

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING COLONEL JASON Q. BOHM FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE MARINE LIAISON OFFICE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Colonel Jason Q. Bohm for the diligent and professional support he provided during his tenure as Director, Marine Corps Liaison Office to the United States House of Representatives. My staff and I have been fortunate to work with Jason over the last two years on various projects, but I want to highlight two specific issues.

Soon after Jason started in the liaison office in July 2011, he approached my office with ideas to improve the visibility of the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive on the Hill. For the last two Christmases, we have been fortunate to have the conclusion of the drive end in my office and coincide with the annual U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and reception. This has allowed the House community of Members, staff, and guests to interact with local military families and to be active participants in the spirit of generosity and giving during the Christmas season.

In addition, Jason's team was instrumental in the successful Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for the Montford Point Marines. The ceremony was a moving and fitting tribute to the honor, perseverance, and patriotism of the Marines who defied prejudice, hardship, and inequality to serve their country, and it was a timely and important reminder for all Americans that our freedom and values depend on those who are still answering the call to serve in dangerous places around the world, far from their families and loved ones.

I was personally able to get to know Jason during my January 2012 economic mission to Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. The objectives of our delegation's visits to these nations were achieved successfully in part because of Jason's excellent work. I wish him and his lovely wife, Sonja, and their children, Ashley, Ethan, and Emily, the very best as Jason prepares to take command out in California. *Semper Fi*, Jason.

REPEAL OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 45—To Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the

Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. This legislation would completely repeal the Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law in 2010 and was declared constitutionally sound by the U.S. Supreme Court last year. The Affordable Care Act extends healthcare coverage to all Americans regardless of their gender, health condition or ability to pay.

It is a disgrace that this country, which is the wealthiest country in the world, denies universal healthcare coverage to its citizens. Repealing the Affordable Care Act will allow this disgrace to continue.

The Affordable Care Act is a good law. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Americans now have access to a wide variety of free preventive services; insurers can no longer drop women from coverage when they become pregnant; Medicare is stronger due to some of the cost savings and other provisions in the act; Seniors are paying less for prescription drugs; Americans no longer face lifetime limits on care; and families are receiving rebates from insurance companies, when they unfairly inflate their costs.

In fact, thousands of people in my district, the 9th Congressional District of Brooklyn, New York, are already benefiting from the Affordable Care Act. An analysis done in March of 2012 showed that the health care reform law had already:

Provided 390 small businesses in my district with tax credits to help maintain or expand health care coverage for their employees;

Provided 5,100 young adults in my district with access to health insurance coverage under their parents' insurance plan;

Provided Medicare preventive services, at no costs to the patient, for 46,000 seniors in the district;

And, provided \$2.5 million in public health grants for community health centers, hospitals, doctors, and other healthcare providers in the district to improve the community's health.

I have always believed that healthcare is a fundamental right, not a privilege. And this is why I vehemently oppose H.R. 45—To Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is wrong, and it is a step backwards for our country.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute.

Mr. Speaker, just last month, the United States Senate failed to move forward on legislation supported by 90 percent of Americans to require a background check for the sale of any firearm.

But while the Senate may have missed its opportunity, those of us committed to gun violence prevention are not giving up.

Since the horrific massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, more than 4,100 American men, women and children have lost their lives in gun-related incidents.

These tragedies have grown all too common in America—with the victims eulogized in our newspapers, their families left to feel unbearable grief, and yet time after time Washington has failed to act on their behalf.

But as President Obama has said, "This time it must be different." The American people want commonsense gun violence prevention laws, and it's now up to those of us in Congress to find the political courage to make the will of the people the law of the land.

We owe it to the families of Newtown and gun violence victims across our country to finally come together, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans committed to ensuring that we can live in a society free from gun violence.

CONGRATULATING THE BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PITTSBURGH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh (BAMP) on the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding.

A group of Pittsburgh-area home builders founded BAMP in 1938 to "protect and promote the interests of general contractors engaged in the construction industry." The organization continues to promote home ownership and the improvement of the residential building industry in Western Pennsylvania. Today, BAMP is nationally recognized for its work in advocacy, education, and community service.

BAMP represents nearly six hundred members today, including home builders, remodelers, trade contractors, suppliers, and licensed professionals. These small businesses support thousands of well-paying jobs for workers across Western Pennsylvania.

BAMP members are dedicated to and active in their communities. They have organized countless service projects and lent expertise, products, and services to build and improve homes for neighbors in need. BAMP has also sponsored National Association of Home Builders student chapters in eight local secondary-level career training centers to help young people prepare to enter the workforce.

Many of today's members are second-, third-, and even fourth-generation home builders and tradesmen. They are dedicated to their trade and take great pride in the work they do for customers in the same neighborhoods where they live and work.

Mr. Speaker, fellow members, please join me in congratulating the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh, an important part of

• 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.

our community and one of the oldest and most respected home builder associations in the nation, on the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR OLIVIA S.
WARNER FOR SERVICE TO OUR
NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Sergeant Major Olivia S. Warner, United States Army. Sergeant Major Warner left behind her hometown of Chicago, Illinois as an energetic young patriot and entered the Armed Forces in October of 1984. Olivia has provided unsurpassed and remarkable professionalism and exponential value to her beloved Nation ever since; we are all humbled by her service and devotion.

Sergeant Major Warner began her career in 1984 as a paralegal specialist stationed in Germany. Her relentless work ethic and commitment to excellence has driven and led her to a position as a Drill Sergeants Instructor where her exemplary conduct could be used to mentor and train the future warriors of the United States Army for generations to come.

As Olivia progressed throughout her illustrious and decorated career, she has excelled in a plethora of positions requiring great depth and responsibility; this has included expertly advising and managing the careers of subordinate Soldiers as part of the Army Human Resource Command, as well as advising the Staff Judge Advocate for the United Nations; United States Forces Korea, and the historic 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Olivia has demonstrated a natural ability to work efficiently and effectively, all while articulately directing others through periods of substantial uncertainty and duress in the defense of our Nation; especially during the last 11 years of conflict—the hallmarks of a true leader. As a result of her exemplary efforts and personal attributes, Sergeant Major Olivia S. Warner was hand selected by the 14th Sergeant Major of the Army, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, to serve as his Congressional Legislative Assistant to both the United States House of Representatives and Senate. Sergeant Major Warner is the first Sergeant Major in the history of the Army to serve in this role and capacity.

Staying true to form, Sergeant Major Warner has done an incredible job representing the United States Army at the strategic level to Members of Congress, senior executives in business and government, and their professional staffs. As all good things surely come to an end, the time has come for Sergeant Major Warner to move on from Capitol Hill, as she has been selected to serve in the office of the Inspector General at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. As she departs Washington, DC she will be surrounded by her husband, Army Sergeant Major (Retired) Keithly Warner, and her two wonderful children Dominique and Keith. Olivia will bring to her new post an unparalleled talent and capability supported by a loving and balanced family—a shining example of

how the true strength of our Nation is built upon by the core professionalism of our Soldiers and their families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPEFLYER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to celebrate the upcoming launch of the new CapeFlyer train route between Boston and Cape Cod.

The CapeFlyer train will make its first scheduled trip between Boston's South Station and Cape Cod on May 24, 2013. Created under a partnership between the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), the CapeFlyer will be the first scheduled passenger rail service to reach the Cape since 1996, as well as the first to connect Cape Cod to Boston since the last train departed Boston's South Station at 5:34 p.m. on June 30, 1959. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day this summer, the train will run between Boston and the Cape every weekend, and will offer amenities to its passengers such as free Wi-Fi service, concessions, and bicycle storage. Customers will have their choice of disembarking at either the historic Buzzards Bay Train Station or Hyannis Transportation Center, with further options to connect to numerous other destinations throughout the Cape.

