

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Belle Isle, Florida.

Founded in 1924 to preserve Lake Conway and the surrounding chain of lakes, the name "Belle Isle" was selected to resemble the French phrase "beautiful island." The local natural resources, including parks and extensive waterways, facilitate Belle Isle residents' active outdoor culture. Additionally, Belle Isle is home to nearly 100 businesses that include iconic local restaurants and stores. Small communities like Belle Isle are the cornerstones of American culture and economy.

It is a privilege to serve the residents of Belle Isle, and I thank them for their tremendous contributions to the Central Florida community.

WILL THERE BE AN AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the African Union, or AU, is in the midst of a long program to create an African Economic Community through the eventual merging of existing regional economic communities. U.S. policy is to support regional integration in Africa as enhancing the success of U.S.-Africa trade by reducing trade barriers and creating larger markets. I chaired a hearing yesterday that examined the AU effort and its potential benefits for Africa and the United States.

A focal point in U.S.-Africa trade policy is the encouragement of integrated markets in Africa. It makes trade with Africa more efficient and beneficial for African businesspeople and governments. It also is more attractive for foreign investors.

The AU, a regional grouping of all countries in Africa except Morocco, was established in 2002 as the successor to the now-defunct Organization of African Unity, or OAU. Its formation was largely motivated by OAU members' desire to more quickly achieve the goals of the 1991 African Economic Community Treaty. The treaty is intended to promote African regional economic integration and socio-economic development through the planned creation of a common African market and shared political and economic institutions. Make no mistake, this is a challenging goal. The example of the European Community demonstrates the difficulty even when involving developed nations.

The current African nations were not created to collaborate with one another. Varying languages, conflicting legal and commercial systems and often incompatible transportation infrastructures make this worthy goal a major challenge, and there are other obstacles that make this effort even more daunting.

Nevertheless, the eight recognized Regional Economic Communities have a timetable to which they are generally adhering with few exceptions. The Arab Maghreb Union, a trade agreement comprising Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia, is inactive and frozen due to deep political and economical disagreements between Morocco and Algeria regarding, among other issues, the matter of Western Sahara independence. The Community of Sahel-Saharan States, comprising 28 countries across Africa's Sahel region, is finding regional integration difficult because of its members being part of other trade blocs that are more advanced in their integration.

Meanwhile, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, a free trade area with nineteen member states stretching from Libya to Swaziland, has agreed to an expanded free-trade zone and is also considering a common visa scheme to boost tourism.

The East African Community, an intergovernmental organization comprising five East African countries—Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda—signed a protocol just last year outlining their plans for launching a monetary union within 10 years.

The Economic Community of Central African States, which includes 10 countries across the middle of the continent, formed a customs union with a free trade area between members and a common external tariff for imports from other countries as long ago as 1966.

The Economic Community of West African States, a regional group of 15 West African countries, is creating a single large trading bloc through an economic and trading union and serves as a peacekeeping force in the region—all despite operating officially in three co-equal languages—French, English, and Portuguese.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development is an eight-country trading bloc based in East Africa and has transformed from an executive group with a focus on development and environmental control to a larger structure as a Regional Economic Community.

The Southern African Development Community began as an anti-apartheid coalition fighting for majority rule in South Africa in the 1970s, but since majority rule came to South Africa in 1994, it has become a traditional Regional Economic Community, and like its West African counterpart, sometimes engages in peacekeeping operations.

By 2017, a free trade union and customs union is supposed to be established in each Regional Economic Community. The process is still stalled in North Africa and the Sahel, although there is progress elsewhere. This phase is now fully in force in East Africa, as well as West and Central Africa.

In today's hearing, we are looking for recommendations on what the Regional Eco-

nommic Communities and their member countries must do to fulfill the AU's ambitious agenda, but we also want to examine what the U.S. government, other donor governments and international financial institutions can do to enhance their efforts in this regard. Ostensibly, this assistance has been ongoing for some time now but we want to find out more about why these efforts have not moved farther ahead.

At yesterday's hearing, we had with us experts who have observed regional integration in Africa, and in some cases, have worked to promote it for more than a decade. We know what governments have said about the benefits of regional integration, and we have heard from the private sector about their preference for integrated markets. Yesterday we heard from those who can provide and have provided the technical assistance necessary to make these goals a reality.

We in Congress currently are working on legislation to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and integrated regional markets will only enhance the success of this trade process moving forward. We hope today's contributions will better inform us on how we can more effectively encourage regional integration and the expansion of African markets.

FOR THE RELIEF OF JEANETTE VIZGUERRA-RAMIREZ

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the case of Jeanette Vizguerra Ramirez. I have introduced a bill on her behalf in an effort to prevent the senseless destruction of her family in light of her tremendous contributions to her community and the immigrant rights movement in Colorado.

Jeanette Vizguerra Ramirez has been in the United States since 1997. She has three young U.S. citizen children, and two citizen grandchildren. She is a devoted mother and grandmother who routinely volunteers with a local elementary school to ensure the success of her children, as well as that of their respective peers. Ms. Vizguerra Ramirez has also established extraordinarily strong ties to Colorado through her tireless work with numerous community organizations. Several news outlets have documented her commitment to improving the lives of members of her community through her volunteerism and advocacy. It is abundantly clear that Ms. Vizguerra Ramirez is a positive influence in her community, and that she does not pose a threat to those around her. Nevertheless, despite her long-term residence, strong family ties, and extensive community contributions to the U.S., Immigration and Customs Enforcement currently seeks to remove her to her country of origin.

We can no longer afford to sit idly by while our limited tax-payer enforcement dollars are

• 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.

spent producing such untenable outcomes. While our continued inability to modernize our broken immigration system is bad for businesses, the overall economy and the federal deficit, it is completely devastating to hundreds of thousands of families who suffer the consequences every year.

The U.S. House of Representatives has neglected its responsibility to address our broken immigration system for far too long. Every passing day brings devastating consequences to thousands of families throughout our country. Our current enforcement-centric approach is a relic of another time that needlessly destroys families, and leaves thousands of U.S. citizen children without one or more of their parents. This approach runs contrary to our American system of values.

HONORING KHIQUITA "KEKE" YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Khiquita "Keke" Young.

Khiquita Young is the founder of Independent Survival Living (ISL) and owner of K's Farm and Ranch in Crystal Springs, MS. ISL originated in Jackson, Mississippi. Young presents agriculture methods at church conferences with families and local farmers and ranchers.

