads. However, since September 2003, Governor Togiola and I have worked together to obtain funding for the purchase of a vessel for Manua and on January 22, 2004, the House Committee on Transportation informed me that it would be able to grant \$14 million of my requests for highway projects in American Samoa. This funding is in addition to our annual federal highway funds.

In consultation with the Governor, we have set aside \$9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manua districts of American Samoa. In further consultation with Senator Tualo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaiga, Representative Fagasoia

Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufetee and members of the Nu'uuli council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nu'uuli village roads. In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Tau village council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Tau harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galeai, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads. Governor Togiola and I thank our local leaders for their support of this historic and important initiative and we are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 2, 2004]

HOUSE PASSES HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL \$14 MILLION FOR VILLAGE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 357 to 65 the House passed H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) which increases federal highway funding for the Territories and includes an additional \$14 million for village road and other improvements in American Samoa. The Senate has already passed its version of TEA-LU and the bill will now go to conference in May after which time it is expected that the President will sign it into law.

Once signed into law, the Territorial Highway Program (which includes American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI) will be increased from \$33 million to \$40 million for FY04, FY05 and FY06. For FY07, FY08 and FY09, funding will increase to \$50 million. Despite the Transportation Act (now known as TEA-LU) being \$100 billion less than what was originally proposed, the Territorial set aside will increase by 23.6%.

In addition to our share of funds from the Territorial Highway Program, American Samoa will receive an extra \$14 million for high priority projects including village road improvements, drainage mitigation, shoreline protection, and upgrades and repairs of the Tau ferry terminal facility. At this time, I want to thank my good friends, Chairman Don Young and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar, of the House Transportation Committee for agreeing to my requests to increase American Samoans annual funding and to include an extra \$14 million for our village road improvements and other high priority projects, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

Regarding our funding, I believe it is important to explain how Congress authorizes transportation funds. Simply put, a federal gas tax is collected nationally to fund the transportation bill. Residents of American Samoa and other territories are not required to contribute to this fund or pay federal gas taxes. Although we pay no federal gas taxes, Congress provides for our transportation needs by way of a direct-set aside for the Territories and this is known as the Territorial Highway Program.

Since 1992, American Samoa has received more than \$77 million in federal highway transportation funds including \$12 million I obtained in 1998 to improve village roads in American Samoa. Roads that are not part of the federal highway system are ineligible for funding. This rule applies to every state and territory and includes our village roads. Be that as it may, I fought hard to convince my colleagues that an exception should be made

for American Samoa and in 1998 I was able to get \$12 million for Village Road Development on the islands of Tutuila and Manua.

This was the first time that Congress ever agreed to let federal highway funds be used for constructing roads that are not part of the federal highway system and I am pleased that Congress acted favorably on my request. The 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is now expiring and Congress is reauthorizing funds for the next six years. As of today, the House has now agreed to support my request to provide American Samoa with an additional \$14 million over the next six years for village roads and other transportation improvements.

In consultation with Governor Togiola, we have set aside \$9.4 million for village road improvements in the Eastern, Western, Central and Manua districts of American Samoa. In further consultation with Senator Tualo Fruean and High Paramount Chief Mauga and members of the Pago Pago council of chiefs, we have also set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Pago Pago village roads.

In consultation with Senator Tago Suilefaiga, Representative Fagasoia Lealaitafea and Representative Mary Taufetee and members of the Nuuli council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for shoreline protection and drainage mitigation for Nuuli village roads. In consultation with Senator Faamausili Pola and members of the Tau village council of chiefs, we have set aside \$1.6 million to upgrade and repair the Tau harbor facility.

Finally, in consultation with Senator Faiivae Galeai, Senator Lualemaga Faoa and members of the Leone and Malaeloa councils of chiefs, we have set aside \$1 million for drainage mitigation for Malaeloa-Leone village roads. Again, Governor Togiola and I thank our local leaders for their support of this historic and important initiative.

I also thank Chairman Don Young (Republican from Alaska) and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar (Democrat from Minnesota) of the House Committee on Transportation as well as the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Resources, for their support of increased funding for the Territories. I also commend Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo (Guam) and Congresswoman Donna Christensen (VI) who have also worked tirelessly to increase funds for the Territorial Highway Program.

Out of 422 members of the House who voted today, 357 overwhelmingly voted to support this historic legislation. In other words, it's not about whose in the majority. It takes both Democrats and Republicans to get the job done. It also takes seniority and this is why I am thankful that the people of American Samoa have trusted me time and time again to get the job done for them. With your continued support and prayers, I am hopeful that our increases and add-ons will be supported when the House and Senate meet in May to conference this bill, the Congressman concluded.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS EQUAL ACCESS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the bipartisan Veterans Equal Access Act along with my colleagues DANA ROHRBACHER, DINA TITUS, JUSTIN AMASH, PAUL BROWN, WALTER JONES, THOMAS MASSIE, SAM FARR, JARED POLIS, BETO O'ROURKE, STEVE STOCKMAN and STEVE COHEN, which

will allow Veterans Health Administration physicians to recommend medical marijuana to their patients in states where it is legal.

Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that provide for legal access to medical marijuana. As a result, well over one million patients across the country, including many veterans, now use medical marijuana at the recommendation of their physician to treat conditions ranging from seizures, glaucoma, anxiety, chronic pain, and nausea.

There are also nine states and the District of Columbia that now allow physicians to recommend medical marijuana for the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), due to a growing body of anecdotal evidence suggesting that marijuana offers relief when nothing else has.

While outdated federal barriers often prevent the research necessary to develop marijuana into an FDA approved drug, states have heard from their citizens, including veterans suffering from PTS, that marijuana is helping them now, and have adjusted their laws.

Despite this growing state availability of medical marijuana, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prohibits VA medical providers from completing forms brought by their patients seeking recommendations or opinions regarding participation in a state marijuana program.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to authorize physicians and other health care workers employed by the VA to provide recommendations and opinions regarding the participation of a veteran in a state medical marijuana program. This includes authorizing them to fill out any forms involved in the process of recommending medical marijuana.

Veterans should not be forced outside of the VA system to seek a treatment that is legal in their state. VA physicians should not be denied the ability to offer a recommendation they think may meet the needs of their patient. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CONGRESSWOMEN FREDERICA S. WILSON AND ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution Congratulating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their induction into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives FRANKEL, DIAZ-BALART, CLAWSON, DEUTCH, GARCIA, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, MURPHY and ROONEY of the South Florida delegation in celebrating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on receiving this honor. Both Representative WILSON and ROS-LEHTINEN are products of the Miami-Dade County Public School System and

are a testament to the quality of MDCPS. I invite you to join me in congratulating Congresswomen FREDERICA S. WILSON and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN on their myriad accomplishments and their induction into the MDCPS Hall of Fame.

HONORING DR. BOLA OMOTOSHO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Bola Omotosho for his many years of compassionate public service and tireless work to improve the health of our community residents.

Dr. Omotosho left Nigeria to relocate to The Bronx in 1995, after an extended career in medicine that culminated in studying anesthesiology through the Nigerian Navy. Bringing his passion for medicine along with him, Dr. Omotosho went on to study the nature of infectious diseases upon his arrival, and currently works with Montefiore Medical Center in The Bronx, which is one of the largest healthcare providers in the United States. Additionally, Dr. Omotosho remains very closely involved with several other medical missions, both local and international in their scope. Dr. Omotosho recently facilitated the donation of 3 dialysis machines to the Haut-Nkam of New York, who will provide these machines for usage by the Haut-Nkam community in Cameroon. Locally, Dr. Omotosho continues to be our community's champion for kidney donation amongst Africans here in New York City.

Dr. Bola Omotosho is not only a distinguished medical leader, he is also an individual who stands as the model of an active, civically engaged community member. Dr. Omotosho serves as Chairperson of Community Board 5, President of the Harrison Avenue Homeowners Association, and President of the Mount Hope Housing Corporation Board of Directors. He is also the Vice Chair of the Bronx Multi Faith Advisory Group, and an active member of the United Africa Coalition as well as the Black United Leadership group of The Bronx. Each of these groups works tirelessly to improve the quality of the life here in The Bronx, and Dr. Omotosho's commitment to each of them speaks to his longstanding commitment to our community.

Dr. Bola Omotosho is an alumnus of New York Police Citizen Academy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizen Academy, from which he received the 2009 Humanitarian Award. Today, Dr. Omotosho continues to work with several residential boards that work with law enforcement agencies to improve community relations and amplify safety efforts throughout our neighborhoods.

Individuals like Dr. Bola Omotosho remind us all that we all have a duty to be faithful community servants, and should work each day to improve the quality of life for all of neighbors alike. Dr. Omotosho has a true passion for community, which is clear in all of his work, and I am sincerely grateful to call someone like him a neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Bola Omotosho for his consist-

ently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

HONORING THE WORK OF ADOBE SERVICES DURING NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of November 15–23 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to honor the distinguished work and advocacy of Adobe Services, a non-profit working in the 15th Congressional District and throughout the Bay Area to end homelessness.

The week before Thanksgiving has been designated as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week to bring about community awareness and to help those in need. Throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season, we must always remember how hunger and homelessness remain serious problems in our communities across the United States. I am proud to have Adobe Services as a strong community partner in the Bay Area working to end homelessness and advocating on behalf of the hungry.