The introduction of the CapeFlyer train will enable even more Massachusetts residents and visitors to make the most of all that Cape Cod has to offer, from its idyllic beaches and outdoor activities to its fine dining and shopping centers. The availability of rail service as an alternate mode of transportation will allow summer tourism on Cape Cod to remain high while reducing traffic congestion, making travel throughout the Cape easier and lowering local carbon emissions. The benefits that the CapeFlyer will bring to the region are numerous and diverse, and I have no doubt that it will prove to be a popular method of reaching the Cape.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to recognize the CapeFlyer rail service upon its initial trip between Boston and Cape Cod, and I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming this new rail line to the Massachusetts region.

CONGRATULATING MUIR OMNI
GRAPHICS ON 50 YEARS OF BUSI-
NESS IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a business in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Muir Omni Graphics started as a small family-owned silkscreen printing business. Today, they provide decals and logos for some of America's most well-known corporations, including Caterpillar, Verizon, AT&T, and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Don Muir had a vision in 1963 when he started Muir Omni Graphics. He saw a trend developing, with companies moving from hand-lettered markings to printed decals on their trucks and machinery. His first customers were Caterpillar Tractor Co., Montgomery Ward, a garbage disposal company, and Grim Reapers Motorcycle Club. By 1971, Muir was printing over one million decals and emblems every year and was the largest producer between Chicago and St. Louis.

The late 1970s and early 1980s were a difficult time for many businesses, and for the City of Peoria. While many businesses closed their doors and people moved out of Peoria, giving rise to the phrase, "Will the last one to leave Peoria please turn out the lights," Muir developed new business models to continue serving their clients. They not only weathered the economic downturn, but they thrived and were there in Peoria to welcome everyone back when prosperity returned.

Today, the great strength of Muir is that it is still run as a family business, and that family attitude extends beyond the Muirs themselves to their 42 employees. Muir is currently in the process of transitioning the business to employee ownership, demonstrating the great trust and confidence they have in their employees' abilities and knowledge.

I am honored today to be able to recognize this company for their half-century of service in Central Illinois. While they provide superior products and customer service to their clients, the story of Muir in a larger sense is a profoundly American story. The idea that a family in Peoria, Illinois can start a business that will then grow to become a part of the community and a profitable enterprise with global reach is the very essence of the American Dream.

Muir is not only a business presence in Peoria, however. Andrew Muir, the president of the company, has given back to his community in a variety of ways. As a member of the Peoria Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, Andrew works to improve and enhance public education in Peoria through classroom grants. These grants have been used to purchase new technology, fund after-school art programs, and institute a drum program for a primary school, among other things.

Under Andrew's leadership, Muir Omni Graphics sponsored the West Peoria Jamboree Family Fun Run, a community event that raises donations for the West Peoria Habitat for Humanity, West Peoria Volunteer Fire Department, Lion's Club and other organizations. Muir also donates wooden screen frames and kid-safe scrap products to local community art programs, allowing teachers to lead activities that encourage and stimulate creativity among their students. The company was awarded the Peoria County Recycling and Waste Reduction Award for their efforts to constructively reuse scraps and recycle unusable byproducts.

These examples of the community service Muir and its employees provide to Peoria are just the tip of the iceberg, but they are demonstrative of the philosophy of giving back that this extraordinary company exhibits.

I congratulate the team at Muir Omni Graphics for their sustained dedication to sound business practices and quality work. I am confident that the next 50 years will see more exciting developments from Muir and that they will continue to grow and thrive in Central Illinois. Businesses like Muir are what make

Central Illinois an attractive place to live and work, and I wish them all the best as they move forward.

ARMY SERGEANT TIMOTHY L.
HAYSLETT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Army Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett who passed away on November 15, 2003, while serving with the United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Hayslett was born on May 17, 1977, to Guy and Mary Hayslett. After graduating from Big Spring High School in Newville, Pennsylvania, he enlisted and was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany. A husband and father of two daughters, Sergeant Hayslett planned to dedicate his career to the military. Prior to his passing, he had already spent eight years serving in the Army and had recently re-enlisted.

Sergeant Hayslett deployed to Iraq in May 2003. On November 15, he was patrolling the city of Baghdad when a grenade was thrown into his Humvee. Sergeant Hayslett and two other soldiers inside the vehicle were injured from the blast of the IED. Ultimately, Sergeant Hayslett perished from the wounds sustained in this attack. He had been scheduled to return to Germany in December.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who serve in our Nation's armed forces provide an invaluable service to sustain our country's freedom. Therefore, for his dedicated service and sacrifice to protect our great Nation, I commend Army Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett.

HONORING "DO THE WRITE THING
CHALLENGE" PARTICIPANTS IN
JACKSON, TN

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students from Jackson, TN who participated in the "Do the Write Thing Challenge." It was an honor to have these students visit me in Washington, DC.

The "Do the Write Thing Challenge" Program is geared toward students during some of their most trying years . . . middle school. This Program gives middle school students the opportunity to discuss and write about the violence they see in their communities, for some in their own homes and neighborhoods, and understand how it affects their lives. The goal is to help students recognize the causes of youth violence and make a commitment to do something about the problem.

I commend the efforts of the Jackson community and school system for working together to combat the destructive effects of youth violence. I am especially proud of all the students who joined the discussion by participating in the "Do the Write Thing Challenge" and made

a commitment to be a positive force in their communities and pursue a path of success.

HONORING 11 CONGRESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Eleven students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, contribute to a larger cause, all while making time for study and friendships. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognition for their efforts.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to honor these eleven students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures: Alyssa Haus, Becker High School; Brianna Vickerman, Big Lake High School; Isaac Darland, Dassel-Cokato High School; Trey Soukup, Delano High School; Eric Rapheal, Forest Lake High School; Diane Wertish, Immaculate Conception Academy; Hannah Zipoy, Kimball Area High School; Emily Kirby, Legacy Christian Academy; Michael Witschen, Monticello High School; McKenzie van der Hagen, Rocori High School; Isaac Eickhoff, St. Cloud Christian School.

It was best said by beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." These students are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota and in our Nation. We are looking forward to the successes they will have and the dreams they will follow and the places they will go.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, we were pleased to welcome the Hashemite King of Jordan, King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein to Washington a few weeks ago and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of our vital bilateral relationship. The United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan began their diplomatic relations in 1949, and have remained strong allies for over six decades. We collaborate closely with the Jordanians in multiple areas, including: security cooperation, economic development, humanitarian assistance and counterterrorism.

The timing of the King's visit is critical. The United States is working closely with Jordan to

address the humanitarian crisis in Syria, which becomes increasingly dire with each passing day. Jordan is hosting approximately 500,000 refugees, and that number grows by 2,000–4,000 refugees a day. Jordan faces tremendous economic and humanitarian pressures in the face of regional challenges.

Stability and peace in the Middle East hinges on a strong strategic alliance between the United States and Jordan. Jordan plays an important role in the Middle East peace process, having signed the historic Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty in 1994, normalizing relations between Jordan and Israel and establishing a partnership toward peaceful relations. Jordan is a strong advocate for moving the peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians forward, often reiterating the need for negotiations and offering to serve as a mediator and host for peace talks.

Under the leadership of King Abdullah II, Jordan is the voice of moderation and progress in the Arab world, and recently implemented economic and political reforms. Now is the time to reaffirm the United States' commitment to and friendship with the people and Government of Jordan. Therefore, I am pleased to submit a resolution to recognize and highlight the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East.

REINTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the contributions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 178 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planets' endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 29,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors

such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Every two to three years, the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2013. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to up listing five valuable kinds of shark species were successfully adopted, proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will recognize the important contributions the Convention has made in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the Convention's leadership in protecting the African elephants, five sharks and other endangered species. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the Convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and to adopt stronger protections for several endangered species at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in South Africa in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species. It is essential to work with the international community to ensure the survival of these species. I believe that the stakes are too high to let national interests and differences hinder the future of our planet.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and promoting environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147—"yes", 148—"yes", 149—"yes."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE GILMAN BROTHERS COMPANY ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENT'S "E" AWARD FOR ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT EXPORT SUCCESSES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Gilman family and the em-

ployees of the Gilman Brothers Company on receiving the President's "E" Award for achieving significant export successes.

The Gilman Brothers Company is based in Gilman, Connecticut and is one of North America's leading manufacturers of foambord products for signage, display, and graphics. Since its founding in 1897, the company has since been instrumental in developing and introducing innovative products that fit the ever-changing needs of the visual industries. With over a century of rich history, the Gilman Brothers Company has been able to produce world-class and high quality products that are also environmentally friendly. Over the past few years, Gilman Brothers has won assistance from the U.S. Export Import Bank to expand their export sales abroad. I was pleased to tour their factory in 2010, and later that year Gilman Brothers joined me on a Connecticut Trade Mission to Israel. Through the contacts the company made in Israel, Gilman Brothers has been able to increase significantly their exports to Israel and other Middle Eastern countries.

The President's "E" Award was created by Executive Order of the President on December 5, 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations which contribute significantly in the effort to increase United States exports. As a recipient of this prestigious award, the Gilman Brothers Company has proven to be one of the top export leaders in the country. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank will present Gilman Brothers with the "E" Award on May 20, 2013.

The success of small and family-owned business like the Gilman Brothers Company in the international market demonstrates the dynamism of our nation's economy. Small businesses are key to our economic recovery and the successes of companies like the Gilman Brothers help move our economy forward. The Gilman family and their employees are true assets to our region and our state, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Gilman Brothers Company on receiving this well-deserved award.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LARRY RIVERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Larry E. Rivers, the eighth president of The Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia, who will be leaving after seven years as President of the school. He will be honored at a farewell reception on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the C.W. Pettigrew Center on the FVSU campus.

Born in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, Dr. Rivers is an alumnus of Fort Valley State College (now University) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science Education. He also earned a Master's in History from Villanova University, a Doctor of Arts degree in History and Curriculum Development from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in History degree from Goldsmith's College of the University of London.

Before he was the President of The Fort Valley State University, Dr. Rivers taught his-

tory at Florida A&M University for more than twenty years, ultimately achieving the rank of "Distinguished University Professor," one of only two on campus. He also held a number of administrative appointments and was selected as Dean of the FAMU College of Arts and Sciences in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rivers has revolutionized The Fort Valley State University in many ways during his seven-year tenure as President. In the beginning, he certainly had his work cut out for him because the school faced budgetary issues, decreasing student enrollment, aging facilities and low staff morale. Today, a dramatic change can be seen throughout the school, particularly in increased enrollment numbers and several new completed construction projects.

Under Dr. Rivers' leadership, The FVSU has launched several projects including the construction of a \$16.8 million Academic, Science and Classroom Building; a \$9 million Wildcat Stadium; a \$6 million Student Amenities Building; a new seven-building residential complex, a State Animal Facility for Emergencies (SAFE) Center, and several renovations to existing buildings.

Georgia Trend magazine has highlighted Dr. Rivers' strong leadership and The FVSU's rapid growth by naming Dr. Rivers among the "100 Most Influential Georgians" and The FVSU among the "Best Places to Work in Georgia" in 2008. The magazine also named Dr. Rivers as one of "Georgia's Top 25 Leaders" in September 2010. Ebony magazine has recognized Dr. Rivers as one of America's notable black leaders as well. In addition, Dr. Rivers' Slavery in Florida, Territorial Days to Emancipation, published in 2000, won three national awards. His subsequent publications have also received scholarly acclaim and honors.

One of the many things I admire most about Dr. Rivers is his unfailing dedication to The Fort Valley State University. After graduating from the school in 1973, he came back years later to take on the difficult challenge of turning the school around. And what a difference he has made! Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year has almost doubled since he arrived in 2006. Previously, The FVSU was unranked by the U.S. News Media group, but the University made the list of "America's Best Black Colleges" four years in a row and was recognized by the 2013 U.S. News and World Report as the top public historically black college and university in Georgia.

The city of Fort Valley has also felt the earthquake of change emanating from The FVSU campus. City officials are preparing for the growth of the town of 8,600 residents and existing infrastructure is expanding to accommodate new residents and businesses in large part because of The FVSU.

Pr. Rivers has achieved many things in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, the former Betty Hubbard, who has been an extraordinary engaging and dignified first lady to the University. Together, they reared two exceptional sons, Larry Omar and Linje Eugene, who like their parents, are achievers in their own right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Larry E. Rivers for his seven outstanding years as President of The Fort Valley State University. His energizing leadership has helped to transform this school

for the better to provide students with state-of-the-art classrooms and facilities, a fulfilling college experience, and a quality education, and the tools with which to attain successful and productive lives.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE SYRIAN OPPOSITION COALITION TO OUTLINE
PLAN FOR INCLUSION OF MINORITIES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the horror unleashed by the regime of Bashar al Assad in Syria has caused tremendous suffering, displacement and death. Tragically, this conflict may endure for months to come. Assad has lost legitimacy with his own people and with the world, but he retains the military capacity to keep fighting. The fact that he retains chemical weapons and, as the Administration has averred, may have already used them on the battlefield, raises new concerns about the toll this conflict may yet take.

Mr. Speaker, we all are aware of the delicate mix of religious and cultural diversity that exists in Syria. That harmony persisted even when sectarian conflict—fomented in part by Bashar al Assad and his father Hafez before him—overwhelmed Syria's neighbors in Lebanon and Iraq. But in Syria, a delicate ethnic and religious balance held.

Now, however, it is becoming increasingly clear that Assad believes his best hope lies in shattering that harmony. He hopes that the atrocities committed by the shabiha, paramilitary gangs mostly drawn from Assad's own Alawite community, will implicate all of Syria's 2.3 million Alawites and bind their future to his.

This horrific strategy was recently employed on May 2 in the small, coastal village of Bayda. Assad's soldiers, accompanied by elements of shabiha, entered the mainly Sunni town and slaughtered scores of men, women and children.

By carrying out massacres like the one in Bayda, the regime hopes that Alawites, as well as other minorities seen as dependent on Assad's protection, will be inexorably tied to the regime. He hopes that his genocidal actions will lead to calls for revenge and, ultimately, to unbridled sectarian conflict. He will then claim to be the only power that can control the resulting chaos. This is the gamble of a desperate ruler, and we have to do what we can to frustrate his plan. In reality, those in Bashar al Assad's inner circle know he is steadily losing the support of Syria's people—including Alawites. We should encourage the opposition to accelerate that trend, and reach out to Syria's people with a vision of unity, peace and citizenship for all.

That is why I am introducing a resolution today calling on the Syrian Opposition Coalition to publicly outline a detailed vision of inclusion for all of Syria's people, including a guarantee that all Syrians—Alawites and others, will participate as equals in any new Syrian government. Such a statement, along with meaningful progress towards establishing institutions of transitional justice, will instill con-

fidence among Syria's minorities, and help peel more Syrians away from the regime.