In 2007 Mrs. Young's mother had a stroke that left her disabled on the left side of her body and troubled in her speech. Khiquita was frustrated to discover the lack of assistance for much needed help not only for her mother, but others as well.

This journey led Young to encourage those who are broken spiritually and financially to become self sufficient. It is her desire for the elderly and stroke victims to become independent individuals again. She doesn't want the elderly and stroke victims to depend on others who do not offer genuine help or who neglect disabled people.

Young is a visionary who actively pursues change in destiny. The vision she was given in 2007 was to pursue the mission in agriculture, to establish urban gardens and farms for the elderly and stroke victims. Participation gives them some control in their lives allowing them to manage, operate and become profitable to survive.

Khiquita is the National Women in Agriculture Association Chairwoman of Southwest River Region in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Khiquita "Keke" Young for being a visionary and giving back to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall votes No. 5, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 455, and No. 6, on adoption of H. Res.

455, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on these two votes.

HONORING ROBINSON'S GROCERY, LLC

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a rural town minority owned business, Robinson's Grocery, LLC.

Robinson's Grocery, LLC opened for business on November 27, 2006 in Bolton, Mississippi. Mr. Pelvia Rene Robinson, owner and operator, saw a need for a small town grocery store that could supply the community with quality products and friendly service without traveling to the neighboring city, which is approximately six to seven miles away.

As a lifelong resident of Bolton, Mr. Robinson understood the hardships many in the community faced in acquiring necessities, such as, fresh deli meats, eggs, and cheeses. In addition to meat and dairy products, his store offered hot meals, such as chicken and pork or beef ribs and a variety of household items that many in the community would use on a daily basis.

Establishment of Robinson's Grocery rallied the community together, giving the townspeople a sense of community pride knowing that a grocery store was within walking distance, helping to tremendously decrease the need for sometimes weekly trips to neighboring towns for relatively simple household goods and groceries.

Robinson's Grocery grew as various vendors solicited commercial space for their wares on the store shelves. Currently, the store is in the process of renovating and restructuring its look. Upon completion, the store will also provide a fresh look and an overall enhanced shopping experience in addition to new products and services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Pelvia Robinson and Robinson's Grocery, LLC for its remarkable contribution to the thriving rural Bolton community.

FIRST AFRIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, First Afrikan Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our district for the past twenty years; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Mark A. Lomax and the members of the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our district; and

Whereas, the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our district; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past twenty (20) years; and

Whereas, this Church has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 20th Anniversary of their founding; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim December 8, 2013 as First Afrikan Presbyterian Church Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2013.

IH-30 ACCIDENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, I want to bring to your attention a most unfortunate incident that has taken place in my home district across one of the most vital and important transportation corridors not only to Texas but to the Nation. Interstate Highway 30 begins in Aledo, Texas, west of Fort Worth and ends in North Little Rock, Arkansas. While not the nation's longest highway, Interstate 30 has some of the heaviest truck and trade traffic in the nation and is essential to national security. Because of our nation's growing population—especially in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex—transportation systems, planned over fifty years ago, are being strained and are over capacity. Because of this, our transportation facilities cannot always accommodate the needs of our constituents. This affects not only transportation commerce and mobility but also hinders the first responders and law enforcement from arriving at the scene of the accident in a timely manner.

Early this morning, on Friday January 10, 2014 a major multi-truck accident took place including as many as fifteen vehicles, including semi-trucks on a section of IH-30 that spans Lake Ray Hubbard. The accident has closed all eight lanes of the bridge, headed east and west. After seven hours, the facility remains closed and as there are no frontage roads across the Lake, commuters and drivers are facing multi-hour delays and the national supply chain is being adversely affected.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those that were injured in this unfortunate accident. And to all those hundreds of thousands who were inconvenienced.

This is a prime example as to why Interstate 30, and our national transportation system, needs renewed attention at the local, state, and federal level. This is not the first time this has happened and this will certainly not be the last. In 2006, I was pleased to be of assistance in causing IH-30 to be designated a Congressional High Priority Corridor on the

National Highway System so that this vital corridor would be eligible to receive the attention it needs.

I now call on the U.S. Department of Transportation to work with the Texas Department of Transportation and Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to immediately address these issues of safety and mobility along Interstate 30. I call for an expedited review of IH-30 from Dallas-Fort Worth to Texarkana all the way to North Little Rock that will involve not only the DOTs but city and county stakeholders, including the TEX-21 IH-30 Corridor Task Force. I call for recommendations to come forth within 90 days to provide long and short term solutions. When a facility like this is shut down, the economy is affected because as we all know, our transportation system is the backbone of the economy.

It is of utmost importance that those of us from the Texas side work with those from the Arkansas side to implement the proper maintenance and expansion that is needed to handle the demands placed upon the facility by the population increase. We are calling for six lane divided with continuous frontage roads along the corridor so when an accident such as this one occurs we have the necessary infrastructure to keep people and goods moving.

HONORING SHERIFF KELVIN
WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Kelvin Williams, Sr., was born in Chicago, Illinois and is the son of Ms. Bobbie J. Williams, a lovely and proud lady. The Sheriffs father, Vick Foster, is deceased. During his school days, Kelvin attended I.T. Montgomery Elementary School and John F. Kennedy Middle School in Mound Bayou; also he attended Ruleville Middle School and Ruleville Central High School in Ruleville. He earned a diploma from Ruleville Central High School in 1986.

Sheriff Williams thereafter attended Mississippi Valley State University, where he majored in Criminal Justice. He then moved to St. Louis and continued his education at Webster University, from which he obtained a B.S. Degree in Management in 1994.

Sheriff Williams chose law enforcement as a career because he wanted to work in a field that had great job stability and a field that allowed him to make a positive difference on the community. Sheriff Williams is a former Cleveland Police Officer.

He was assigned to the Cleveland School District as a School Resource and D.A.R.E. Officer. Prior to returning to Cleveland, Kelvin served with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for over 10 years. Kelvin is a former business owner and Investigator for the State of Mississippi.

Kelvin took the oath of office as Sheriff of Bolivar County in January, 2012. On a square mile basis, this County is the second largest county in the State of Mississippi. When observing the three largest counties in this State, we see that Yazoo County has 920 square miles, Bolivar County has 876 square miles, and Hinds County has 869 square miles. Alcorn, the smallest county land-wise, has 400

square miles. When comparing the 876 square miles of Bolivar County to the 570 square miles of the average county size in this State, you may correctly say that Sheriff Williams has a lot of ground to roll over.