Throughout National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Adobe Services has planned several events to engage community members in the Bay Area and raise awareness regarding homelessness and hunger. For example, today, Adobe Services is hosting the "Feed Your Soul" performance night at Mission Coffee in Fremont. At this performance night, guests will have the chance to understand more about the impact homelessness has on families and the wider community through artistic renditions. Additionally, tomorrow, Adobe Services will host a candlelight vigil at St. James' Episcopal Church to remember Alameda County residents who died last year while homeless. To combat hunger in the East Bay, Adobe Services also is organizing a food drive to provide festive holiday meals to those in need.

Adobe Services not only works to fight homelessness and hunger during this national awareness week, but also serves more than 4,000 Bay Area residents throughout the year. Its mission is to end homelessness by assisting low-income, un-housed people and secure stable and supportive housing. I am grateful for the assistance Adobe Services provides, and I applaud its continued dedication to the homeless community.

COMMENDING PROJECT GIVEBACK'S VOLUNTEERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the more than 500 volunteers who will gather at the District of Columbia's Columbia Heights Educational Campus Saturday, November 22, 2014, to begin packing and distributing Thanksgiving parcels for Project

GiveBack's 20th Annual Food Distribution. Their efforts provide over 1,500 families in the National Capital Area with wholesome Thanksgiving dinners.

Ransom Miller III founded Project GiveBack in 1995. In its first year, six local families and one shelter received food baskets. Over the next two decades, this small effort grew to serve 3,500 families in locations across the country, including Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Texas; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Tulsa, Oklahoma; St. Louis, Missouri; and Denver, Colorado.

Project GiveBack's scope has also grown to include: Children's Toy Drive, to provide toys for children in low-income families; Children's Easter Celebration, to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for children in Southeast D.C. to celebrate the spiritual meaning of Easter; Computer Sponsor Program, to assist local schools and community organizations in the acquisition of more than 100 laptops and personal computers; and Youth EXPOSURE Program, to connect students of various backgrounds and to expose them to a wide range of experiences that will spark career aspirations, ingenuity, and creativity.

Project GiveBack is achieving its mission to be a vehicle for firms and professionals to give back to the communities where they work and live in by coordinating programs that benefit less fortunate individuals and families, with a focus on children. It is the intent of the organization to uplift communities around the United States mentally, spiritually, and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending Project GiveBack's volunteers and sponsors and may they soon join the more than 650,000 residents in our nation's capital in thanksgiving for full representation for D.C. in Congress.

WELCOMING ENSLIE COLE DECK

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, it is my pleasure to announce the birth of Enslie Cole Deck on November 19, 2014 at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia.

Enslie is the daughter of Wiley Deck, my Chief of Staff, and Elizabeth Deck. The former Elizabeth Buckles and Wiley Deck met as staff members in our Washington office. Both of them moved to our Florida District Office in St. Augustine in 2003. They married and had their first child, Emilia Hayward Deck. The Decks returned to Washington, DC in 2011 and now have expanded their family with the arrival of Enslie.

To the Deck and Buckles families, we extend our warmest congratulations and wish them years for continued health and happiness.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF
FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION
FOR NON-SAMOAN VETERANS
MARRIED TO SAMOANS TO
QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about a provision for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans to qualify for VA home loans.

[Press Release, Nov. 10, 2005]

HOUSE PASSES VA HOUSING ASSISTANCE BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR AMERICAN SAMOAS VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a voice vote the House passed H.R. 3665, the Veterans Housing and Employment Improvement Act of 2005 and included Faleomavaega's provision for American Samoan veterans.

I especially want to thank Chairman Steve Buyer and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and also Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Stephanie Herseth of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity for their leadership in making it possible for Native Americans to participate in the veterans housing loan program. Congressman Faleomavaega said.

I am especially thankful that American Samoan veterans have also been able to participate in this very successful program and I thank my colleagues for working with me to address the concerns of American Samoans without adversely affecting the rights of other tribes. Many Samoans have served in the military and they are allowed to obtain home loans under current law. Other Samoans are married to non-Samoan veterans Non-native military spouses married to native Samoans have not been able to qualify for the VA home loan program. In part, this is because the Native American Home Loan program excludes the spouses of non-native Americans from qualifying for a VA home loan.

This has been problematic in American Samoa because most land in American Samoa is communal and the VA has only made it possible for Samoans of Tutuila, Manus, Aunu'u, or Swain Islands to qualify for home loans offered by traditional lending institutions because only they can make claim to native land. As a result, non-native spouses of veterans or persons serving in the US Armed Forces who are married to a Samoan have not been able to qualify for a VA home loan. However, the VA has been helpful in assisting the Veterans Affairs Committee and my office in drafting language to rectify this problem and I am pleased that this language has now been included in HR 3665.

As we have agreed, it is our understanding that this language now makes it possible for a non-Samoan military member or veteran to qualify for a VA loan if the non-Samoan military member has a meaningful interest in the housing a Samoan spouse has been granted permission to build on communal land. It is also our understanding that meaningful interest means that the veteran has the right to reside in the home under tribal laws.