This revolution started as a peaceful and inclusive movement calling for an end to the undemocratic and corrupt system of government controlled by Assad. That is why many Alawites are already participating in the opposition. They can see a better future for Syria. We should encourage the opposition to make concrete that pluralistic, democratic vision.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL ASIAN
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/
AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have reintroduced a resolution to honor the memory of 3,542 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders we have lost to AIDS, and to recognize the 9,317 whom are still living with HIV/AIDS the United States. It supports the goals and ideals of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, its observance, and, draws attention to the stigma and disparities that hinder proper treatment and prevention within these communities.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise more than 40 different ethnic subgroups, speaking more than 100 languages and dialects. This resolution recognizes the importance of providing access to culturally- and linguistically- competent services, especially HIV testing. According to an analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were the only racial/ethnic groups with a statistically significant increase in new HIV diagnoses. The CDC estimates that 37 percent of the HIV diagnoses among these communities progress to AIDS in less than 12 months. Additionally, the CDC estimates that 1 in 3 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS are unaware they are infected.

Yet, with increasing rates of infection, they continue to have the lowest rates of access to HIV-testing services. Although there are a number of factors that contribute to increasing rates of infections, stigma and discrimination associated with an HIV/AIDS has proved to be a leading factor in low testing rates and increased risk-taking behaviors.

The observance of National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was established by the Banyan Tree Project, and began as a national campaign to raise awareness of the impact of the HIV/AIDS-related stigma and how it contributes to lower testing rates and greater risk-taking behaviors. Additionally, the work continues with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum who have worked nationally for more than 20 years, including in my home district of Guam, in helping to strengthen community-based organizations and programs responding to HIV/AIDS among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in addressing this need and advancing the

larger cause of reducing HIV/AIDS-related stigmas and disparities in access to HIV prevention, testing and treatment. I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressman BERA, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, Congresswoman CHU, Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA, Congressman GRIJALVA, Congressman HIMES, Congresswoman LEE, Congressman LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman MCCOLLUM, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congressman PIERLUISI, Congressman RANGEL, Congressman SABLAN, Congressman ADAM SMITH, Congresswoman SPEIER, and Congressman TAKANO, for their support as original co-sponsors of this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD BROOKS

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero, Mr. Howard Brooks. Mr. Brooks is a constituent of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and I thank him for his courageous and dedicated service to our nation.

Howard Brooks, born and raised in Eastern Tennessee, joined the Navy on September 3, 1939, the very same day Hitler invaded Poland. Mr. Brooks was serving as a 3rd class electrician's mate on the heavy cruiser USS *Houston* when it was sunk by a Japanese battle fleet in the Battle of Sunda Strait.

After receiving orders to abandon ship, he spent three days in the water before his life raft washed ashore, where he and fellow survivors were captured by the Japanese. Mr. Brooks spent 3½ years as a prisoner of war, and was among those forced to build the Burma Railway. Of the 1,068 crewmen, he was among just 291 sailors who survived the sinking of the USS *Houston* and the years of brutal captivity that followed.

After the war ended and Mr. Brooks returned home, he graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1952. He retired from his career as an electrical engineer in 1981. He has been married for over forty years, and has two sons. Just last year, on the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the USS *Houston*, Mr. Brooks attended a memorial service in Sam Houston Park, Houston, Texas.

At 93 years old, Mr. Howard Brooks continues to serve our nation by sharing his life's story, and ensuring that this time in our country's history is never forgotten. His valiant and courageous service to our country deserves our nation's deepest gratitude.

It is my honor to represent Mr. Howard Brooks in the House of Representatives. It is an even greater honor to have this opportunity to publicly thank him for his dedicated and courageous service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 152 and No.

153. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 152 and "nay" on rollcall No. 153.

PLEBISCITES ON THE STATEHOOD QUESTION FOR PUERTO RICO

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to visit Puerto Rico three times over the years and have enjoyed many visits and meetings with citizens and officials of Puerto Rico when they have come to Washington. I believe that Puerto Rico is a beautiful island, but more importantly it has many wonderful people.

I have been involved in the issue of statehood for Puerto Rico for many years. While I love Puerto Rico and its people, I do not believe any place should become another state unless an overwhelming majority of its citizens support statehood. This is certainly not the case in Puerto Rico at this time. In fact, support for statehood in Puerto Rico has consistently remained at around less than half the population.

I appreciate very much the contributions of Puerto Rico and its citizens to our Country, and I especially admire and respect the service of many Puerto Ricans in the U.S. military.

I hope that the U.S. and Puerto Rico continue to have the closest possible ties. When the economy of Puerto Rico is strong, trade with the U.S. increases creating jobs in both places. What is good for the U.S. is generally also good for Puerto Rico, and vice versa.

I am always willing to consider and occasionally even support the right of the citizens of Puerto Rico to have referenda or plebiscites on the statehood question. It would be foolish and too expensive to have such a vote every year, but certainly I would not object to having such a vote once every few years.

However, my main goal would be to make sure that such a plebiscite be conducted in the fairest way possible. I, and many, many others, felt that the most recent plebiscite was skewed in a way to tilt the election toward statehood.

Now, I am told both the House of Representatives and Senate of Puerto Rico have passed a resolution stating that the plebiscite held on November 6, 2012 portrayed a false majority in favor of statehood and prevented an accurate vote on the option of commonwealth status.

I want to make absolutely sure that any future plebiscite on the question of statehood be conducted in the fairest way possible and certainly not in a way biased toward any particular outcome.

I want to help do everything possible so that everyone can work together to help foster economic growth for those of us in the 50 states, as well as for our friends, the citizens of Puerto Rico.

THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PUERTO RICO COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

THE CAPITOL

WE, EDUARDO BHATIA-GAUTIER, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND JAIME R. PERELLÓ-BORRÁS, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

CERTIFY

That the Senate of Puerto Rico and the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico approved in final vote Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 24, introduced by Messrs. Nadal-Power and Rosa-Rodríguez and Co-sponsors Messrs. Fas-Alzamora, Tirado-Rivera, Bhatia-Gautier, Dalmau-Santiago, Torres-Torres; Mmes. López-León, González-López; Messrs. Nieves-Pérez, Pereira-Castillo, Rivera-Filomeno, Rodríguez-González, Rodríguez-Otero, Rodríguez-Valle, Ruiz-Nieves, Suárez-Cáceres, and Vargas-Morales and that the same reads as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To inform the President and the Congress of the United States on the results of the plebiscite held on November 6, 2012, and support the request of the President of the United States of America for Congress to appropriate \$2.5 million for the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico for a congressionally-sponsored plebiscite after conducting the appropriate voter education campaign, which incorporates all options, including the enhanced Commonwealth, based on the principles of fairness and equality; to authorize the disbursement of funds; and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

On November 6, 2012 a plebiscite was held in Puerto Rico along with the general elections. The results of such plebiscite were inconclusive because none of the options on Puerto Rico's political status received a majority of the votes. Said plebiscite consisted of two separate questions, formulated by the preceding pro-statehood government administration, which favored statehood for Puerto Rico, in order to portray a false majority in favor of statehood and prevent such formula from competing against the Commonwealth option, which had been favored by the people of Puerto Rico in all previously-held plebiscites.

The results were the following: to the first question which asked voters whether or not Puerto Rico should maintain its current form of political status, nine hundred seventy thousand nine hundred ten (970,910), that is, fifty-one point seven percent (51.7%) of the people voted "NO"; whereas eight hundred twenty-eight thousand seventy-seven (828,077), that is, forty-four point one percent (44.1%) of the people voted "YES." However, a total of sixty-seven thousand two hundred sixty-seven (67,267) voters cast a blank ballot, which accounted for three point six percent (3.6%) of voters.