In addition to policing 876 square miles of territory, Sheriff Williams maintains control over the Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility, which houses 432 inmates. There are 120 employees who assist with the awesome duties of the chief law enforcement officer of Bolivar County.

The Sheriff remains steadfastly committed to law enforcement in Bolivar County. In addition to that, he is still committed to the schools, playgrounds and streets where some children hang-out. The Sheriff coaches youths for the Cleveland Park Commission and the United Family Life Center. He serves as volunteer coach for football, basketball, baseball and soccer each year. He has had the opportunity to coach: 8 year olds, 9 year olds, 11 year olds and 12 year olds' baseball teams in the Dixie Youth State Championship games.

His passion for the youths and sensitivity to their needs remain at the top of his priority list. He counsels youths and conducts presentations for them, which enhances their participation in wholesome activities, uplifts their aspirations, and encourages them to do the right thing. I suggest that this kind of motivation should be applauded.

Sheriff Williams is a member of the Delmar Street Church of Christ, where he serves as a Sunday school Teacher and member of the Finance Committee. He serves on various boards and committees throughout Bolivar County.

His recent awards are DARE Officer of the Year for the State of Mississippi; President volunteer Award; community Image Award; Community Service Award; Politician of the Year Award; Cleveland Currents Volunteer of the Year Award, and his most prestigious award—the “award” which was bestowed upon him by the voters of Bolivar is called Sheriff.

He has been happily married to Mrs. Glendys Hall-Williams for 22 years, and they are the parents of three sons: Kelvin Jr., Glenn and Allen. Sheriff Williams and his wife are also proud Godparents of Jaylen Jones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing law enforcement officer Sheriff Kelvin Williams for his dedication in protecting and serving the citizens of Bolivar County, Mississippi.

RABBINIC STATEMENT: “STEP BY
STEP TOWARD SHALOM WITH
IRAN”

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a Rabbinic Statement, “Step by Step toward Shalom with Iran.”

Signed by 120 Rabbis, including my own Rabbi, Andrea London of Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston, IL, the statement opposes any actions that would undermine ongoing negotiations, emphasizes the importance of peaceful conflict resolution, and welcomes the possibility of negotiations with Iran.

As we continue to work to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons, I believe that the Rabbinic Statement offers an important perspective.

RABBINIC STATEMENT: “STEP BY STEP
TOWARD SHALOM WITH IRAN”

As Rabbis, Cantors, and other Clergy serving the American Jewish community, we are deeply committed, as Jewish tradition teaches—

to the shalom—peace, social justice, functioning democratic process, and ecological sanity—of the country where we live—all of which would be damaged by still another unnecessary war;

to the shalom, peace and security, of the State of Israel, to its democratic character, and to its special relationship with the Jewish people;

to unequivocal action by all the Arab-majority and Muslim-majority states to make peace with Israel, and to Israel's unequivocal action to make peace with all its neighbors, including an emergent Palestine;

to our respect and our prayers for salaam, peace and justice, among our cousins in the Abrahamic tradition, Arab and Muslim civilizations;

to the peace and prosperity of all the “70 nations” of the world;

and to the healing of our wounded planet.

For all these reasons, we welcome warmly the greatly increased possibility of a peaceful resolution of the conflicts among the U.S., Iran, Israel, and other nations.

We especially welcome the new attitudes toward the Jewish people and toward the nuclear issue set forth by the new President of Iran, and his assertion that Iran will never hold nuclear weapons. We also recall the fatwa and repeated assertions by Grand Ayatollah Khamenei that for Iran to possess nuclear weapons would violate Islam.

We urge the U.S. and Iran to move swiftly to agree on a step-by-step process of reducing and ultimately ending sanctions against Iran in accord with steps by Iran to make its nuclear research transparent and to allow verification that its research is directed wholly toward civilian uses of nuclear energy. We believe that such a step-by-step process is the best way to guarantee that both parties are fulfilling their commitments.

We urge Iran to make clear its full acceptance of Israel as a legitimate state in the fabric of international relations, protected like all other states from aggression and attack.

We urge the Government of Israel to welcome steps by Iran to make clear and verifiable its commitment to use nuclear energy and research for peaceful purposes only, not for pursuit of nuclear weaponry, and while this process is under way, we urge Israel to end hostile acts and statements toward Iran.

We urge the peoples of the United States, Iran, and Israel to reject and oppose all statements and actions from whatever source that undermine the swift and thorough achievement of agreements to ensure the civilian nature of Iran's nuclear program and to end sanctions against Iran.

We urge the American people to recognize and do tshuvah (“turning” or “repentance”) for the ethical errors of our own government toward Iran particularly—the U.S. Government's intervention in 1953 to overthrow the democratically elected reform government of Iran; U.S. actions to support the tyrannical regime of the Shah until the Iranian people overthrew it in 1979; and U.S. support for Iraq's wars of aggression against Iran in the 1980s, including U.S. support for Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons to kill 100,000 Iranians.

We urge the Iranian people to do tshuvah for their government's demonization of the United States and Israel, for its holding U.S. diplomats hostage for more than a year in 1979-1980, and for the support it seems to have covertly given for attacks on Israeli citizens.

We believe that this combination of governmental acts and public rethinking and re-feeling can move American society, the entire Middle East, and the world toward the shalom that Judaism yearns for.

Signed:

Shalom,

Initiating Signers:

Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Rabbi Everett Gendler, Rabbi Marc Gopin, Rabbi Dr. David Gordis, Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Rabbi Gerry Serotta, Rabbi David Shneyer, Rabbi Susan Talve, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, Rabbi Rebecca Alpert, Rabbi Ethan Bair.

Kohenet Ellie Barbarash, Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Rabbi Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi Eliot Baskin, Rabbi Renee Bauer, Rabbi Dennis Beck-Berman, Rabbi Leonard Beerman, Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Rabbi Phyllis Berman, Rabbi Leila Gal Berner, Rabbi Binyamin Biber, Kohenet Shoshana Bricklin, Rabbi Jason Bright, Rabbi Jonathan Brumberg-Kraus, Rabbi Joshua Chasan, Rabbi Aryeh Cohen.

Rabbi Andrea Cohen Kiener, Rabbi Hillel Cohn, Rabbi David J. Cooper, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Rabbi Art Donsky, Rabbi Doris Dyen, Rabbi Renee Edelman, Rabbi Diane Elliot, Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, Kohenet Ahava Lilith EverShine, Rabbi Ted Falcon, Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Rabbi Fern Feldman, Rabbi Brian Field, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone.