This is good news for our veterans and their spouses. For this reason, I again thank my colleagues for including my provision in this important legislation. I also thank the

VA for its assistance and my good friend Ranking Member Lane Evans of the VA Committee for his tireless efforts and support, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, May 22, 2006]

HOUSE AND SENATE PASS VETERANS BILL AND INCLUDES FALEOMAVAEGA'S PROVISION FOR NON-SAMOAN VETERANS MARRIED TO SAMOANS TO QUALIFY FOR VA HOME LOANS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 372 to 0 the House passed S. 1235, the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 and included his provision for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans to qualify for VA Home Loans. As we approach Memorial Day to remember and honor our military men and women who have died while serving our nation during a time of war, it is especially fitting that the House and Senate have passed the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 in tribute to those who are still with us, Faleomavaega said.

America is what she is today because of the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families. This is why I am pleased that the US Congress is recognizing their service by passing S. 1235. After years of hard work, I am also pleased to announce that once the President signs this legislation into law, non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans will finally be able to qualify for VA home loans.

For too long, Native American veterans, including Samoans, were not able to participate in the VA Home Loan program because our land is communally rather than privately held. For the same reason, traditional lending institutions also would not make home loans to Native Americans because in case of default the bank would not be able to repossess the land or the home due to factors associated with communal ownership.

However, in 1992, with the support of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, were able to establish a pilot program making it possible for Native Americans, including Samoans, to qualify for VA home loans. Even though this was groundbreaking and very helpful to many of our veterans, the program was still problematic because it excluded the spouses of non-native Americans from qualifying for a VA home loan and for us this meant that non-Samoan military spouses married to native Samoans were also unable to qualify.

But thanks to the successful passage of today's legislation, our non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans will now be able to qualify for VA home loans and I couldn't be happier that their dreams of home ownership can now come true. At this time, I especially want to thank Chairman Steve Buyer and Ranking Member Lane Evans of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and also Chairman John Boozman and Ranking Member Stephanie Herseth of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and Mary Ellen McCarthy, Democratic Staff Director for Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, for their support and tireless efforts in making this possible. I also thank Senator Larry Craig and Senator Daniel Akaka, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, for their leadership.

Finally, I want to thank the VA for assisting the Veterans Affairs Committee and my office in drafting language that has been included in section 104 of S. 1235 which now makes home ownership a reality for non-Samoan veterans married to Samoans. As a result of this language, it is our understanding that a non-Samoan military member or veteran may now qualify for a VA loan if the non-Samoan military member has a meaningful interest in the housing a Samoan

spouse has been granted permission to build on communal land. It is also our understanding that meaningful interest means that the veteran has the right to reside in the home under tribal laws.

Again, I believe S. 1235 is a fitting tribute to our veterans and I am especially pleased that this legislation provides American Samoas veterans with the housing opportunities and other benefits they deserve. For this reason, I again thank my colleagues for including my provision in this important legislation and for supporting the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006, the Congressman concluded.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. JENNETTE STARKS-FAULKNER, 2014 FENCING WORLD CHAMPION

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Jennette Starks-Faulkner. As you know Mr. Speaker, great athletes are not born they are forged through the combined efforts of our entire community and the dedication and determination of individuals. Ms. Starks-Faulkner's discipline and her commitment to living a healthy and active lifestyle is evident in the success she has found participating in competitions hosted by the United States Fencing Association.

Ms. Starks-Faulkner's precise footwork, lightning thrusts, and deft ripostes have made her one of the most accomplished fencers in the entire world. This past October in Debrecen, Hungary she became the first U.S. woman ever to win the International Fencing Federation's Veteran Fencing World Championship gold medal in foil competition. Among her long list of achievements, which I ask be added into the RECORD, Ms. Starks-Faulkner won a gold medal at the 2014 USA Fencing National Championships in the Veteran Foil competition, a silver in the Veteran Saber competition and she has represented the United States as a member of the last seven Veteran World Championship teams.

Anyone who watches Ms. Starks-Faulkner compete will attest that her physical ability is only surpassed by her willingness to give everything she has to win. In a sport where there are very few African American participants, Ms. Starks-Faulkner has distinguished herself as the first among champions. While small in stature, her presence casts a great shadow on her competition. Ms. Starks-Faulkner's accomplishments are a testament to the power of the human spirit and the limitless potential each and every person possesses. Lastly, her dedication to fencing is an important reminder not only to her students, but to all Americans, that when you believe in your dreams, nothing can stop you.

As an ardent admirer of those who would push beyond their limitations, I salute Ms. Starks-Faulkner and her long list of accomplishments.

THE BLACK LUNG BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 today to help disabled coal miners get benefits that they are entitled to but often unable to access.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis, commonly referred to as "black lung," is a debilitating and deadly disease caused by the long-term inhalation of coal dust in underground and surface coal mines. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, black lung has caused or contributed to more than 76,000 deaths since 1968, with thousands of miners still sick and dying from the disease.