The second question asked voters to choose from options that excluded the current political status. Statehood received eight hundred thirty-four thousand one hundred ninety-one (834,191), or forty-four point four percent (44.4%) of the votes cast; Sovereign Free Associated State received four hundred fifty-four thousand seven hundred sixty-eight (454,768), or twenty-four point three percent (24.3%) of the votes cast; and Independence received seventy four thousand eight hundred ninety-five (74,895), or four percent (4%) of the votes cast. However, this second question received a total of four hundred ninety-eight thousand six hundred four (498,604) blank votes, which accounted for twenty-six point five percent (26.5%) of the votes cast. These results should not surprise us, since the pre-

ceding Legislative Assembly approved the plebiscite disregarding the procedural and substantive consensus required to legitimize any plebiscite held.

The Party that supported the Commonwealth option, which was the political opposition at the time, objected this process arguing that it was contrary to the provisions of H.R. 2499, as amended and approved by the United States House of Representatives, which included the Commonwealth among the options in the second question. Moreover, it stated that the process had also been criticized by the White House because it was designed with the intent to conceal the true expression of the people of Puerto Rico.

Commonwealth supporters employed two methods to express their opposition to the plebiscite as designed. On the one hand, the Governing Board of the Party supporting the Commonwealth option adopted a resolution asking voters to protest the process by casting a blank ballot. On the other hand, a significant number of pro-Commonwealth leaders openly conducted campaigns in favor of the Sovereign Free Associated State option.

There is no doubt that the voters who wish to express their dissatisfaction with the proposals or the candidates in a ballot, traditionally do so by spoiling their ballots, casting a blank ballot, or voting for a fictional character.

If the United States Congress wants to know the amount of Puerto Rican voters against statehood for Puerto Rico, the blank ballots should be taken into account because such votes clearly express the intent of voters not favoring that option. Thus, it should be understood that votes cast in favor of statehood did not exceed forty-four point four percent (44.4%), which shows a two percent (2%) decrease in the historical peak such option achieved in 1998. In other words, fifty-five point six percent (55.6%) of Puerto Rican voters rejected Statehood in the 2012 plebiscite.

In 1998, the pro-statehood party had also designed a unilateral and exclusionary plebiscite; nonetheless, voters had the option to vote for "None of the Above." The "None of the Above" option received fifty point three percent (50.3%) of the votes cast, followed by Statehood and Independence, which received forty-six point five percent (46.5%) and two point five percent (2.5%) of the votes cast, respectively. The results of the 1998 plebiscite were consistent with those of the 1993 plebiscite, in which the Commonwealth option received forty-eight point six percent (48.6%) of the votes cast, whereas Statehood and Independence received forty-six point three percent (46.3%) and four point four percent (4.4%) of the votes cast, respectively. The only other event of this kind held since the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1952, took place in 1967. In the 1967 plebiscite, the Commonwealth received sixty point three percent (60.3%) of the votes cast, while Statehood received thirty-nine percent (39%).

Unfortunately, the preceding government administration in Puerto Rico whose term ended in December 2012, failed to sponsor a process that included the recommendations of the Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status appointed by President Barack Obama. Such Task Force proposed—on the Report released in March 2011—various methods to ask Puerto Ricans about their political status in a manner that is fair for the supporters of all options. Furthermore, the preceding government administration missed the opportunity to address the issue of Puerto Rico's political status in an inclusive and responsible manner.

On April 10, 2013, President Barack Obama included in the budget proposal for the Fiscal Year 2014, an appropriation of \$2.5 million

to the State Elections Commission in order to conduct a voter education campaign and a plebiscite which would include all constitutionally viable status options. This action taken by the President of the United States demonstrates that the plebiscite designed by the preceding government administration lacks all legitimacy or credibility before the government of the United States of America.

In light of the history of the imposed and exclusionary plebiscites held in Puerto Rico, that only attest to our people's division with regard to this issue, it is necessary to inform the President and the Congress of the United States about the true results of the plebiscite held on November 6, 2012.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section I.—To inform the President and the Congress of the United States on the results of the plebiscite held on November 6, 2012, and support the request of the President of the United States of America for Congress to appropriate \$2.5 million for the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico for a congressionally-sponsored plebiscite after conducting the appropriate voter education campaign, which incorporates all options, including the enhanced Commonwealth, based on the principles of fairness and equality; to authorize the disbursement of funds; and for other purposes.

Section 2.—The results of the 2012 plebiscite were the following: in the first question, which asked voters whether or not Puerto Rico should continue to have its current form of political status, the "NO" option received fifty-three point nine percent (53.9%) of the votes cast, whereas the "YES" option received forty-six percent (46%). The results of the second question, which asked voters to choose from the options that did not include the current status, were the following: the statehood option received forty-four point four percent (44.4%) of the votes cast (834,191); the "sovereign free associated state" received twenty-four point three percent (24.3%) of the votes cast (454,768); the independence option received four percent (4%) of the votes cast (74,895), and blank ballots accounted for twenty-six point five percent (26.5%) of the votes cast (498,604).

Section 3.—The foregoing shows that the representations made before the United States Congress stating that the statehood option was favored by the majority of Puerto Ricans, does not accurately reflect the results of the plebiscite on Puerto Rico's status held on November 6, 2012.

Section 4.—A copy of this Concurrent Resolution shall be delivered to the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State of the United States, to all the Members of the 113th United States Congress, as well as to all pertinent government and non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations, and the local, national, and international media, among others.

Section 5.—A certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution shall be translated into English and delivered by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico to the members of the United States Congress.

Section 6.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

In witness whereof we hereunto sign and affix the Seal of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico. Issued this Tuesday, 14th of May of 2013, at our offices at the Capitol Building, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

THE DEEPEST OF THE DEEP IN
HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO
SSG TRAVIS MILLS BRAVO
TROOP 4/73 CAVALRY 82ND AIR-
BORNE THE UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor to recognize SSG Travis Mills of Bravo Troop 4/73 Cavalry 82nd Airborne, of The United States Army. An American hero if ever there was one. On April 10, 2012, while out on patrol with his troops in Mialand Province Afghanistan he almost lost his life during an IED explosion. Travis is the fourth Wounded Warrior to lose all of his limbs. He is known for leading his men in combat, where they go he goes! And since arriving at Walter Reed Hospital, he has inspired all of his fellow wounded warriors, spending many hours up on the ward and throughout the complex leading them to recovery. His can do attitude and great sense of humor makes you proud to be an American. Any parent would be proud to call him his or her son. Also his wonderful wife Kelsey, who adds new meaning to that song "Stand by your man". And their beautiful child Chloe, have given Travis so much to live for! I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

THE DEEPEST OF THE DEEP

The . . .
The Deepest . . .
The Deepest of The Deep!
And on that morning Travis when you
awoke . . .
Oh what to you, your fine heart so
spoke . . .
While, lying there without much hope!
As when you so realized,
that this was not a bad dream . . .
and somehow you must so find a way to so
cope!
As the tears rolled down upon your most
courageous face,
as the Angels up in Heaven so too cried and
prayed . . .
and to you so spoke!
As somehow all in that darkness of most evil
war,
Travis you so found the hope!
All with but your most amazing grace,
to somehow to somehow so cope!
And to so accept God's Will,
as the tears ran down your most brilliant
face!
As it was your faith Travis,
that which you so invoked!
As you so came to such a place!
Where only,
but The Deepest of The Deep can so face!
And for all of them BRAVO,
one day heaven so awaits!
That which,
so helped you to wipe all of those tears
away . . .
as you so began your most heroic climb on
that day!
All in what your fine heart and soul,
so had to say!
All in what Travis,
you so gave!
The Deepest of The Deep!
To so fight on,
but to so live another day!
As all around you we'd so weep!
As we so looked upon your most courageous
face,
and into your most beautiful of all eyes so
very deep!