Rabbi Nancy Flam, Rabbi Jeff Foust, Rabbi Ruth Gais, Rabbi Hillel Gamoran, Maggid Andrew Gold, Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, Rabbi Laurie Green, Rabbi Julie Greenberg, Rabbi Moshe Halfon, Rabbi/Kohenet Jill Hammer, Rabbi Edwin Harris, Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, Kohenet Judith Hollander, Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Rabbi Shaya Isenberg.

Rabbi Burt Jacobson, Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde, Kohenet Sharon Jaffe, Rabbi Melissa Klein, Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Rabbi David L Kline, Rabbi Debra Kolodny, Rabbi Douglas Krantz, Rabbi Hannah Laner, Rabbi Daniel Lehrman, Rabbi Jason van Leeuwen, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Kohenet Carly "Ketzirah" Lesser, Rabbi Richard Levy, Rabbi Annie Lewis, Rabbi Andrea London.

Cantor Abbe Lyons, Rabbi Jeffrey Marker, Rabbi Nathan Martin, Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon, Maggid Melvin Metelits, Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, Kohenet Tiana Mirapal, Rabbi David Mivasair, Rabbi Lee Moore, Hazan Judith Naimark, Rabbi Laura Owens, Cantor Steven Puzarne, Rabbi Victor Reinstein, Cantor Stephen Richards, Rabbi/Kohenet Margie Klein Ronkin, Rabbi Moti Rieber, Rabbi Brant Rosen, Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom, Cantor Richard Rosenfield, Rabbi Jeff Roth, Kohenet Mei Mei Sanford, Hazan Pamela Sawyer, Rabbi Julie Saxet-Taller, Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Rabbi Chaim Schneider, Rabbi Randy Schoch, Kohenet Alumah Schuster, Rabbi Dr. Arthur Segal, Rabbi Jonathan Slater, Rabbi Eric Solomon.

Cantor Robin Sparr, Rabbi David Spitz, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein, Rabbi Naomi Steinberg, Rabbi Gershon Steinberg-Caudill, Rabbi Danielle Stillman, Rabbi Alana Suskin, Rabbi Louis Sutker, Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Rabbi Renae Toben, Rabbi Brian Walt, Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, Hazan Gregory Yaroslow, Rabbi Barbara Zacky, Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman.

OFFICER MORGAN STEWARD DAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, today we pause to recognize a remarkable young man, Morgan Steward, who has shown great tenacity and courage; and

Whereas, this very brave kindergartner has expressed his dream to be a police officer and help the citizens of his community by protecting and serving; and

Whereas, the City of Covington Police Department has seen fit to bestow upon him the title of Honorary Police Officer, so that today he is known as Officer Morgan; and

Whereas, many residents of Covington, Georgia also reside in the 4th Congressional District; and

Whereas, all the citizens of Covington and Newton County, GA are coming together to recognize and congratulate Officer Morgan; and

Whereas, this day is being celebrated as Officer Morgan visits with Covington businesses and residents using policing techniques and highlighting safety and security measures; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Officer Morgan Steward; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 17, 2013 as Officer Morgan Steward Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of December, 2013.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
BILL HARRISON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Harrison as he retires after 24 years with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority). Bill's commitment and dedication to the Water Authority deserves to be commended.

Bill earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Stanford University, and he continued his education at Theological Union in Berkeley, California where he received his Master's Degree in Systematic and Philosophical Theology. Although Bill's background did not begin in water management, he quickly learned the trade and became an asset to the Water Authority.

Prior to the formation of the Water Authority in 1992, Bill served on the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Users Association for 14 years. Currently, he serves on the board for the Central Valley Project Water Association where he represents the interests of 160 public agencies served by way of the Central Valley Project. In addition, he also serves on the board of the State and Federal Water Contractor's Agency which is comprised of water agencies dedicated to assuring a reliable and quality water supply for the costumers of their member agencies.

Since 1994, Bill has been employed as the General Manager of the Del Puerto Water District. During his tenure, he brought 10 districts together which now make up the Del Puerto Water District. He was instrumental in negotiating and implementing a long series of interim renewal service contracts, resulting in the district's 2005 Long-Term Renewal Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

As Director of the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority, Bill develops and initiates policy recommendations for Board review. He works closely with the Board to develop and achieve the organization's purposes and goals. Bill's leadership and grasp on the issues has benefitted the Water Board for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bill Harrison as he celebrates his retirement from the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority. His tireless efforts and advocacy on behalf of farmers and residents throughout the Central Valley will undoubtedly be missed.

HONORING SUPER AUTO SHOP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a well respected rural town minority owned business, Super Auto Shop.

Super Auto Shop was established in 1985 in Bolton, Mississippi by Mr. Terry Williams. Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Williams has always maintained an interest in auto body work from a very young age.

In 1970, he moved to Chicago, Illinois and in 1979, he moved to Gary, Indiana, where he worked for Inland Steele Company for approximately 13 years. While working at Inland Steele, Mr. Williams performed auto body work as a hobby. In 1985, Mr. Williams married his wife Joanna and they both moved back to her hometown of Bolton. After acquiring a mechanic shop previously owned by Mr. Mitchell Reese, Mr. Williams took the opportunity to establish an auto body work shop.

Upon its establishment, Mr. Williams performed all auto body work and two other individuals performed auto mechanical services. Over time, his business began to grow and all of Mr. Williams' sons became an integral part of his now auto body and mechanic shop. Because of the need to expand and the coincidental availability of a much larger auto shop, Mr. Williams moved his shop in 2005. With the expansion of his business, Mr. Williams has a wide variety of clientele, both near and far. His services to the Bolton community have been invaluable over the past 28 years. Currently, he employs an auto body painter and a mechanic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Terry Williams and Super Auto Shop for its remarkable contribution and undying commitment to provide reliable auto body and mechanic work to the citizens of Bolton and neighboring rural communities.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANN M. WILLIAMS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ann M. Williams, Founder and Artistic Director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Mrs. Williams will retire this May after 38 years of dedication to the performing arts community in Dallas.

Mrs. Williams has a highly decorated career in the arts. She holds a Master of Arts degree and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University and was inducted into the Texas Women's hall of fame in 2002. Among her various accolades, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC as a part of the Masters of African-American Choreography series in 2005.