The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, which included the Black Lung Benefits Act, contained a program designed to provide compensation and medical care to miners who are totally disabled due to black lung. To secure benefits, disabled coal miners must engage in lengthy and complex litigation against local operators that has been proven to unfairly burden claimants and prevent them from receiving the benefits to which they are entitled.

In 2009, the Government Accountability Office found that "coal miners face a number of challenges pursuing federal black lung claims, including finding legal representation and developing sound medical evidence to support their claims." More recent award-winning investigations by the Center for Public Integrity and ABC News uncovered numerous cases in which coal operators and their attorneys defeated claims by hiring doctors who systematically failed to diagnose black lung disease, or by withholding medical evidence from miners, surviving spouses, and judges that would have proven the miners' eligibility for benefits. These and other unethical practices were examined as part of a July 22, 2014, hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety. In addition, bureaucratic delays impede timely decisions about miners' benefits, with miners waiting an average of 42 months to receive a decision on their claim from an administrative law judge in the Department of Labor.

In the past year, the Department of Labor has taken several steps to address these issues; however, administrative actions alone will not be able to solve the systematic problems facing victims of black lung disease. That is why Congress has an obligation to reform this program so that it better serves and honors those who have helped supply the energy that our country relies on to light our homes and power our factories.

I want to thank Congressman GEORGE MILLER, the senior Democrat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his leadership on this issue, and for Representatives JOE COURTNEY, NICK RAHALL and ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT for joining me in sponsoring this important legislation.

BLACK LUNG BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining Representatives CARTWRIGHT, SCOTT, COURTNEY, and RAHALL in introducing the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014.

The Black Lung Benefits Act was enacted in 1969 to provide health care and modest benefits to coal miners who develop black lung disease, also known as coal workers' pneumoconiosis, which is a crippling respiratory disease that has left generations of miners tethered to oxygen tanks. Today, the black lung benefits program is failing far too many miners and their survivors because there is an unfair disparity in medical and legal resources between miners and coal operators when it comes to establishing eligibility for benefits.

This legislation seeks to level the playing field by ensuring that miners have equal access to medical evidence, better access to legal resources, a remedy for those whose claims were denied due to recent discoveries of discredited medical evidence. In addition, it includes a requirement that the Department of Labor improve the timeliness of benefit decisions and an adjustment of benefit payments so that miners and their survivors receive the cost of living increases that Congress intended.

Black lung disease has killed more than 76,000 miners since 1968. Rates of black lung disease dropped steadily after the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1969 set enforceable limits on exposure to coal mine dust. However, rates are now on the rise again, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH. The number of people with the most severe form of black lung disease has spiked ten-fold over the past 15 years. In a heartbreaking example of the disease's prevalence, autopsies of the 24 miners who died in the Upper Big Branch mine explosion in 2010 revealed that 17 of these miners had black lung. And the Department of Labor expects 7,300 black lung benefit cases to be filed in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, an increase of 35 percent since fiscal year 2012.

The Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 seeks to level the playing field for miners and strengthen our black lung benefits program in nine key ways.

First, it addresses the lack of legal assistance available to miners. The determination of a claimant's eligibility for black lung benefits often requires complex, adversarial litigation, but resource disparities between coal companies and claimants make it difficult for many miners and survivors with meritorious claims to prevail. The Government Accountability Office found that many claimants under the Black Lung Benefits Act are not equipped with the medical and legal resources necessary to develop sufficient evidence that can meet the requirements for benefits. Miners often lack complete and reliable medical evidence, which increases the risk that the individuals who review claims for benefits will be presented with insufficient medical evidence. Similarly, without better options for legal representation, significant numbers of such claimants proceed

through a complex and potentially long administrative process without the resources that Department of Labor officials and black lung disease experts note are important for developing evidence and supporting their claims. Only a quarter of claimants are represented by an attorney when filing a claim. A major obstacle to securing legal counsel is that it can take up to ten years for a claim to be resolved, and under the current system, a claimant's counsel receives no payment and must make numerous outlays during that time. Reforms must be made to remedy this resource imbalance between claimants and operators so that claimants with meritorious claims will receive the benefits they deserve.

To solve this problem, the legislation expands the Secretary's current statutory obligation to offer a complete pulmonary evaluation to a coal miner in order to substantiate a claim for benefits. It now requires that the Secretary supplement the medical evidence in cases where a party who opposes the claim provides evidence that could be considered contrary to the initial report of the pulmonary examination when the case is being considered by either a district director or an administrative law judge.

In addition, this section provides miners with greater access to legal representation by creating a system to pay a portion of their attorneys' fees earlier in the litigation process. Attorneys who prevail at each stage of the litigation would be paid \$1,500 per stage, not to exceed \$4,500 in total. These partial payments will be paid from the black lung trust fund, which is administered by the Secretary of Labor, but the advance payments must be reimbursed to the trust fund by the operator if the claimant ultimately prevails through all stages of the litigation.