As there we so saw something,
something so very precious and oh so very
sweet!
Something,
that to this day wise men still so seek!
Was but,
The Deepest!
Was But The Deepest of The Deep!
All in what so comes from within ones heart,
that which so heroically so beats!
And all within ones soul,
so very deep!
Is but The Deepest of The Deep!
As it was there Travis,
that you so chose to live or die!
As it was there Travis,
all in that hospital bed as you so lie . . .
As your fine wife so began to cry!
As your family so asked why?
As when,
your soul so took flight!
As you were Airborne,
2nd to none!
To so lift us all up,
and cast your most heroic light!
As once before Travis,
you so stood so tall before us almost like a
God!
As now without arms and legs,
an even greater person we now saw!
As we so began to cry!
Get up or give in,
for only this you could so decide!
As Travis you so dug in deep!
To so become one of,
The Deepest of The Deep!
As somehow Travis you so kept hope alive!
All on your most heroic path,
as you so began your climb!
As soon,
we all so realized . . .
that you were now more than a man!
As this battle you would so win!
Uncommon Courage,
something so very brilliant that can only
come from so deep within!
Is but The Deepest of The Deep My Friends!
As Travis you so chose life,
as all around us you'd so cast your light!
As all for Chloe your most beautiful little
child,
and Kelsey your most devoted loving
wife . . .
As you would take that hill!
As you would so win that fight!
For you Travis,
you are Pure!
Pure Michigan,
for that's so for sure!
As day by day . . .
And night by night!
Upon, this world you would so cast your
light!
As the mountains you would so climb!
For we all have valleys,
into which we may fall!
But, all in that moment of truth . . .
will we so be the ones so standing tall?
To somehow rise up above it all!
And come out of all of that darkness,
to become a true champion and so answer
courage's call!
When against all odd's,
upon our hearts it all so depends!
As you Travis so remind us all,
of that one fine thing!
Of what The Deepest of The Deep Can So
Bring!
But, what so lies all in our such hearts of
courage full!
Would we so be the ones to so find such
strength,
all in such darkness to so stand tall?
All in these our darkest of days of nights,
to so bring such tears to the Angels eyes!
Bravo!
As Travis,
your fine heart went Airborne!

As up in Heaven your valor,
so too made our Lord cry!
As you so taught us all,
that anything is possible when hearts decide!
Yea Travis,
you are Pure!
Pure Michigan,
and that's for sure!
As a leader of men,
who so gallantly marched off to war!
And came back home,
and yet to us all gave so much more!
Whose heart and soul, and body and
mind . . .
are but now all of folklore!
As Travis,
your courage makes us all so weep!
As we will follow,
as you lead!
As into the future,
as up with you we will all so try to keep!
For you are pure Michigan,
For you are Travis,
are but The Deepest of The Deep!
And so is your fine wife Kelsey,
so very sweet!
For Travis,
men like you up in Heaven our Lord shall
keep!
And . . .
And On . . .
That Morning When You Woke!
As to you your fine heart so spoke!
As The Deep . . .
The Deepest of The Deep!

By Albert Carey Caswell.

IN APPRECIATION OF STAFF
MEMBER WARREN TRYON

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, in Congress, there are some legislative staff professionals who are known for their policy expertise. Others are recognized for their ability to build political alliances and move legislation. Still others are noted for their ability to manage a staff and develop relationships. It is rare to find all of those qualities in a single staff member, but I have been most fortunate to have one in Warren Tryon.

As Warren prepares to leave Capitol Hill after 20 years of public service, I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly express my gratitude for his advice, loyalty, and friendship. Warren has a keen insight into the inner workings of the House, the movement of legislation, and the way Members think and achieve their goals. The privilege that I was given to serve as Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee would not have happened without the contributions that Warren made to my talented staff team.

Warren joined me in 2000 and his loyal service has spanned some of the most momentous events in our nation's financial sector since the 1930s: 9/11, the accounting scandals at Enron and other major companies, and the financial crisis of 2008 and subsequent legislative response. He performed with distinction as my Deputy Chief of Staff on the Financial Services Committee. Warren's ability to learn about an issue, seek out all opinions, and provide me with his honest opinion served this Congress and our nation well during these stressful times.

Warren can take pride in his role in helping to pass hallmark legislation including federal

deposit insurance reform, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, the money laundering provisions in the PATRIOT Act, Check 21, and the JOBS Act.

Warren's personal story is both fascinating and uniquely American. The son of a U.S. diplomat, Warren spent a portion of his early childhood in Thailand. Raised in a family of Democrats, like many young people in the early 1980s he was inspired by the leadership and conservatism of President Ronald Reagan. His journey took him from being a Republican student leader at the University of Vermont to presidential campaign work and then legislative staff work for Senator Slade Gordon, Representative Linda Smith, and Representative Rick Hill.

But a listing of resume accomplishments, impressive as they are, cannot begin to capture Warren's pure inimitability. With a distinctive laugh that ought to be trademarked and the seeming ability to be in three places at the same time, Warren has sometimes been referred to—only partly in jest—as the “mayor” of Capitol Hill. There are Members of Congress, myself included who would like to have his name recognition. What this speaks to, in a serious vein, is his ability to form personal friendships across any line, his reputation for always being willing to provide help and offer advice, and the fact that he is just a fun person to be around.

As Warren prepares for a new chapter in his career, I know that his delightful wife Emily and his entire family are justifiably proud of his achievements. The great admiration that he has earned from so many in the Capitol Hill community is a reminder that, whatever, the policy and political divisions, Congress is still a place where personal relationships matter. When you treat others with respect, civility, and friendship, it comes back your way many times over.

IT'S TIME FOR RECONCILIATION IN
SRI LANKA

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, May 18th marks the 4th anniversary of the end of a brutal 26 year civil war in Sri Lanka—a war which claimed tens of thousands of lives and cost the Sri Lankan economy billions of dollars.

Four years later, many in Sri Lanka still suffer from the lingering effects of that war. Many have not been able to return to their homes. Land mines are still being cleared, and minority Tamils have yet to be fully integrated into local affairs.

It is my hope, and the hope of most Sri Lankans, I believe, that political reconciliation can finally come to Sri Lanka and that the battle-scarred nation can enter a new era where former combatants live in harmony. But that reconciliation can only come if a legitimate mechanism for reconciliation and accountability is established. True reconciliation, Mr. Speaker, will come not from government edict but from the establishment of an equal justice system with full respect for the rule of law.

OLD TOWN SPRING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, driving around Houston, there's an endless amount of things that you can do. You can take in an Astros game, visit some of the best museums in the world, or if you're feeling a bit adventurous, kayak Buffalo Bayou. But, if sometimes you just need to get away from the big city life, Old Town Spring is an excellent option.

At one time, Old Town Spring played a vital role in Texas. It was first settled by the Orcoquisas Indians, who depended on the abundant resources they found there. Then, Spanish and French traders arrived. They too recognized the importance of the region and established trading posts that worked closely with the natives.

In 1836, Texas won its independence from Mexico. With this independence came droves of new colonists seeking to make a living in the wide open spaces of Texas. This influx of colonists led to the city of Houston being founded in 1836, just months after independence. Ten years later, the great Republic of Texas became the 28th State of these United States.