Mrs. Williams had the vision to create a diverse and community-oriented dance institution with a strong emphasis toward the African-American community. Over several decades, Mrs. Williams built the Dallas Black Dance Theatre from the ground up, growing it to become one of the most well-known Dallas-based nonprofits. It has garnered recognition from the City of Dallas, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas and is host to a multi-ethnic troupe of dancers who specialize in contemporary modern dance. Since its founding in 1976, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has brought cultural and artistic value to millions of people throughout 30 states and 14 different countries such as Great Britain, Japan, and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, under Mrs. Williams' direction, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has become an invaluable addition to the Dallas arts community. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre has contributed greatly to the revitalization of downtown Dallas by bringing added educational and artistic capital to the area. I would like to recognize Mrs. Williams for her contributions and I join my constituents in wishing her a fruitful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING ERNEST BEDROSIAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian, who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernest was a leading raisin grower and packer in California's San Joaquin Valley and played an instrumental role in the development of the raisin industry in the United States and abroad.

Ernest was born in Parlier, California and attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated with high honors receiving a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Upon graduation in 1955, Ernest joined the United States Army and was a food specialist sta-

tioned in New York. In 1958 Ernest moved back to the San Joaquin Valley and started working on his family's raisin and wine vineyard. Shortly after, he began serving on various raisin boards and committees. Ernest established the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA) in 1966 and served as the first acting President. The efforts of the RBA organized raisin growers, stabilized the national raisin market, and expanded domestic and international demand for raisins.

Ernest and his brothers opened the National Raisin Company in 1969 and developed the "Champion" brand for raisins and other dried fruits. Today the Champion brand is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world and the National Raisin Company provides hundreds of jobs to Central Valley residents.

Ernest served as an elder at his Church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, and was also a member of the church's various building committees. Ernest will be remembered as not only a great businessman, but also as a devoted family man with a strong faith and an eagerness to help his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian.

HONORING TOUGALOO COLLEGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Tougaloo College. Tougaloo College is one of the United States' premier historically black college and universities. The American Missionary Association (AMA) founded Tougaloo in 1869. Early in that year the AMA had commissioned Allen P. Huggins, a former Union officer, to look for land for a normal-agricultural school. He found the former plantation of John Boddie about seven miles north of Jackson, Mississippi and negotiated to buy it from its owner, George McKee, for \$10,500. The money for the plantation was provided by the Freedman's Bureau.

In 1871 the Mississippi State Legislature granted the school a charter with the name "Tougaloo University." In 1892 the state discontinued funding but the Normal Department was recognized as a teacher training school. College credit first became available in 1897, but qualifying for accreditation by the Southern Association took a number of years to achieve. Improvements in the library, academic degrees for teachers, and endowments led to state accreditation in the 1930s. With this, graduates who had taken 18 semester hours of education courses were granted a lifelong professional teaching license. Tougaloo had again undergone a name change in 1916 to Tougaloo College.

In 1954 Tougaloo College merged with the Southern Christian Institute (SCI) in Edwards, Mississippi, because the two schools had similar missions and goals. The new school was called the Tougaloo Southern Christian College, but in 1962 was once again renamed Tougaloo College. Tougaloo was very active

in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and maintains a reputation for strong social commitment.

Today Tougaloo, with approximately 1,000 students, is a private, coeducational, four-year, liberal arts school. It has a selective admission rate, but is committed to providing those from challenging circumstances with a good education. The student population is primarily African American, but all are welcome to apply. Nearly 40 percent of the practicing African American physicians and dentists in the state of Mississippi are Tougaloo graduates, and 35 percent of all current Mississippi educators are. More than 66 percent of Tougaloo graduates enroll in graduate or Ph.D. programs immediately after graduating. Tougaloo has won national respect for its high academic standards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tougaloo College for their dedication to serving.

MRS. ANNIE LAURA WORD DAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Collierville, Tennessee on December 30, 1923; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Laura Word was born Annie Laura Walker to Mr. Albert and Mrs. Blanche Walker, she was educated in the local school system as a child, when she became a young lady, she married Mr. Henry C. Word on May 16, 1942 and through their union was blessed with three children, eighteen grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Word on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 30, 2013 as Mrs. Annie Laura Word Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of December, 2013.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
OF MICHAEL WILLIAM PEARSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to Michael William Pearson, a Navy veteran and small business owner from Southern California.

Mike was a true gentleman, and he will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him. He will be remembered for his generosity, patriotism, and love of life.

Mike was born on August 6, 1939 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. God called him home on December 26, 2013.

Mike proudly served in the United States Navy as a medical corpsman. He served in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and was honorably discharged in 1960 with the rank of Petty Officer, 3rd Class.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Mike began his career as a driller in 1960. He traveled the United States to drill in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and other locations.

Mike was proud to have participated in the construction of the Rayburn House Office Building in the early 1960s.

Mike returned to California in 1970 to start his own drilling company, Pearson Drilling. Mike was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and neighbor.

I first met Mike when he was my neighbor in Diamond Bar, California.

We were both in the residential construction field, so we crossed paths many times over the years outside of our neighborhood.

Mike became the stepfather of my Senior Policy Director, Lesli McCollum Gooch, in 2006.

I can tell you first hand what a blessing Mike was for Lesli's mother, Loretta Steven-son, and for their family.

Mike will be sorely missed, but I know his legacy will live on in his family, which includes two children, three stepchildren, and eight grandchildren.

Mike was caring and active in his community, and he shared his passion for the United States, founded in the ideals of liberty and free enterprise, with his family and friends.

Our community was strengthened by his life of service, and our country has been immensely bettered by his patriotism, optimism, and goodness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues in the House to join me in remembering Michael William Pearson, and to honor him for his service to our country and community. We are grateful for the legacy he has left for our nation.

REDUCING EXCESSIVE DEADLINE
OBLIGATIONS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2279) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act relating to review of regulations under such Act and to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 relating to financial responsibility for classes of facilities:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2279, which would needlessly complicate efforts to clean up our most dangerous Superfund sites by letting polluters off the hook for cleanup costs and creating conflict and confusion between state and federal law.

One in four Americans lives within three miles of a hazardous waste site, frequently in vulnerable communities. These sites endanger human health, increasing risk for cancer, birth defects, acute poisoning, and injury from fire or explosion. They are also blights in communities—vacant lots and underutilized land that impede economic development.

Our nations' Superfund law, passed in 1980, gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to compel polluters to pay to repair the damage they caused, either by cleaning up themselves or by reimbursing the federal government for its cleanup efforts. The cleanup process requires assessing and ranking sites to prioritize the most hazardous areas, and working with states and private parties to remediate the land.