Second, the legislation addresses circumstances in which medical information is withheld from miners. Full disclosure of relevant medical information between miners and coal companies (or their insurers) is essential for fair adjudication of claims under the Black Lung Benefits Act, regardless of whether the parties intend to submit such information into evidence. Records of adjudications reveal that some mine operators' legal representatives have withheld relevant evidence from claimants, administrative law judges, and, in some cases, even their own medical experts. In several cases, the disclosure of such evidence would have substantiated a miner's claim for benefits. Withholding medical information can endanger miners by depriving them of important information about their own health and the potential need to seek medical treatment or cease employment where there is risk from continued exposure to coal dust.

To solve this problem, the legislation requires that claimants and operators must share all information about medical tests and examinations, as well as interpretations of pathology and x-rays that are developed as part of the claims process, regardless of whether such information is going to be entered into the record or not. The bill balances sanctions by applying penalties for false statements to operators in addition to sanctions already applied to claimants. It also authorizes administrative law judges to levy sanctions for noncooperation in the discovery process. Full transparency and disclosure is needed for fair adjudication.

Third, the legislation provides the benefit of the doubt to miners in cases where the evi-

dence is evenly balanced. Given the remedial nature of the Black Lung Benefits Act, when an adjudicator determines that evidence is evenly balanced, it is appropriate for any resulting doubt to be resolved in favor of the claimant. The Supreme Court vacated this longstanding legal principle—known as the true doubt rule—in 1994. This provision had been applied to both the Black Lung Benefits Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and it was vacated because it was not expressly mandated in the underlying statutes. This principle should be reinstated in the Black Lung Benefits Act because it provides fairness.

This problem is resolved in the legislation by providing that claimants will receive the benefit of the doubt when the evidence is in equipoise.

Fourth, the legislation addresses recent cases where biased medical evidence was systematically used to defeat meritorious claims. Physicians who read lung x-rays as part of pulmonary assessments under the Black Lung Benefits Act are required to demonstrate competency in classifying chest radiographs by becoming certified as "B Readers" by NIOSH. However, an investigation by the Center for Public Integrity, or CPI, and ABC News uncovered that there are NIOSH-certified B Readers who were under retainer by coal operators or their law firms and who systematically misclassified chest radiographs so that they could be used in opposing claims. The CPI report found that since 2000, Dr. Paul Wheeler of Johns Hopkins Medical Center had never once interpreted an x-ray as positive for complicated pneumoconiosis in more than 3,400 x-ray readings. Dr. Wheeler consistently concluded that there was not severe black lung present, even as other doctors saw the disease in hundreds of cases and other evidence, including biopsies, repeatedly proved him wrong. In response to these reports, Johns Hopkins immediately began an internal investigation and suspended the black lung x-ray reading program. A year later, the investigation is reportedly ongoing and the program remains suspended.

In response, the Department of Labor has issued guidance to its claims examiners "not to credit negative chest x-ray readings for pneumoconiosis" by Dr. Paul Wheeler unless the conclusions of such physician "have been rehabilitated." DOL has provided written notice to miners whose claims were denied within the one-year window for reconsideration—and where Dr. Wheeler's evidence was used during the claims proceeding—that informs the miners of their right to seek reconsideration. Going forward, claimants need to have an unbiased place to turn to get their lung x-rays read.

To address this problem and help ensure access to credible medical evidence that can assist in establishing a claim or rebutting questionable medical interpretations, the bill establishes a pilot program at NIOSH that will provide impartial x-ray readings. These readings will be offered specifically to assess whether a miner has advanced stages of black lung disease—known as complicated pneumoconiosis or progressive massive fibrosis—which results in benefits being awarded on a presumptive basis. NIOSH is required to establish panels made up of three physicians who are certified as B Readers; the panels would prepare reports that can be used in

claims proceedings as a service to claimants or operators on a fee-for-service basis.

Fifth, the legislation covers the need for remedies for those whose claims were unfairly denied due to tainted evidence. More than a year has passed since many miners' survivors were denied benefits in cases where Dr. Wheeler, the discredited Johns Hopkins' physician, provided the chest radiograph interpretations. Logically, survivors should be permitted to file a new claim for benefits if they were denied based on bogus medical interpretations. However, under current law a survivor is barred from filing a new claim more than one year after a decision to deny benefits is final, unless they can show a change in medical conditions. Obviously, for a deceased miner, demonstrating a change in medical condition is impossible.

The legislation remedies this injustice by allowing survivors to refile their claim outside of the one-year window. In addition, in cases where DOL has directed its claims examiners "not to credit negative chest x-ray readings for pneumoconiosis" provided by any physician whose interpretations have been discredited, the legislation also directs claims examiners and administrative law judges to exclude consideration of those discredited medical interpretations.