The entrance of Texas into the Union brought even more people to the City of Houston and the surrounding regions, such as Spring. This flood of people only increased in the 1870's when railroad tracks were laid, connecting Houston to the rest of the United States. It was at this time that Spring, Texas got its name. Railroad workers building the line to Houston arrived in the area at the end of an extremely harsh winter. In their excitement at the end of winter, they dubbed their new home Camp Spring. Luckily for us, the “camp” part was dropped in 1873 when an official settlement for railroad workers was established by the I.&G.N. Railroad. A bustling railroad town was born.

For the next 50 years, Spring continued to grow. In 1901, it became a crossroads for two railways. As a major railroad switchyard, Spring began to attract businesses of all sorts. Unfortunately, this attraction soon faded when the town was dealt a series of devastating blows. In 1923 the railroad moved its headquarters from Spring to Houston. This move forced local businesses to move or close their doors. Those that stayed were soon put out of business by the Great Depression.

After years of quiet, businesses slowly started coming back to the town in the 1960's with the oil boom in Houston. Through growth and investment the area began to resemble itself once again. Since 1980, one section of Spring, Old Town Spring, has been very popular. It is continually voted as one of the top attractions in Texas every year. Through its Victorian style buildings and turn of the century feel, Old Town Spring harkens back to the days when the railroad dominated the landscape of the west.

Today, Old Town Spring features hundreds of mom and pop shops and restaurants, which provide great places to shop for antiques or simply to bathe in the nostalgia of times past. These small businesses exude a sense of family and tradition that wouldn't be possible without them. Thus, Old Town Spring stands

not only as a vibrant reminder of the storied past of the area, but also as an impressive example of how family owned small businesses must be kept alive. Without them, exciting events like the Texas Crawfish and Music Festival, held annually in Old Town Spring, wouldn't be possible. Ultimately, if we want to preserve treasured pieces of Texas history, like Old Town Spring, we must fight to keep small businesses alive.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ART IN THE SQUARE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Art in the Square festival in Southlake, Texas, for its remarkable influence and impact on North Texas.

The Art in the Square festival was founded by the non-profit Southlake Women's Club in 2000. Each year, the club hosts the spring festival at the Southlake Town Square where it is annually attended by tens of thousands of visitors and over 140 artists. The art festival has grown considerably over the years, and recently it was ranked as the 8th best arts festival in the United States by Arts Fair Sourcebook.

The primary objective of Art in the Square is to provide local artists with an environment in which to share their work with the North Texas community. However, the underlying objective is to support young aspiring artists and charitable organizations serving women and families in North Texas. Over a period of 13 years, Art in the Square has astonishingly generated over \$1,700,000 to assist people in need.

Art in the Square is an amazing accomplishment that benefits the North Texas community in numerous ways. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Art in the Square for its ongoing accomplishment of providing our community and country such a wonderful arts festival.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND ITS PROGRAM LIFE LINE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, before coming to Washington, I was involved in many organizations working to better the community, including being president of the Myrtle Beach Haven Homeless Shelter. For this reason, the organization New Directions, which gives aid to the homeless in the city of Myrtle Beach, SC, is close to my heart. New Directions provides services to sustain the homeless person and give him or her means to become self-reliant.

Life Line is a new program being implemented by New Directions. Life Line's emergency shelter accommodates women and children that have experienced domestic violence. The shelter aids in helping its residents create a new life and get back on their feet. It

opened April 12, 2013 and has helped twenty-six women and children thus far.

I am fully supportive of New Directions and its program Life Line. Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate the work that they do to protect and help the homeless and victims of domestic violence.

THE OCCASION OF THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S GRAND REOPENING OF THE DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Detroit Historical Society as its members gather to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle in Detroit, Michigan.

Founded ninety-two years ago, the Detroit Historical Society was formed with the mission of ensuring that the Detroit region's unique history and contributions to our nation are preserved for future generations. In 1928, the Historical Society founded the Detroit Historical Museum and has been the driving force behind the fundraising and volunteer recruitment efforts that have been essential to its continuing operations. Just recently, in 2006, the Historical Society reclaimed responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Museum and its collections, which contain more than 250,000 artifacts. These artifacts not only showcase important pieces of Americana, but also remind us of Detroit's roles as a crucial center for American industrial innovation, a linchpin in the Arsenal of Democracy and a birthplace of uniquely American music, like Motown.

In 2009, the Detroit Historical Society launched its Past>Forward Campaign, which has raised the resources necessary to expand the exhibits and educational offerings provided by the Detroit Historical Museum. This campaign is also the key source of support for the renovation of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, which showcases the story of the Great Lakes and how they have impacted the development of Greater Detroit.

Founded in 1949, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum provides visitors with an array of exhibits that highlight Michigan's rich maritime history, going back more than three hundred years. Among its permanent exhibits, the Dossin Museum allows visitors a chance to see the anchor of the legendary *S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald*. When the Dossin Museum re-opens this month, thanks to the hard work of the Detroit Historical Society and its Past>Forward Campaign, it will include a new permanent exhibit titled *Built by the River*. Built by the River tells the story of the Detroit River and how this incredible natural resource has shaped the City of Detroit and the Southeast Michigan region, serving as the epicenter of a commercial and manufacturing revolution in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as a fifth-generation Michigander, I am proud of the work the Detroit Historical Society is doing to preserve and educate residents and visitors on the important role Detroit has played in our nation's history. I congratulate its members on the grand

re-opening of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and look forward to our continued work together in the endeavor to revitalize Southeast Michigan.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM, WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION THIS YEAR

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Grant High School Constitution Team from Portland, Oregon, winners of the national "We the People" Competition this year. Last month, 1400 students from high schools across 45 states and the District of Columbia came to our nation's capital to be tested on their knowledge of the Constitution, American legal history, and the role of the citizen in participatory government.

Since the Constitution's Bicentennial, the "We the People" Competition has emphasized the importance of civic education and involvement, and has pushed students to develop a deep knowledge of our government and a passion for our nation's principles. I continue to be greatly impressed by the students with whom I have had the good fortune to meet and watch in competition. They possess a nuanced understanding of the Constitution and a conviction in the strength of our representative government that is rare, even here in Congress.

Sadly, Congress has cut all funding for this national program, and continues to greatly underfund public education across the board. As a result of sequestration cuts, Oregon alone will lose \$10.2 million in funding for primary and secondary education. The "We the People" Competition is exactly the type of program this Congress should be supporting—an investment that educates and grows our next generation of leaders and engaged citizens.

I applaud the students from Grant High School, the largest public high school in Portland, who overcame perennial budget cuts and teacher shortages to achieve a remarkable feat in winning this prestigious competition. They should serve as an inspiration to all of us and a reminder of the importance of civic education.

This year's winning team, led by teacher David Lickey, was made up of the following students: Leah Alpern, Ella Ben-Zaken, Allen Chan, Annelies Cowan, Jane Crabtree, Claire Eldredge-Burns, Nina Greene, Nate Grein, Morgan Grover, Ada Harris, Madeleine Kaczmarowski, Parkes Kedrick, James Knudsen, Kathleen Kohl, Miriam Kohn, Mac Larsen, Anna Learn, Lauren Meininger, Anayeli Nieves-Alvez, Emily Olsen, Adam Penrose, Ricky Rojas-Echenique, Austin Shaff, Mariah Shriner, Gaelen Snell, Halley Steiner, Jake Stein-Ross, Jacob Sutter, Simon Swifter, Daniel Thatcher, Dylan Tingley, Emily Turner, Grace Williams, and Kendall Wynde.

I would also like to recognize We the People Oregon State Coordinators Marilyn Cover and Barbara Rost, who for many years have been responsible for implementing this outstanding academic program through the Classroom Law Project in Portland, Oregon.