Today's bill would undermine the requirement that high-polluting industries obtain insurance or post bonds to ensure that areas would be cleaned up if they become Superfund sites, reducing the incentive to limit contamination and sticking taxpayers with the bill if cleanup is necessary. It would prohibit the EPA from enforcing financial responsibility requirements in any state that sets its own rules, even if those rules are inadequate to protect taxpayers. It also confuses federal and state responsibilities on cleanup sites, subjecting federal employees to fines or imprisonment if they fail to comply with state orders even when they conflict with federal law. This confusion will only lead to increased litigation, delay, and wasted resources.

Superfund sites are dangerous threats to public health and economic progress in our most vulnerable communities, and we should be working to make the cleanup process as seamless and efficient as possible. This legislation would hinder that effort, and I urge a no vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST
ARMEN BEDROSIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernie had a significant role in the raisin industry, and his advocacy on behalf of farmers throughout California will undoubtedly be missed.

Ernie grew up in Parlier, California with his two brothers; Krikor and Kenneth, and his sister, Clara. His parents, Murad and Elizabeth, were first generation immigrants who survived the Armenian Genocide. Growing up in an immigrant family with strong parents, Ernie quickly developed great values and principles.

In 1955, Ernie graduated from Fresno State College with a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Army and became a food specialist. A year into his service, Ernie married the love of his life, Carlotta Ketchian. They raised two children; Bryan and Tammy.

In 1958, Ernie completed his time with the Army and went back to work on his family farm. Ernie and his brothers began a grape harvesting business, and in his spare time, Ernie served on various raisin boards and met stakeholders who farmed throughout the Valley. In 1966, he formed the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA). Ernie served as the first president of the RBA and guided the association through its early years. Today, the RBA is the most successful and largest raisin bargaining association in the country.

While Ernie was establishing the RBA, he and his brothers were also expanding their farming operation. In 1967, they decided to go into the raisin packing business and opened National Raisin Company (NRC). The Bedrosian brothers and their partner Harry Rustigian developed the "Champion" brand. Ernie served as the president and was responsible for sales and daily operations. The NRC had a strong beginning and decades later, it still continues to prosper. It is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world.

It is obvious that Ernie was an extremely successful businessman, but he never took full responsibility for his accomplishments. He attributed his success to Carlotta and his sister in-laws; Katherine and Jane, who served as a support system to the Bedrosian brothers while they were forming their business. Ernie loved the raisin industry, but family always came first. He was a loving and devoted husband and a supportive father. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren; Corney, Tyler, Armen, and Lillian.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on in the Central Valley.

HONORING CITY OF HOPE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, U.S. Representatives, JUDY CHU and ADAM SCHIFF, to congratulate the City of Hope on the 100th anniversary of their first patient served and to thank Dr. Michael Friedman for his 10 years as Chief Executive Officer.

City of Hope started from humble beginnings in the San Gabriel Valley. Founded by a group of volunteers to treat tuberculosis patients in two large army tents on a 10-acre lot in Duarte, California in 1913, City of Hope has since grown to become a world-class health care facility that includes more than 100 buildings and is still growing.

Today, City of Hope is a leader in medical discovery. As one of 41 comprehensive cancer research centers in the United States, City

of Hope has been credited with developing over 200 patents with 3 of the top-selling cancer drugs on the market being based on discoveries from their laboratories. This institution is also a pioneer in the field of bone marrow transplantation with over 11,000 bone-marrow transplants performed since the institution's creation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Friedman as Chief Executive Officer, City of Hope has entrenched itself as a scientific and medical institution of national renown. Throughout his 10 years as CEO, Dr. Friedman has maintained and expanded one of the largest and most successful cancer research and treatment institutions in the country. On Saturday, January 11th I have the honor of attending a gala on the 100th anniversary of City of Hope's first patient to recognize Dr. Friedman, his successor Ronald W. Stone, and Chairman of City of Hope's Board of Directors Norm Payson.

Mr. Speaker, Representatives CHU, SCHIFF and I ask all Members to join us in celebrating the centennial anniversary of City Hope's first patient and recognizing Dr. Michael Friedman for his service.

HONORING ALBERT "AL" LITTLE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an innovator of the community, Mr. Albert "Al" Little and Al's Flower Shop.

Albert, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, decided to return to Yazoo County, MS after living in Chicago for 40 years, where he worked in real estate. Upon retirement Al decided that Chicago was too cold and decided to make a change.

After returning to Yazoo City in 1995, Al worked with Mary Anderson, who handled landscaping for the city. Mr. Little credits Mary for teaching him about plants and flowers. Al is the owner of Al's Flower Shop located on Broadway in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Inside the shop, the static clears and the antique radio picks up some lively tune from the 1930s. "This business is really just a fun hobby to me. I love doing it, and that's all there is to tell," says Al Little.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Albert "Al" Little for giving back to the community in which he was born.

TRIBUTE TO GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students at Cherry Creek School District's Grandview High School for their victory in the Classroom Law Project's We The People competition on December 16, 2013. Grandview will now move on to Washington, DC, where they will represent the great State of Colorado in the national contest.

The knowledge of democracy and the Constitution demonstrated by these young men and women is inspiring. It always encourages me when younger generations take an interest in government and I am privileged to represent these bright young students in the House of Representatives.

This team has studied hard and I look forward to seeing them compete for our home state. I am certain they will represent Colorado well in the national competition and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grayson Abele, Sofia Carrillo, William Coleman, Cierra Cowden, Samuel Ehrhard, Jacob Fogleman, Selamawit Gashaw, Renee Hansen, Tae Woo Kim, Emily Neff, Khoa Nguyen, Riley Purnell, Margeaux Reed, Paul Salame, Jordan Shank, John-Rudolph Smith, Zachary Talpas, Ande Troutman, and Jonathan Woronoff for their achievement at the Colorado State We The People competition and to wish them the best of luck at the national level.

HONORING JACKSON-HINDS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Central Mississippi Civic Improvement Association, Inc. (CMCIA), d/b/a Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. It was incorporated in October 1970 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization to engage in planning and development of comprehensive health services for residents of poor, largely non-white, communities in Jackson, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center (JHCHC) is the largest community health center in Mississippi. Since its inception, JHCHC has grown from a "one-bus-and-Sunday school-classroom" operation to become a multi-site, multi-disciplinary provider of health services in Hinds, Warren, and Copiah counties. Jackson-Hinds is one of only two federally qualified health centers (FQHC) in the state operating a clinic for the homeless and the only FQHC operating a HUD housing complex for low-income elderly and disabled residents.