Sixth, the legislation addresses cost of living increases that have not been provided to miners and their families as intended. Contrary to the intent of Congress, benefits payments under the Black Lung Benefits Act have not been automatically increasing with the rising cost of living. Benefit payments are tied to the monthly pay rate for federal employees in grade GS-2, step 1. In several of the prior fiscal years, there was a pay freeze for federal employees, which had the effect of eliminating cost-of-living adjustments for miners, surviving spouses, and dependents under the Black Lung Benefits Program during such years.

To resolve this issue, the legislation restores the cost-of-living adjustments for black lung beneficiaries that were blocked or reduced as a result of federal employee pay freezes in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Seventh, the legislation addresses the need for training to help improve claims administration. A competent assessment of medical information and testimony, which often involves multiple physicians disputing a diagnosis, is necessary to determine whether to award benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act. To ensure that a determination regarding a claim for benefits under the act is fair and accurate, regular training is needed by claims examiners and administrative law judges regarding: developments in pulmonary medicine relating to black lung disease; medical evidence necessary to sustain claims for such benefits; and the proper weight to be given to conflicting evidence.

To address this need and improve claims administration, the legislation requires those administering this program to have annual training on the latest medical developments.

Eighth, there is a need to eliminate excessive delays in the adjudication of claims. There are currently egregious delays in adjudicating claims before an administrative law judge at the Department of Labor due to budget and staffing cuts. Between 2004 and 2014 there was a large reduction in the number of administrative law judges, coupled with a large increase in the number of cases filed under

the Black Lung Benefits Act. Compounding this problem were furloughs resulting from sequestration and the 16-day shutdown of the federal government during calendar year 2013. Due to the imbalance between resources and caseloads, it currently takes 429 days to assign a case to an administrative law judge, and claims remain unresolved for an average of 42 months prior to a decision, according to Department of Labor data. These delays directly and severely impact the lives of workers throughout the United States, placing an undue financial and emotional burden on the affected individuals and their families.

To resolve this issue, the legislation directs the Department of Labor to develop a plan to eliminate the backlog and eliminate delays.

Ninth, continued studies of the Mine Safety and Health Administration's recently adopted rules are needed to prevent future cases of black lung disease. Black lung disease has been the underlying or contributing cause of death of more than 76,000 miners since 1968. After decades of decline, the incidence of coal miners with black lung disease is on the rise. According to NIOSH, miners are developing advanced cases of the disease at younger ages. In response, the Mine Safety and Health Administration in the Department of Labor has taken important steps to combat the disease, including the promulgation of a rule in 2014 that reduces the allowed concentration of coal dust and eliminates weaknesses in the current dust sampling system.

To ensure that these reforms are sufficient to stem the scourge of black lung disease, this legislation requires continuing retrospective studies.

In total, the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 will restore a measure of justice to thousands of coal miners who have long toiled to provide the energy that powers our nation's homes, farms, and factories.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about American Samoa's Commemorative Quarter.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2004]

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO PROVIDE AMERICAN SAMOA WITH A COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 411 to 14 the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2993, a bill to provide for a circulating quarter dollar coin program to commemorate American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In general, this legislation would amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include 6 new designs emblematic of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Designs on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during 2009 will be selected by the Secretary of Treasury in consultation with the chief executive officers of these areas, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

All five delegates are and were original co-sponsors of this bi-partisan measure. This measure was first introduced in the 106th Congress and passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 377-6. Unfortunately, the 106th Congress ended before the Senate was able to consider our bill. During the 107th Congress, identical legislation (H.R. 4005) passed the House and was received in the Senate in October of 2002. Once again, the Senate was unable to consider this matter before the 107th Congress adjourned.

Now, we have introduced H.R. 2993 and we are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns. At this time, I want to thank Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for her leadership and I also want to thank the other Delegates who have also worked tirelessly to ensure that this legislation is considered, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

It is only fitting for Congress to acknowledge the Territories relationship with the United States. Speaking on behalf of American Samoa, we have a long and proud history of supporting the United States. The traditional leaders of the islands of Tutuila and Aunuu ceded our islands to the United States in 1900. Four years later, the King of Manua and his chiefs ceded the Manua Islands.

In the early part of the century, the port village of Pago Pago was used as a coaling station for U.S. naval ships. During WWII, it was used as a support base for U.S. soldiers. To this day, American Samoa serves as a refueling point for U.S. naval ships and military aircraft.

American Samoa also has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is as high as any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad and I believe this relationship should be acknowledged with the issuance of a commemorative coin.

H.R. 2993 affords us an opportunity to recognize the special contributions that American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianas and the District of Columbia have made to the history of our Nation. I thank my colleagues for voting in favor of this legislation and I urge the Senate to also support our cause, the Congressman concluded.