HONORING RICHARD COPELAND

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Copeland on being named the Minnesota Entrepreneurial Success of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Copeland is the CEO of THOR Construction, a major force in the construction industry that is doing business across the United States and around the world.

The success of THOR Construction has resulted from the vision, innovation and hard work of Mr. Copeland, who started Thor Construction in 1980. It has grown from a one man firm to become one of the largest, most successful minority owned construction businesses, employing hundreds of people in seven offices across the country. THOR Construction is a known and trusted commodity in the construction industry, specializing in construction management, general contracting, design-build, consulting, and concrete.

Mr. Copeland's efforts have been well recognized. He received a lifetime achievement award from the National Minority Contractors Association in 2005, and was inducted into the Metropolitan Economic Development Association's Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame in 2006. Mr. Copeland's leadership, business acumen, and ability to bring top talent to Thor Construction have made the company one of the largest African-American owned business in the nation.

In addition to his company's success, Mr. Copeland has been a selfless contributor to our community through his philanthropic work and personal mentoring of entrepreneurs of color. He has directed Thor Construction to invest in underutilized communities and has employed minority-owned and women-owned subcontractors on projects, aiding in the expansion of their businesses. In addition, he has been a staunch promoter of women and minority-owned entrepreneurs by providing mentoring and contractual opportunities and has participated in a host of civic events promoting diversity.

I commend Mr. Copeland on his award and for his contributions as both an employer and an exemplary member of the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JANE E. OPPENHEIM FOR DEDICATED AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane E. Oppenheim, who will be honored Sunday, May 19, 2013 by the B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge No. 136 Scranton, Pennsylvania in recognition of her charitable efforts, community activism and advocacy for education.

Through her service over the years, Jane has merited numerous awards and honors, three of which include The Martha Wollerton Award for the Greatest Contribution to the

Overall Welfare of the Community, the National Philanthropy Day Lifetime Achievement Award, and EOTC's Mighty Oak Award. Jane was also the recipient of the Roseanne Alperin Award from the Junior League of Scranton and the Scranton Area Foundation.

Jane has long been a champion of education. Chairing the University of Scranton's President's Board of Regents, Jane attained an honorary doctoral degree and the University's Frank O'Hara award. As a member of the Board of Trustees of Keystone College, Jane's role was instrumental in establishing the Oppenheim Family Children's Center. The Center provides high quality pre-kindergarten education and serves as a great resource for Keystone's early education programs. She is also a member of the steering committee for The Gathering, Keystone's nationally acclaimed literacy conference.

Over the years, Jane has additionally been involved with and extended her support to numerous community organizations including the NEPA Philharmonic, Family Service of Lackawanna County, Community Medical Center and the Scranton/Lackawanna Human Development Agency. She is a member of Scranton Area Foundation Board of Governors and has served the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties in various capacities for many years.

Jane is also an honorary Life Board Member of Voluntary Action Center, A Sustaining Member of Junior League of Scranton and a recipient of the League Award for Volunteer Service and Leadership. She serves on the Everhart Museum Board and on the City of Scranton's Human Relations Commission. Jane was among the first Scranton Council of Literary Advancement Volunteers for Literacy and the catalyst for SCOLA's community giving initiatives. In 2009, Jane was named the Association of Fundraising Professional's Outstanding Philanthropist.

An alumna of Hunter College, Jane continued her education at Columbia University, where she earned her master's degree in English. Jane is a trustee of the Hunter College Foundation and board member of Hunter Alumni Association. She received a prestigious Hunter College Alumni Award for Community Service and was named to Hunter's "Hall of Fame" for outstanding community service.

Jane's selflessness has served as a guiding light for many to follow. I am sure that her actions have inspired others to devote themselves to the task of helping others, and I thank her for all the good she has done for the greater Scranton area and the people of northeastern Pennsylvania.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

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

Today, it is \$16,734,808,644,648.07. We've added \$6,107,931,595,734.99 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our

economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF MARIANNE M. JONES ON HER SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WOMEN'S FUND SINCE 2003

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tenth anniversary of Marianne M. Jones' tenure as the Executive Director of the Women's Fund of New Hampshire. Ms. Jones and the Women's Fund have long been synonymous, and it is with great pride and respect that I join others in honoring the person and the organization she has led.

Marianne Jones joined the Women's Fund with extensive leadership experience in philanthropy and nonprofit management. She has brought her grant making, fundraising, and long-range, strategic planning expertise to the organization, enabling it to establish such innovative strategies as Giving Circles, Venture Philanthropy, and sophisticated media relations.

The Women's Fund was founded in 1999, inspired by a desire among 42 generous women and men to transform philanthropy from charitable giving to strategic investing in New Hampshire's women and girls. The Women's Fund originated in a passion to address the serious challenges facing women and girls in New Hampshire: a lack of child care and elder care, homelessness, domestic and sexual abuse, low wages, lack of access to comprehensive healthcare, and little job training opportunities. Over the last 15 years, the Women's Fund has grown to award over a million dollars to more than 250 non-profit programs throughout the state.

The Women's Fund creatively brings together change-makers and grant-makers to support solutions to these societal challenges. As a public foundation focusing all of its resources on New Hampshire's women and girls, the Women's Fund impacts over 25,000 residents of New Hampshire each year.

One of its particularly inspiring commitments is to assist "justice-involved women", those women who encounter the criminal justice system, whether in half-way houses, county jails or the state prison. To assist these women in taking steps towards fulfilling, productive lives, the Women's Fund recently published a comprehensive resource brochure that contains community information on a host of topics. The guide contains statewide contact and other information on services such as child care, clothing and food, crisis centers, recovery, housing, health care, transportation and others. While originally conceived as a resource guide for women upon their release from incarceration, the brochure is useful to a number of female populations, such as single mothers, women in the process of divorce, unemployed women, among others. Therefore, the Women's Fund entitled it: Community Resource Guide: Services for New Hampshire Women in Transition.

Marianne Jones has been a tireless leader in encouraging philanthropy and in targeting the public's generosity to improve the lives of

women and girls in New Hampshire. She is an advocate for social justice and a pioneer in bringing creativity and expression to those women, children and families in New Hampshire who represent the majority of people affected by poverty, domestic and sexual violence, unequal pay, job discrimination and a lack of access to adequate health care. She is a role model for all of us and a treasure to the State.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PITTSBURGH

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2013

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Builders Association of Metropolitan

Pittsburgh, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary of serving the region's housing needs tonight.

The Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh—"BAMP"—is one of the oldest builders associations in the country. Founded in 1938 by a group of South Hills builders as the Home Builders Association of Allegheny County, it has grown to serve the home building and related industries in all the counties of southwestern Pennsylvania. BAMP was a founding member of a group of local associations that established the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in 1942, and the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) in 1952.

BAMP members, past and present, have a long history of service to the home building industry and its trade association at the local, state and national levels. It boasts the only member from Pennsylvania to have ever served as President of NAHB—J. Roger Glunt in 1993—who was also inducted as a member

of the National Housing Hall of Fame. Several of its others members have served as president of the state association as well as on state and national governmental agencies of importance to housing. Even more are leaders in the communities in which they build and live, in my district in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Many of today's members are second, third and, in some instances, fourth generation home builders and tradesmen.

In service to their community, members of BAMP give individually and collectively in an effort to improving our community and helping our neighbors in need. BAMP has organized countless community service projects throughout its 75 years of existence, lending its members' expertise to building or repairing community assets as well as helping to improve homes for citizens in need of assistance.

I wish to congratulate them on their 75th anniversary.