A seventeen-member Board of Directors governs JHCHC. Its members represent civic and religious organizations, homeless persons, homemakers and residents of medically underserved communities that utilize center services and programs. Throughout its thirty-two year history, the Board of Directors, management and staff of JHCHC have delivered services consistent with its mission statement: To provide low cost, quality, family-based health care and social services to people who may not otherwise have access to them.

A \$16 million per year operation, JHCHC has an annual economic impact of approximately \$32 million on the community. It employs over 180 health professionals throughout its three county service area, purchases goods and services from many local vendors and suppliers and serves as a training site for undergraduate and graduate students in various health care disciplines. Furthermore, JHCHC saves community resources by providing pa-

tients with more effective, cost-efficient care and reducing inappropriate use of local emergency rooms.

As the largest provider of primary health care services to the poor, uninsured and underserved population in central Mississippi, the prime objective of JHCHC is to eliminate disparities in health care access for these groups, which often fall between the gaps of private insurance and personal income.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center for their dedication to serving.

HONORING DAVID R. WHITMER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Whitmer upon his retirement as Agriculture Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures for Napa County. I thank Mr. Whitmer for his thirty-three years of dedicated service to the people of Napa County, during which time his support for agriculture in Napa Valley and the State of California is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

Mr. Whitmer was born and raised in Napa Valley. He attended Napa Valley College before transferring to California State University, Chico, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He returned to Napa, where he served the county for thirty-three years, including five four-year terms as Agriculture Commissioner.

As Agriculture Commissioner, Mr. Whitmer worked to protect local crops from invasive species, including the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, a major carrier of Pierce's disease. When the European Grapevine Moth was discovered in Napa County in 2009, Mr. Whitmer worked with state, federal and international partners to detect, treat and quarantine the threat. For his efforts, he was awarded the first-ever "Special Achievement-Manager Award" from the California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA). During his years of service, Mr. Whitmer took on a leadership role with CACASA, where he served as both President and as Chair of the Pesticide Regulatory Affairs Committee and the Legislation Committee. Now that he has retired, Mr. Whitmer plans to work with Circles USA, a national campaign to combat poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Whitmer for his invaluable service to the County of Napa. David Whitmer's unyielding dedication to protecting and promoting agriculture in Napa Valley is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

HONORING CHESTER H. STANFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a challenge-oriented

young man who understands that it takes tenacity and self reliance to reach the highest success, Mr. Chester H. Stanford.

Chester H. Stanford was born November 26, 1995 in Chicago, IL to proud parents Travis and Nora Stanford. He attended St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Chicago, IL for two years in kindergarten and first grade. It is this institution that he credits for giving him an advanced perspective of what knowledge is and what can be done to obtain it.

In September 2003 Chester and his mother relocated to Vicksburg, MS to care for his grandmother. Chester believes the responsibility of caring for his grandmother in the absence of his mother is what taught him to care for others, which in turn made him want to do all he can to help the next person.

Chester is a member of the Vicksburg High School JROTC, which he credits for molding his character. Chester has climbed the ranks in JROTC. Starting his freshman year, he went from being a Cadet Private to Cadet Corporal his sophomore year; he progressed from Cadet Corporal to Cadet Second Lieutenant and gained the position of the Battalion Training Officer.

Currently, during his junior year, he progressed from Cadet Second Lieutenant to Cadet Captain. Through this program he has learned what service truly is. He has participated in and led several community service events at nursing homes, community events, and elementary schools. He has also participated in charity events for the local Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Center through the Culinary Arts Program, through which he, along with 20 other students, prepared thousands of hot meals that were sold to gain money for the organization.

Chester credits his mother for being the backbone of the family and directing his path. His motto is, "that all things can be done through the love and service of your fellow man."

Chester is a member of Mt. Carmel M. B. Church where he has served as secretary of the Sunday School Department since 2008 and in 2011 became a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Chester H. Stanford for his hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve through adversity.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILVERDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we are proud to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Silverdale Volunteer Fire Co. and commend the early founders and today's volunteers for contributing to the safety and protection of their neighbors from one generation to the next. The Silverdale Volunteer Fire Co. has prevailed as a well-trained, dedicated company of first responders. In November 1914, a fire in a local bakery was the impetus for the formation of the first volunteer fire company in the small borough of Silverdale, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The new company's

first fire call came on Aug. 8, 1915—a result of a lightning strike at a farmer's barn. Since then, many Silverdale residents demonstrated their dedication through involvement with the company, helping it grow along with their thriving community. Heartiest congratulations to the officers and members of the Silverdale Volunteer Fire Co., who continue to safeguard the community around the clock, reflecting a century of public service at its best.

HONORING JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Jackson State University, that is located in Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson State University was founded in 1877, becoming a college in 1899, and is a historically black institution. It was granted university status in 1974. The University now awards Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees. It is a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Intensive institution.

Jackson State University is known as "Mississippi's Urban University." It operates the Mississippi Urban Research Center, which "develops and offers instructional programs, forums, conferences and workshops on urban life." Although this is not the mission statement of the University, the University's degree programs are largely in areas which have some bearing on urban life, such as public health, business, education, engineering, and public administration. Some of the liberal arts are represented, but largely the traditional ones such as English, Chemistry, Political Science and Mathematics.

Jackson State was founded in 1877 as Natchez Seminary by the American Baptist Home Society. The State of Mississippi gained control of the college in 1940 in order to train teachers. The University's current name was adopted in 1979.

The University is composed of ten different colleges and divisions: the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Business; the College of Public Service; the College of Science, Engineering, and Technical Arts; the College of Liberal Arts; the College of Lifelong Learning; and the Divisions of Graduate Studies, International Studies, and Undergraduate Studies.

There are seven undergraduate schools within the Colleges. Bachelor's Degrees are awarded in the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Science and Technology and Social Work. Graduate degrees are awarded in Allied Health, Business, Education, eleven Liberal Arts areas (including Public Policy and Administration and Urban and Regional Planning), Science and Technology, and Social Work. The school awards Doctoral Degrees in nine areas. The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree is also awarded. Jackson State houses the College of Business, Education and Human Development, Liberal Arts, Lifelong Learning, Public Service, and Science, Engineering and Technology. Also available are the Divisions of International Studies, Library and Information Resources, and Undergraduate Studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson State University for their dedication to serving.

IN MEMORIAM: GENERAL BEN GARRIDO BLAZ

HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands extend their condolences to the people of Guam on the passing of their former Delegate to Congress, General Ben Garrido Blaz.

Especially, we extend our sympathies to his sons, Mike and Tom, and to all of General Blaz's family for their great loss.