[Press Release, Oct. 4, 2005]

QUARTER DOLLAR BILL COMMEMORATING AMERICAN SAMOA AND OTHER TERRITORIES REINTRODUCED

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the Territorial Delegates have joined with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to reintroduce a bill that will grant circulating quarter dollars to commemorate American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Essentially, this legislation will amend the popular 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act to include six new designs representative of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The coins will be issued in 2009 and their respective designs will be issued by the Secretary of Treasury in consultation with the chief executive officers of these areas, Congressman Faleomavaega said.

All five of the delegates are and were original co-sponsors to this bi-partisan measure. The measure was originally introduced in the 106th, 107th and 108th Congresses and easily passed through the House on each occasion. But, in each instance, the Senate was

unable to take up the matter before Congress adjourned.

Pleased by the support we have seen for this legislation by the House, we have introduced H.R. 3885 and are hopeful that the House and Senate will pass this legislation before the 109th Congress adjourns, Faleomavaega said. H.R. 3885 is an appropriate way for Congress to acknowledge the historic relationship between the Territories and the United States. American Samoa has a long record of supporting the United States, specifically in relation to military service. American Samoa has an enlistment rate which is as high per capita to that of any other State of U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served proudly in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to the current operations in Iraq. Our territory has also served the U.S. military as a fueling station for naval ships and military aircraft and in WWII it served as a support base for U.S. soldiers.

At this time, I would like to thank my colleagues for their commitment to this effort. I especially want to thank Congresswoman Norton for her leadership. Together, we remain hopeful that Congress will take this opportunity to recognize the contributions that the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Marianas have made to our Nation and, together, we urge Congress to support our cause, Congressman Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Jul. 27, 2009]

FALEOMAVAEGA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF AMERICAN SAMOA QUARTER

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that American Samoa's commemorative quarter has been released today by the U.S. Mint to the Federal Reserve banks.

"This quarter has been 9 years in the making and came about as a result of federal legislation the Congressional Delegates sponsored and cosponsored since 2000," Faleomavaega said.

"Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia championed the cause, and Congressman Jose Serrano of New York included our last bill in the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act."

"After cosponsoring H.R. 5010, H.R. 4005, H.R. 2993, H.R. 3883 and H.R. 392 from the 106th Congress to the 110th, Congress finally passed our legislation into law, and my colleagues and I who represent the Territories and the District of Columbia are pleased by the outcome."

"As part of the legislation, we wanted to make sure our local Governors could also participate in this historic process so we made sure our legislation was modeled after the 50 State Quarters Program which included a provision to allow our local governments to design our quarters. I especially commend Governor Togiola and his administration for the work they did in designing American Samoa's quarter."

"While the U.S. Mint and my office had scheduled an unveiling ceremony in Washington this morning to coincide with today's release of American Samoa's quarter, Governor Togiola has requested to be part of this Congressional ceremony and, as a courtesy to him, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, and the First Lady who are traveling with the Governor, I have agreed to postpone the Congressional ceremony until Wednesday of this week since Governor Togiola had to cancel the local ceremony he had arranged with the U.S. Mint due to his decision to come to Washington DC this week. The Governor's event with the U.S. Mint was scheduled to be held in American

Samoa on July 29 but, according to the U.S. Mint, the Governor has now rescheduled American Samoa's local ceremony for sometime in September."

"Since the coin was officially released today and because we want the people of American Samoa to be able to celebrate and share in this important moment, the U.S. Mint and my office will issue another statement with photos after we unveil the quarter in Washington this Wednesday," Faleomavaega concluded.

HONORING JUDGE MONICA
DRINANE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to celebrate the Honorable Monica

Drinane, and her many years of selfless and compassionate public service.

Judge Drinane has been an exemplary contributor to the Bronx community, and has served as a mentor, leader to countless professionals, and fierce advocate for children and families across the New York City. Her career in legal services and community service has been a testament to the importance of selfless devotion.

While Monica Drinane's accomplishments over the course of her legal career speak to the distinguished nature of her work, what is clearest about her time as a public servant is her relentless commitment to the people of New York.

The Honorable Monica Drinane's last ten years working in Bronx Family Court, where she has been supervising judge since 2007, the six years she spent with the Legal Aid Society as the Attorney-In-Charge of the Juvenile Rights Division, and the countless other juvenile rights positions she has held speak to her unwavering commitment to some of our com-

munity's most vulnerable individuals. Monica Drinane has consistently distinguished herself as advocate in our community who speaks for those who may not always be heard, and who works to ensure that as a society we work to protect our youth and families.

Today, Monica Drinane continues to serve on the board of the NYPD Reengineering Initiative, School to Prison Pipeline, and the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. As she prepares for retirement, I wish to express sincere gratitude to the Honorable Monica Drinane for all of her work in The Bronx and throughout New York City, and to thank her for leaving our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Honorable Monica Drinane for her remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for countless families in New York City.