Ben Blaz was a trailblazer for all the Chamorros of the Mariana Islands, the first of us ever to rise to the rank of General in the U.S. Armed Forces.

And he served here from the 99th to the 102nd Congresses, often looking out for the interests of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, whom I represent, as well as for his own constituency in Guam.

Beyond those professional accomplishments, Ben Blaz was a warm and caring man.

He was knowledgeable about policy, committed to finding solutions, and in his passing, the Marianas have lost an important leader.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands share the sadness of our friends and neighbors in Guam.

And I thank Ms. BORDALLO for bringing us together here this afternoon to salute General Ben Garrido Blaz.

May he rest in peace.

SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES: COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, January 11, is Human Trafficking Awareness Day—a day on which we remember that more than 20 million human beings toil and suffer as slaves across the globe. A day to rededicate ourselves to creating an environment of zero tolerance for human trafficking in all its forms.

When I first introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 1998, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition. People both inside of government and out thought the bold new strategy that included sheltering, asylum and other protections for the victims, long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers, and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards, was merely a solution in search of a problem.

For most people at that time, the term trafficking applied almost exclusively to illicit drugs or weapons. Reports of vulnerable persons—especially women and children—being reduced to commodities for sale were often met with surprise, incredulity or indifference. It

took two years to overcome opponents and muster the votes for passage.

Now, after the enactment of my Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (P.L. 106–386), and subsequent reauthorizations of the original landmark law, we see strong efforts to fight trafficking at both the federal and state level.

This year New Jersey ranked first in the country—with one other state—for enacting aggressive anti-human trafficking laws—i.e. we are leading the nation both on helping the trafficking victims, who are mostly women and children, and on cracking down on the thugs who coerce them into this modern day slavery.

Being first in the nation is a distinction of which New Jersey can be proud especially as we apply our strong anti-trafficking laws for Super Bowl XLVIII.

Along with welcoming enthusiastic fans, New Jersey is also preparing for an influx of traffickers who will bring with them trafficking victims in an attempt to cash in on the Super Bowl crowds.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that more than 10,000 prostituted women and girls were moved to Miami for the Super Bowl in 2010.

According to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, the Super Bowl can be described as “the single largest human trafficking incident in the United States.” A 2011 study conducted by Traffick911 with law enforcement agencies found that online escort ads increased dramatically in Dallas from 135 in mid-January to 367 as the Super Bowl approached. One hundred thirty three arrests were made for underage prostitution (a key indicator for trafficking) in Dallas during the Super Bowl 2011.

Capt. Doug Cain, Louisiana State Police spokesman, said after the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, “Any time you have a large influx of tourists in town and they’re spending a lot of money, there’s a criminal element that moves in to take advantage of that.”

In light of this history, New Jersey’s location on the I–95 corridor, and easy access to bus stations, trains and airports, the state can expect to be a target for an influx of prostituted women and girls at Super Bowl XLVIII. Still, if New Jersey properly prepares and trains—promoting “situational awareness”—it can undercut traffickers and help save their victims.

For several years now, I have pushed efforts to enhance training not only for law enforcement but for tourism personnel such as hospitality industry workers and transportation operators—bus drivers and station operators, train conductors, taxi drivers, trucking associations, and airline industry personnel.

In 2010, I chaired a conference—focused on the airline industry—bringing together the rel-

evant U.S. agencies, such as Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), various U.S. airlines, and nongovernmental organizations—to train commercial carrier employees in the identification of trafficking victims.

Best estimates show that every year 600,000 to 800,000 trafficking victims are moved across international borders. Millions more victims are moved within national borders. Speakers at my conference explained how flight attendants were the “first line of defense” in the fight against human trafficking.

The federal government has responded with the Blue Lightning Initiative—a voluntary training program in which airlines can collaborate with the Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security and the CBP. They work together to help train flight crews and airline personnel about common signs of human trafficking and how they can safely report suspected human trafficking cases.

With minimal modifications, the training is easily adaptable to professionals in other transportation industries as well as workers in the hotel industry.

The New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force, which was originally launched and funded through a program created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and its reauthorizations, is the key anti-trafficking coordinating agency for New Jersey. In anticipation of the Super Bowl, the Task Force has taken a hands-on approach expanding the reach of New Jersey’s anti-human trafficking law enforcement unit as well as victim services.

They have also increased print and electronic public service announcements and training programs and symposiums for law enforcement officials, health care workers, lawyers, transportation workers and hoteliers.

The New Jersey Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness has also stepped up to combat trafficking at the Super Bowl, distributing flyers to EMS, fire department, law enforcement, and other emergency care professions so that these front line professionals will know when to be concerned that someone is a trafficking victims and how to respond appropriately.

By the end of January, New Jersey is expected to have thousands of law enforcement personnel and civilians with the goal of not only ramping up New Jersey’s anti-trafficking efforts for the Super Bowl, but using the event to fully institutionalize reforms going forward—so that more women and children will be protected in the future.

This concept has proven straightforward, effective—and it is catching on. In December, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is made up of 57

countries from Europe and North America, endorsed my plan to make anti-trafficking training for airline employees, other public and commercial carriers, as well as hotel workers a primary goal in the international strategy to combat human trafficking. In an earlier session, the OSCE parliamentary assembly adopted my resolution to implement such trainings in each member country.

Any country that competes to host the next major sporting event must be fully aware of the human trafficking vulnerabilities associated with such events and the best practices for protecting and rescuing the victims. The Super Bowl—and every other major sporting event worldwide—should not have a dark side of human trafficking, plain and simple.

This year, let us mark Human Trafficking Awareness Day by remembering that trafficking awareness training for individuals likely to interact with trafficking victims in their daily jobs—and being aware ourselves—can create an environment of zero tolerance for human trafficking. Awareness can and will save lives.

HONORING CANDACE WINDOM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self motivated leader and innovator of the community, Ms. Candace Windom and Miyori’s Massage.

Born and raised in Rolling Fork, Candace graduated from South Delta High School and completed her studies in massage therapy at Antonelli College in July 2012. She earned her license as a state board certified therapist shortly after.

In late January 2013 Candace was hired as the only full-time massage therapist at Harlow’s Casino in Greenville, Mississippi. At the age of 26, Candace opened the doors to Miyori’s Massage at 133 Walnut Street in July 2013.

Miyori’s Massage offers a wide variety of massage techniques. “This is my hometown,” Windom said, “I want to give back to my community and bring something here we’ve never really had.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Candace Windom for giving back to the community in which she was born and reared.